

Meeting Report

Meeting on Strengthening the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) in Asia and National Food Safety Systems



23 to 26 November 2015
Hong Kong SAR (China)



In collaboration with:



With support from:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

English only

MEETING REPORT

MEETING ON STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL
FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITIES NETWORK (INFOSAN) IN ASIA
AND NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS
[Report series number: RS/2015/GE/48 (CHN)]

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Hong Kong SAR (China)
23–26 November 2015

Not for sale

Printed and distributed by:

World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Manila, Philippines

April 2016

NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Meeting on strengthening the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) in Asia and national food safety systems and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the Meeting on strengthening the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) in Asia and national food safety systems in Hong Kong SAR (China) from 23 to 26 November 2016. The meeting was convened in collaboration with WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, INFOSAN Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and with the support of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea and the Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of Hong Kong SAR (China).

ABBREVIATIONS

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARASFF	ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
EMPRES (Food Safety)	FAO Emergency Prevention System for Food Safety
EU RASFF	European Union Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEHD	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (Hong Kong SAR (China))
FSIN	APEC Food Safety Incident Network
IHR (2005)	International Health Regulations (2005)
INFOSAN	International Food Safety Authorities Network
RASFF	European Commission's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
WGS	whole genome sequencing
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Meeting organization.....	3
1.2 Meeting objectives	3
2. PROCEEDINGS	3
2.1 Opening session.....	3
2.2 Session 1: Global and regional update	4
2.2.1 Food safety, public health and beyond	4
2.2.2 Food safety on the international political agenda	4
2.2.3 Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015.....	5
2.2.4 South-East Asia's <i>Regional Food Safety Strategy</i>	5
2.2.5 The global FAO programme for food safety	6
2.2.6 Global developments of INFOSAN.....	6
2.3 Session 2: understanding developments in food safety	6
2.3.1 Global food safety foresight	6
2.3.2 Emerging food safety issues in Asia.....	7
2.3.3 Expert interventions and plenary discussion	7
2.4. Session 3: strengthening national food safety system	8
2.4.1 Current priorities.....	8
2.4.2 Future priorities	10
2.5 Session 4: enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing in Asia during food safety events....	11
2.5.1 INFOSAN in Asia: overview of event response and communication	11
2.5.2 Enhancing INFOSAN in Asia: progress and achievements	12
2.5.3 Using INFOSAN to develop and improve national food recall.....	12
2.5.4 Strengthening food recall and traceability systems in Australia.....	12
2.5.5 Food safety events and the role of INFOSAN in Thailand.....	13
2.5.6 INFOSAN in Hong Kong – best practices in INFOSAN communication	13
2.5.7 Intersectoral outbreak investigations and response in Cambodia	13
2.5.8 Intersectoral outbreak investigations and response in Cambodia	14
2.5.9 Development of an effective rapid-response system for food risk	14
2.5.10 Review of INFOSAN processes and procedures.....	14
2.5.11 Group discussion: enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing during food safety events	15
2.6 Session 5: Moving forward in a changing environment.....	16
2.6.1 Group 1: Enhancing INFOSAN in Asia	17
2.6.2 Group 2: Strategic direction for food safety in South-East Asia	17
2.6.3 Group 3: Strategic direction for food safety in the Western Pacific.....	17
3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17
3.1 Conclusions	17
3.2 Recommendations	18
3.2.1 Recommendations for Member States	18
3.2.2 Recommendations for WHO	19
ANNEXES.....	20
Annex 1. List of participants	20
Annex 2. Programme of activities.....	27

Keywords:

Food safety / Food contamination - prevention and control / Food inspection / Regional health planning

SUMMARY

The Meeting on Strengthening INFOSAN in Asia and National Food Safety Systems was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) Secretariat, with support from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Republic of Korea, and the Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong SAR (China) from 23 to 26 November 2015 in Hong Kong SAR (China).

Thirty country-participants from different national agencies involved in food safety from across the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions participated. The meeting built on the outcomes of previous bi-regional meetings on strengthening INFOSAN in Asia and national food safety systems.

The meeting objectives were:

- 1) to review progress on strengthening the INFOSAN and national food safety systems in Asia;
- 2) to identify challenges and issues for strengthening INFOSAN and national food safety systems, specifically food safety incident and emergency detection, reporting and response, and potential options to address these; and
- 3) to recommend common priorities and actions to strengthen INFOSAN and national food safety systems in Asia.

These objectives were met through presentations, discussions and group work. The meeting concluded that Member States have shown good progress in strengthening INFOSAN and national food safety systems including complying with the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) core capacity requirements for food safety. Review of countries' current and future priorities for food safety reconfirmed the continued relevance of the regional food safety strategies for South-East Asia and the Western Pacific. The meeting also concluded that INFOSAN provides a critical platform for rapid exchange of food safety information during food safety-related events between countries in Asia and beyond.

Still, efforts are needed to strengthen INFOSAN in Asia and national food safety systems. National food safety systems in Asia are at different stages of development. Low-income countries in particular are challenged in fully implementing the strategies.

Throughout Asia food safety authorities are challenged by emerging issues, which call for a renewed strategic direction and implementation of more focused and innovative approaches. Outputs from the meeting serve as important considerations in shaping the strategic direction for food safety in both regions.

The meeting recommended that Member States continue to use the current regional strategies to guide national food safety programmes and actions, and continue to engage in developing a new regional food safety strategy for the Western Pacific Region. It was also recommended that countries engage in and contribute to the development and implementation of priority food safety programmes for strengthening INFOSAN and national food safety systems, and that WHO continue to develop a new regional food safety strategy for the Western Pacific taking into consideration food safety issues and priorities identified by Member States during the meeting. It was proposed to organize the next regional meeting on strengthening national food safety systems including INFOSAN in 2017.

