**NZMSS First Overseas Conference Travel Report**

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I sincerely thank and appreciate the New Zealand Marine Society for supporting my first overseas conference travel to Taiwan. The conference is held every year in Asian – Pacific region. The conference theme for APA 18 was “Aquaculture innovation, sustainability, and food safety.” There was more than 700 scientist, students and aquaculture stakeholders from around the world participated in the conference. The upcoming APA 19 conference will be held in Chennai, India.

I was very fortunate to be one of the FOCTF awardees in 2018, hence I can present my topic of research entitled “Ability of juvenile green-lipped mussel *Perna canaliculus* to filter feed on microalgae of different sizes and taxa” at APA 18. My presentation was slotted into a session on oyster, abalone and mussel culture. In this session, I can meet and listen to other topics of research related to shellfish culture which was related to my Ph.D. research topic. I learned a novel method on how to detect particle sources from the ocean and its relation to optimising aquaculture production. I also gained constructive feedback from the expert related other factors that might influence feeding efficiency in shellfish culture and had some offers to do research collaboration in the future.

Most of the topics presented in APA 18 conference focused on feeds manipulation and improving aquaculture management to enhance food security. I enjoyed the presentation by Jenn-Kan Lu “Molecular nutrition and nutrigenomics for the development of functional feeds of aquaculture”, she explained on how the nutrition intake may influence the gene expression in cultured biota. The optimisation of using functional feed may help to success aquaculture production.

I enjoyed the conference, since there were many privileges and rewards for participants especially students, such as the best presenter award, travel award from the best abstract, accommodation award and students’ night gathering. There was also a special session for students called “Students session: Careers in Aquaculture”. This session provided beneficial information related to what the students must prepare after graduation except for the grade itself. One of my favourite talk in this session was delivered by Dr. Guillaume Drillet with the topic “From academia to commercial service”. His talk mainly emphasized how important as a student and individual to have grit and be able to embrace the change in life and never be afraid to take the chance. I will definitely implement the value during my study and after graduate and pass it on to my students.

This was the greatest conference that I have ever attended. I am grateful to NZMSS supports that allowed me to experience an awesome conference.