

Small Grant Scheme Report SG236: Attendance at World Aquaculture Society Conference 2015.

Grant awarded to Dr Philip Kerrison, SAMS

I am very grateful to the MASTS small grant scheme for half-funding my attendance at the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) Conference on Jeju Island South Korea 26-30th May 2015. MASTS contribute £750 towards the total cost of £1442.

It was a large conference, stretching over five days and with up to nine parallel sessions. My research focus is on the cultivation of seaweeds (a single day session), and so I had time to explore other areas of aquaculture research including: breeding and disease, biotechnology, plant based aquafeeds, cage culture, aquaponics, seahorse and mollusc hatchery cultivation, to name but a few. I found this exploration to be a highly valuable experience, allowing me to identify how the development of disparate research areas could aid my own research (+ it was fun to learn about something completely new!).



Flight Edinburgh to Jeju:	£617
Speaker registration:	\$435 (£330)
Industrial tour	\$60 (£45)
Accommodation and subsistence	£450

Total = £1442

MASTS contribution £750

I presented a 15 min talk, entitled '*Lessons learned from the AT~SEA project*' to a room of approx. 100 people. This summarised various laboratory and field experiments I had carried out over the previous three years during the EU FP7 project Advanced Textiles for the cultivation of open-SEA biomass (AT~SEA). Many of these results have since been published. The talk was well received and I made connections with many other researchers in my field.

An observation I made during the conference, was that many of the audience would stand up to take photos of each slide during talks. This was an annoyance and so, on my first and last slide, I provided a link where interested parties could download a pdf of my talk. I think this was successful. I have continued to do this, although now I have moved onto using a QR code.



Flatfish aquaculture at (Beebong Aquaculture Farm and Hayeon Aquaculture Farm, Jeju, South Korea).

During the conference, I attended an Industrial aquaculture tour of the island. We first visited the Future Aquaculture Research Center, a large aquaculture feed production company (Daebong Live Feed Fishery Association Corp.) and farms producing either flatfish (Beebong Aquaculture Farm, Hayeon Aquaculture Farm) or abalone and sea cucumber (Cheil Aquaculture Farm). I found this tour very useful. Firstly, I was able to learn more about the commercial aquaculture methods for organisms other than seaweed; and how seaweed was used as feed, in the case of the invertebrates. Secondly, it was brilliant opportunity to learn more about the research and business interests of the other tour participants. I feel that this networking was one of the most valuable experiences I gained from the trip, and has given contacts for possible future grant applications.



Abalone aquaculture at Cheil Aquaculture Farm, Jeju, South Korea.

