

## **UP Diliman-developed and DOST-funded technology bags top prize in the 2017 AMY IP Awards**

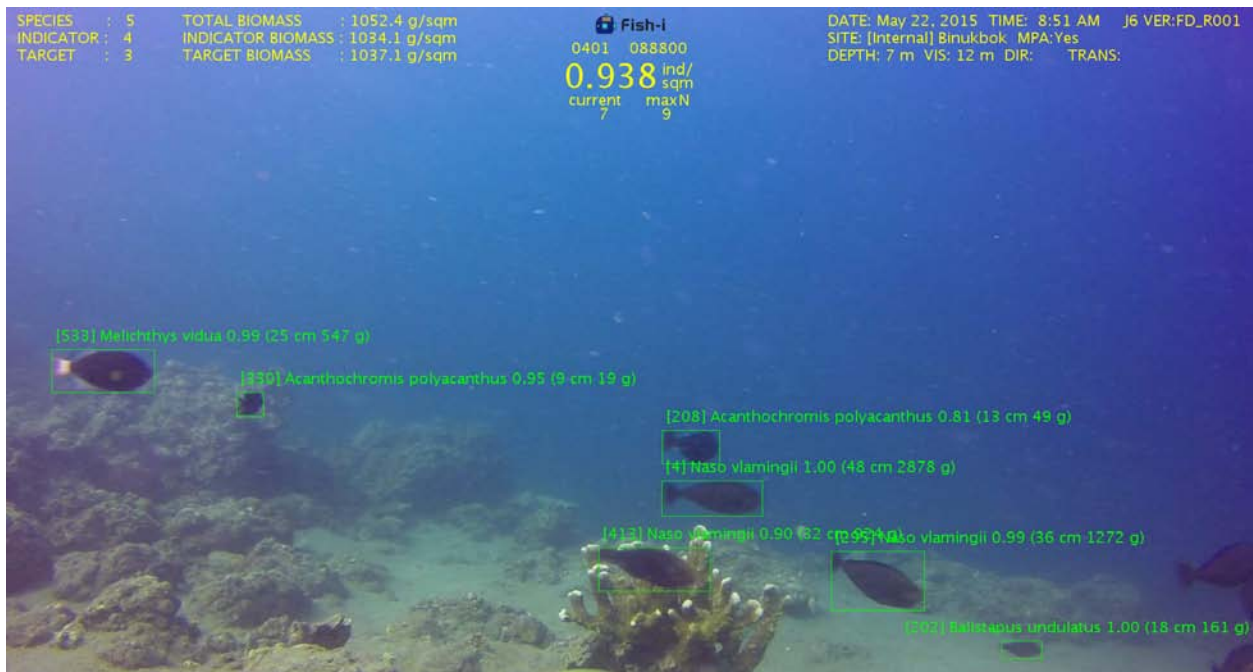
By Agnes May B. Bantigue

A technology to estimate fish size, population density and biomass developed by researchers of the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman was presented the National Grand Prize of the 2017 Alfredo M. Yao (AMY) Intellectual Property (IP) Awards - Professional Level at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Business Conference Expo last October 18, 2017 at the Manila Hotel, two weeks after the final judging and demo held at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).



*Vice President Leni Robredo and PCCI Officials led by Mr. George Barcelon with the AMY IP Award Grand Winner - Professional Category: FISHDROP inventors Dr. Laura David and Dr. Prospero Naval of UP Diliman during the awarding ceremony held during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Business Conference Expo last October 18 at the Manila Hotel. (Photo courtesy of UP OVGRD).*

FISHDROP (or Fish-i) is an invention by Drs. Prospero J. Naval, Jr. and Laura T. David of the UP Diliman Department of Computer Science and Marine Science Institute, respectively. It offers automated fish census by reducing the need for manual counting by divers, allowing rapid health assessment of marine reef environments. The project was funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).



Sample photo taken by FISHDROP (a.k.a. Fish-i) reporting the species, size, and biomass of each fish. (Photo courtesy of the FISHDROP team)

The AMY IP Awards is an annual competition launched first in 2009 by the PCCI in cooperation with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPPL). It aims to recognize Filipino-owned and developed inventions that contribute or have potential to contribute to economic development and social awareness.

FISHDROP was among the 13 finalists chosen from over 33 professional-level entries from different institutions in the Philippines. The demo and final judging was held last October 3, 2017 at the PCCI office in Taguig City before a panel of judges from PCCI, IPOPPL and a private IP firm. The finalists were deliberated and the winners announced within the day. An entry from the Philippine Rice Research Institute won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at the professional level, and entries from Bicol University won both prizes for the collegiate level.

Entries from UP Diliman have previously won the AMY IP Awards, in particular, a fish oral vaccine technology from various institutes of the College of Science in 2013 (Grand Winner) and a system for ionic contamination detection from a graduate student of the College of Engineering in 2015 (3<sup>rd</sup> Place). The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Development (OVCRD) IP & Technology Transfer Unit, as the designated Innovation and Technology Support Office of the University, nominates UP Diliman's entries into the competition every year from its pool of invention disclosures based on the criteria: patentability, commercial potential, social impact, and sustainability. The OVCRD hopes that this would boost awareness and interest in IP and technology transfer in the University.

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*The OVCRD IP & Technology Transfer Unit, through the DOST Technology Application and Promotion Institute, has filed a Philippine patent application for FISHDROP. For inquiries, please get in touch with Engr. Jorge Salang at 981-8763.*