

World Oyster Society Early Stage Investigator Award

Second Prize Winner

Dr. Ma. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos, SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Philippines

Attending the 7th International Oyster Symposium was like hitting two birds with one stone. Aside from being able to share the output of our three-year research, it gave me the chance to visit Bangor University again and be reunited with my supervisor and other friends in Menai Bridge. And the World Oyster Society Early Stage Investigator Award came as a surprise. During the closing ceremonies, my name was called for the second prize by Dr. Mori. The Early Stage Investigator Award was a validation that the young investigators did the right thing. This award can motivate, not just the winners but also other young researchers to strive more and work hard for the advancement of oyster research. This can also encourage participation of more young researchers in future oyster symposia.

The 2nd best paper in the Early Stage Investigator Award is entitled “Why me? Because I’m single, young and more meaty.” It represents the oysters produced using newly designed culture techniques. Comparing the traditional methods (hanging tyres and dried oyster shells) with the new methods (pouches and trays), the traditional methods produced clustered or clumped oysters of varying shapes and sizes while the new methods produced single oysters of almost the same shape and size. Oysters are harvested after 12 months using traditional methods while only 9 months using the new methods (3 months in the nursery phase and 6 months in the grow-out phase). Lastly, oysters produced using the new methods were also more meaty. Comparing the two new methods, pouches produced larger oysters with higher survival than trays. This project was funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology and the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center.



Photo taken at work in New Washington, Aklan, Philippines.