

Obituary Note

DR. MUHAMMAD YAQUB JAVAID

*Ex-Director General, Department of Fisheries, Government of the Punjab
(14 November 1933 – 29 April, 2006)*

Dr. Muhammad Yaqub Javaid – an eminent fisheries scientist of Pakistan – expired on 29 April 2006. He was 73. He passed M.Sc. Zoology examination of the Punjab University, Lahore in 1956 and stood first among the regular students. He joined the Department of Zoology, University of the Punjab as a Lecturer on 1st September, 1956. He carried out advanced studies and research in Animal Ecology under the guidance of Prof. G.G. Vickers of Exeter University, England. Professor Vickers was Colombo Plan visiting Professor at the Department of Zoology, University of the Punjab, Lahore during 1960 to 1962.

He did Ph.D. from Carleton, Ottawa, Canada in 1967. He passed a number of courses in Fisheries, such as Ichthyology, Fish Physiology, Ecology, Electron Microscopy and other modern techniques, while back from Canada, he again started teaching at the Department of Zoology, Punjab University, Lahore and was promoted as Assistant Professor. In Punjab University's Department of Zoology he started teaching several Physiology courses, besides Fisheries and soon endeared himself amongst his students as an excellent physiologist.

In 1973, he was selected as the Director of Fisheries in the Punjab. As such, he carried out development of fisheries and research. He was able to establish an excellent centre – The Fisheries Research and Training Institute at Manawan.

He was promoted as Director General of Fisheries on 23 May 1988. He undertook the task of development of fisheries and aquaculture in Punjab at an enormous rate. He boosted up the fish farming in Punjab both in public and private sectors. The

great network of fish farms present in the Punjab is mainly due to his own efforts followed by that of his successors. He guided fisheries scientists not only in the Punjab, but also in other parts of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to establish fish farms and hatcheries.

He represented Pakistan at various workshops, symposia and seminars arranged by the national and international agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, FAO, PARC etc. In this connection, he visited different countries USA, UK, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Tunis, Canada, Thailand, Bangladesh, etc.

He was a member / fellow of various academic and professional scientific bodies in Pakistan and abroad, Zoological Society of Pakistan, Pakistan Fisheries Society, Canadian Society of Zoologists, etc.

He was Founder President of Pakistan Fisheries Society and Founder Editor-in-Chief of the Pakistan Journal of Fisheries.

After his retirement in 1993, he established a private sector consultancy firm –Asian Fisheries Services. He was the President and Chief Executive of this firm. He provided technical guidance on fish farming and hatchery management.

In the death of Dr. Muhammad Yaqub Javaid, we have lost a sincere friend, a great teacher, and an excellent fisheries expert.

May Allah (The Almighty) bless his soul.

Ameen

Umar Block
Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore.

M.R. Mirza

