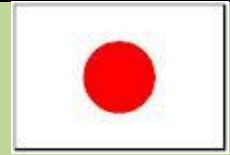




FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES



Newsletter of the Project

“Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International
Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries”

(GCP/RAS/280/JPN)

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Forthcoming event

4th Regional Training Workshop on “Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries”

The fourth regional training workshop of the project “**Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries**” will be held in **Tokyo, Japan from 8 to 11 September 2015**.

To support ASEAN countries enhance their capacity for contributing to Codex standards setting and participating in Codex meetings, this regional training workshop is being organized by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific **in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan and European Commission**. Japan has promoted effective contribution to the Codex standard setting process as Coordinator for Asia from 2011 to 2014 while European Commission has significant experience and has been conducting several training courses for non-European countries.

The main objectives of the regional training workshop are to provide participants with:

- 1) an enhanced knowledge of structure and functioning of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) including its history and objectives, procedures for elaboration of Codex standards, Codex documentations and how to use the online tools
- 2) an enhanced understanding of the impact of Codex standards on international trade
- 3) training on development of regional/national positions
- 4) up-to-date information on the result of the 38th CAC
- 5) simulated training through mock sessions to enhance participants capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work



The training workshop will consist of lectures, case study, group work (mock training session) and field trip to a milk processing plant. The lectures will cover an overview of the structure and functioning of CAC and the results of the 38th CAC focusing on key issues of interest to ASEAN countries. The case study will enable participants to enhance the capacity to develop regional or national positions. The mock training session simulating a commodity committee will enable participants to enhance the capacity to develop regional or national positions and contribute more effectively to future Codex work.

The field tour will be planned on the final day of the workshop. The location is as follows:

Ebina Plant of MEGMILK SNOW BRAND Co., Ltd.
5-26-1 Nakashinden, Ebina, Kanagawa, Japan
Website: <https://www.meg-snow.com/english/>



The workshop venue is as follows:

Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo
2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo, Japan
Website: <http://www.keioplaza.com/>

Two participants from each ASEAN country are officially being invited to attend the training workshop through the national focal points of the project. **Other participants who are interested in the topics are welcome to attend the workshop as observers on their own funding arrangements.**

Contact Mr. Makoto Sakashita, Project Coordinator (makoto.sakashita@fao.org) or Ms. Luisa Kosaisaevee, Secretary of the project (luisa.kosaisaevee@fao.org) for further information.

Provisional agenda and concept note are available on the website:
<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/4th-regional-training-workshop-in-tokyo/>

Report of recent food safety events in FAORAP

Regional Consultation on Enhancing Inter-ministerial Coordination for Strengthening Food Safety

The Regional Consultation on **Enhancing Inter-ministerial Coordination for Strengthening Food Safety** was held in **Bangkok, Thailand from 1 to 3 April 2015** and **attended by over 50 senior officials from 21 countries across Asia** representing different ministries and departments.

The main objectives of this regional consultation were to look into the complex mechanisms and inter-relationships of ministries and departments and how these could be addressed to ensure effective coordination and cooperation to strengthen food safety. The aim was to share experiences and

brainstorm through structured group sessions to search for solutions and options for strengthening coordination in countries as well as strengthen this aspect of food safety throughout the region.



The program was structured to provide a range of experiences from countries in the region that had recently either reviewed their legislation or developed some mechanism to streamline their food control systems and strengthen their coordination mechanisms. Based on their recent experiences, presentations were made by the representatives of eight countries covering their country scenarios in relation

to the different ministries, departments and programs that exist in the countries, the problems faced and their experiences of addressing the problems and strengthening coordination. The presentations also covered the benefits they were experiencing by strengthening coordination and working towards a comprehensive food safety control management system.

There were four group work sessions structured around identification of gaps and areas of overlap based on the current country situations and identification of areas of overlap between ministries and departments. The third working group session centered on the instruments (tools and models) of coordination adopted in different countries and session participants debated on what the elements of these tools should be to enable effective coordination between departments. The final group work session identified important priorities and recommendations. Ten main recommendations were agreed upon and are:

- 1) no single model or solution is applicable to all countries, but countries should build on their existing system and strengthen coordination;
- 2) cover farm to table seamlessly through a comprehensive food control management system applied at national and provincial levels;
- 3) build close partnerships and engagement between the relevant agencies responsible for food safety and clarify their roles and responsibilities as well as their accountability;
- 4) build a food safety policy or strategic action plan that provides a vision, goals and guiding principles, clear indicators and activities;
- 5) ensure stakeholder involvement including food business operators to ensure their buy-in and ownership of decisions and involve consumer organizations in supporting national governments and local authorities;

