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(<https://www.aquaculturealliance.org>).

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# Responsible Aquaculture Foundation offers multilingual knowledge online

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By Global Aquaculture Advocate

## Web-based educational program grows with initial courses available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish



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[content/uploads/2016/08/Aquaculture\\_aerial.jpg](#))Aquaculture's growing importance in meeting global nutrition needs comes with strong socioeconomic opportunities. With many future jobs in producing, processing and delivering seafood to the marketplace, the need for trained aquaculture practitioners and related suppliers is growing.

The nonprofit **Responsible Aquaculture Foundation (RAF)** (<http://edu.responsibleaqua.org>), an organization established by the leaders of the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA), is answering a growing need for targeted aquaculture training. Its newly unveiled global online education platform will enable the further development of a sustainable aquaculture industry.

“We are establishing a structure of expert technical committees to gather and condense the most meaningful and relevant information,” RAF President George Chamberlain said. “We want to present the most important elements of aquaculture best practice so that practitioners everywhere can understand underlying processes, benefit from the experience of others and implement what works.”

Launched earlier this year, the first RAF online course – Managing Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) at Shrimp Farms – was accessed by hundreds of users representing varied sectors of the seafood industry and over 50 countries in its initial weeks. The EMS disease cost the global shrimp industry several billion dollars in losses in recent years.

An additional course addresses another emerging disease in shrimp – EHP (*Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei*), named for pathogen that causes it – was made available free to users. The lessons within the EMS and EHP courses present basic knowledge about the relevant pathogens, how to diagnose the diseases and how to manage them at shrimp hatcheries and farms.

## **“Bypassing the language barrier allows RAF to more effectively teach its students what they need to know to help solve their production problems”**

The educational material is under development through funds provided by **GAA** (<https://www.aquaculturealliance.org>), Resource Legacy Fund and World Bank. RAF delivers its online courses via the Moodle platform, an internationally accepted education system used by universities, government departments and other institutions.

Participants can test their knowledge and understanding by means of online learning checks integrated within each lesson. In the future, RAF will issue certificates of competence upon course completion. These assessments could be included as part of a capacity-building program for a company or organization.

“As with its parent group, the Global Aquaculture Alliance, RAF is clearly focused on communicating the evolving science of aquaculture and therefore strives to present the best information out there,” said RAF Director of Education and Outreach Steve Hart. “Our technical experts adjust courses to consider the latest reports from around the world.”

RAF has a keen focus on risks, mitigation and sustainability. RAF material will consider aquaculture standards such as those developed by GAA, the Aquaculture Stewardship Council and GlobalGAP.

RAF will also build awareness about food safety, environmental and social impacts of aquaculture development Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), the Codex Alimentarius food standards of the World Health Organization and the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization, the Global Food Safety Initiative, and the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

In addition to English, site users can learn how to manage EMS and EHP at shrimp farms and hatcheries in Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish. Translations of RAF courses from English to additional languages are under way to make the material more accessible around the world.

“These translations really expand our reach into new regions,” Hart said. “In addition, bypassing the language barrier allows RAF to more effectively teach its students what they need to know to help solve their production problems.”

User locations now reflect over 100 countries. As it grows, RAF’s education platform will be refined, as appropriate, for the cultures of different countries.

## Author

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### GLOBAL AQUACULTURE ADVOCATE

For further information on potential associations with the Responsible Aquaculture Foundation Education Program and its activities, contact Steve Hart, RAF Director of Education and Outreach.

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