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Country:
Vietnam

Placement Code:
CTU-3

Project type:
Giant freshwater prawn hatchery

Internship Placement

Organization: the College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho University

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1. Project work description

Giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) is popularly farmed in many SE Asian countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, etc. In Vietnam, it is mainly farmed in the Mekong Delta River in both freshwater and brackish water areas with totally over 14,000 ha. In the pass years, most hatchery has used improved green water technique. However, the College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho university (CAF-CTU) has recently developed the bioflocs for both larval and post-larval rearing with very good results (survival rate from larvae to post-larvae 15 days over 40%). The CAF-CTU has a hatchery where has been used for research, training and mass production. The internship student(s) who apply to work at this hatchery can do the following works:

- Involve in broodstock maturation culture
- Prepare water (mixing, treatment, filter, etc)
- Artemia hatching
- Practice daily works on larval rearing and post-larval nursing with different systems (supplementary feeding, water management/exchange, larval and post-larval observation, harvest, PL transportation, etc.)
- Visit to some commercial prawn hatcheries and farming in the region, especially in Tra Vinh province)

2. Placement description

The giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) hatchery of the College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Can Tho University is located in the campus 2, Xuan Khanh ward, Ninh Kieu district, Can Tho city, Vietnam. Can Tho city is well known as the center of the Mekong River Delta. The hatchery uses composite tanks with various sizes for broodstock maturation culture, larval and post-larval rearing. Other supported equipment/tools for hatchery operation are also available.

For the prawn commercial hatcheries and farms, it will be Center for Agriculture Seeds in Tra Vinh province. It is about 120km from Can Tho city.

3. How to get there?

There are several ways to get to Can Tho city. If the international students, they can arrive in Tan Son Nhat international airport (Ho Chi Minh city) or Can Tho International airport (Can Tho city). In case of Tan Son Nhat int'l airport, students can take a taxi to Mien Tay bus station (30-45 minutes; US\$ 10) and then a bus from Mien Tay bus station to Can Tho (about 3,5 hours; US\$ 7-8). If Can Tho Int'l airport is by taxi (about 20 minutes, US\$ 7-8).

4. Living conditions



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There are available cheap hotel for rent surrounding the university with the cost of IS\$ 20-30 USD/day. Rooms of the int'l dormitory of the University is also available if booked in advance with the cost of 100-200 \$/month without or with air condition. Meal costs US\$ 1.5-2.0 on average.

5. Climate

Can Tho city locates in tropical region. Therefore, the weather is warm all year round, but there are two seasons a year, dry season from December to April and wet/rain season from May to November to October. The average temperature is about 27°C (often occur in April or May) and lowest is about 20°C (occur in December or January). The average rainfall is 1,850mm.

6. Culture

It is important to respect local culture and traditions. Cover-up dresses are required. Shoes or sandal does not matter but most of the time you will need to walk; therefore, light sport shoes/trainers will be suitable. Dress conservatively; casual clothing is suitable while working at the hatchery - T-shirts, shorts and sandals are appropriate.

7. Host arranges

- Dormitory type accommodation nearby
- Subsidized rate for food wherever possible
- Work space and computer and internet facilities
- Materials and animal for the study

8. Interns are responsible for the followings

- International airfare
- Transportation from and to the airport
- Fees for visa/passport
- Food and drinks (approx. about US\$ 1.5-2 per meal)
- Any costs of trips, trainings, and others arranged personally
- Insurance and costs of damages due to personal negligence
- Tuition fee to be discussed

9. Miscellaneous

Travel medical kit, flash light, umbrella or rain coat, few books, a towel and toiletries. In fact, these are available locally at cheap prices.





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Fig. 1: Hatchery (top, right), larval rearing tank (top right), post-larvae (bottom left), juvenile (bottom, right)