- 6) ensure transparency of standards/requirements, processes, procedures and decisions;
- 7) carry out capacity building on a sustained basis for knowledge management of personnel as well as infrastructure;
- 8) increase collaboration and communication between the countries in the region;
- 9) consider regional support for strengthening food safety coordination activities – some areas include: providing support to countries to strengthen coordination, developing a regional document on criteria for MRAs for inspection and certification, possibly through a regional consultation, exploring the potential of establishing a regional laboratory network and a communication and feedback platform; and
- 10) publish and release findings from this meeting as soon as possible in the form of a report. The outputs should be provided to other regional bodies such as ASEAN Working Groups, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Working Groups and other international/regional bodies so that they can consider giving support to efforts in this important area.

Regional Training on Enhancing Risk Communication in Food Safety

The Regional Training on **Enhancing Risk Communication in Food Safety** was organized in **Bangkok, Thailand from 13 to 15 May 2015**. The training brought together **40 representatives from 13 Asian countries** representing senior level government functionaries from the ministries of agriculture, animal husbandry, food, health and commerce engaged or to be engaged in food safety risk management and communication in their respective countries.

The main objective of the Regional Training was to provide participants with:

1. an enhanced understanding of what is food safety risk communication, why is it so important and its contextual use by national food safety authorities within the context of risk analysis, and in the management of food safety and public health events, and emergencies; and
2. the tools for developing/enhancing risk communication capability and capacity in food safety, including their practical application;
3. an opportunity to share knowledge and experience on good risk communication principles and practices and key factors & considerations for contextual adaptation.

Technical interactive sessions consisted of key conceptual and factual lectures followed by hands-on individual or go up exercises enabling the participants to acquire new or advanced knowledge, and practical skills on good risk communication principles and practices in emerging and non-emerging settings applicable to food safety.



The main topics of case-studies were discussed, allowing the participants to reflect on the knowledge accumulated throughout the workshop, apply new skills and report/exchange key lessons-learned.

A role play exercise was organized using hypothetical potential emerging food safety signal, which becomes over time

major public health event. The focus of exercise was on demonstrating complexity of challenges when communicating food safety problems in presence of uncertainty, new information, and under serious media pressures.

The participants reviewed an example of rapid risk communication assessment tool, which could be applied at the organizational or country level, primarily under emergency setting, and discussed opportunities to potentially pre-test and adapt such tool, or share similar tools among countries.

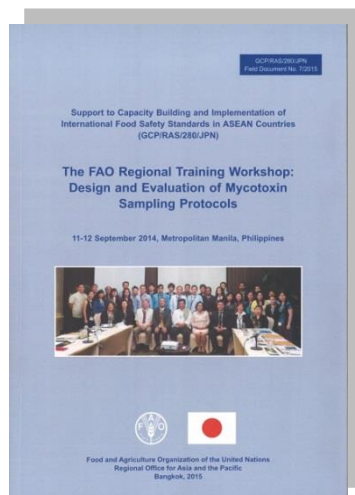
Further information of the consultation is available in our website:

<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/relating-activities/>

Report of recent event of the project

Report of 3rd Regional Training Workshop on “Design and Evaluation of Mycotoxin Sampling Protocols” was published

The report of the third regional training workshop of the project “**Design and Evaluation of Mycotoxin Sampling Protocols**” which was held in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines from 11 to 12 September 2014 was published and sent to the national focal points in April 2015.



The main contents of the report are;

- 1) Mycotoxins sampling in food commodities
- 2) FAO sampling tool
- 3) Food safety monitoring and surveillance
- 4) Using the tool and practical examples

The report is also now available on the website:

<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/report-of-the-regional-training-workshop-design-and-evaluation-of-mycotoxin-sampling-protocols/>

From Project Team

Since the project was launched on December 2011, we have already carried out various significant activities including regional/national training workshops/courses. To strengthen the capacities of ASEAN countries in contributing to Codex-setting and implementing the adopted Codex standards, we would appreciate your suggestions for future activities of the project.

The project also welcomes all of you visit our webpage <http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/>

Project Team

Your feedback on the newsletter is highly appreciated and will help us to improve our ability to serve you and other users of our newsletters.

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