1. INTRODUCTION

Food safety is a key component of health security. Ensuring food safety and preventing foodborne diseases is a public health priority. Food safety authorities around the world are constantly challenged by globalization of the food chain and increased international trade in food and agricultural products. Changes in the way food is produced and innovations in food technology add to the complexity of the international food system.

To limit the public health impact of food safety events, countries need strong national food safety systems and the ability to detect, assess and manage food safety incidents and emergencies. The International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) and the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) are global mechanisms that support countries in strengthening their food safety systems. For the management of food safety events, coordination between National IHR Focal Points and INFOSAN emergency contact points is essential. This meeting provided an opportunity to identify priorities and actions to strengthen INFOSAN in Asia and national food safety systems.

1.1 Meeting organization

The meeting was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) Secretariat, with support from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Republic of Korea, and the Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong SAR (China). The meeting took place from 23 to 26 November 2015 in Hong Kong SAR (China) and was hosted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong SAR (China).

The meeting was attended by 30 country-nominated participants from different national agencies involved in food control across the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions. Observers from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and national food agencies, resource people from WHO food safety collaborating centres in the Western Pacific Region and temporary advisers from the Region and external attended the meeting. The list of participants is available at Annex 1.

1.2 Meeting objectives

The objectives of the meeting were:

- 1) to review progress on strengthening the INFOSAN and national food safety systems in Asia;
- 2) to identify challenges and issues for strengthening INFOSAN and national food safety systems, specifically food safety incident and emergency detection, reporting and response, and potential options to address these; and
- 3) to recommend common priorities and actions to strengthen INFOSAN and national food safety systems in Asia.

2. PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Opening session

Dr Li Ailan, Director, Division of Health Security and Emergencies delivered opening remarks on behalf of Dr Shin Young-soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific. Dr Li welcomed all participants and conveyed her appreciation to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), Hong Kong SAR (China) for hosting the meeting and to the Republic of Korea, especially Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) for its generous financial contribution to the meeting. Food safety is one of the oldest public health issues. At the same time, food safety is an emerging issue that is receiving increased attention by policy-makers, the media, food businesses and consumers. New food safety threats emerge regularly and food safety authorities around the world are constantly challenged by the changing context of food production and consumption.

Effective food safety systems are critical to avoid the spread of disease and to facilitate trade in food products. Regional and international collaboration is essential. For the management of foodborne disease outbreaks, coordination between the national International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Focal Points and INFOSAN emergency contact points is of utmost importance.

At the sixty-sixth session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, it was decided to continue to use the *Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015* to guide action, while a new strategy is being developed. The meeting would discuss current and future food safety priorities in Member States and this will form future direction for food safety in Asia. Outputs from the meeting would become the initial steps in developing a new regional food safety strategy for the Region.

Mr Martin Heilmann, FAO INFOSAN Focal Point, FAO Headquarters also delivered opening. FAO is currently reviewing its food safety strategy. This meeting would be a good opportunity to share and learn from the experience in Asia. Strengthening food safety systems and INFOSAN through the regional strategies is a good way to agree on ways to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases. Improved collaboration and communication between stakeholders engaged in food safety is the key to move forward in addressing future food safety challenges. Capacity for food producers and processors to comply with food safety requirements is also important.

Ms Cherry Tse, Permanent Secretary for Food and Health, Food and Health Bureau, Hong Kong SAR (China) gave a warm welcome to all participants. Ms Tse highlighted that food safety is a growing concern for governments across Asia and that international support and cooperation is crucial to food safety. Cross border cooperation and coordination as well as events such as this meeting are important to bring stakeholders together and discuss common issues.

Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, Technical Lead: Food Safety, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific explained the background, objectives and structure of the meeting. The meeting would serve as an important first step in developing a new food safety strategy for the Western Pacific and as an opportunity to shape the future direction for food safety in Asia.

Dr Chen Junshi, Senior Research Professor, National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment, China was appointed as the Chair of the meeting and Mrs Jongkolnee Vithayarungruangsi, Senior Adviser, Bureau of Food Safety Extension and Support, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand was appointed as co-chair. Dr Barbara Butow, Deputy Section Manager, Strategic Science International and Surveillance Section, Food Information, Science and Technology Branch, Food Standards Australia New Zealand and Professor Alan Reilly, Adjunct Professor, Institute of Food and Health, University College Dublin agreed to be rapporteurs. Panel discussions and group discussions were facilitated by temporary advisers and resource people.

2.2 Session 1: Global and regional update

2.2.1 Food safety, public health and beyond

Dr Li Ailan illustrated that food safety is an old issue in a new context. Factors beyond public health influence the way food safety is managed. Firstly, food safety is an issue of trust. Trust establishes close relationships between government, food industry and consumers and in a complex system of food production and consumption, trust has become more important than ever. Secondly, food safety is an economic and trade issue. Food safety influences international trade and economic development and the economic consequences of food safety incidents can be severe. Thirdly, food safety is a global issue. The impact of food safety events goes beyond national borders and contaminated food can rapidly move from one country to another. Facing increasingly complex food safety issues, innovative approaches in food safety systems need to be developed. It is time to envision a new future food safety strategic direction in Asia and re-shape national food safety systems.

2.2.2 Food safety on the international political agenda

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima highlighted recent events which have contributed to raising the profile of food safety. These included the FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (November 2014), World Health Day (April 2015), the Expo Milano (May–October 2015) and the launch of the global foodborne disease burden (December 2015). These events have mobilized public

attention and political will towards food safety. Key activities planned for 2016 are expected to build on this momentum. These include the publication of a foodborne disease surveillance manual, finalization of the FAO/WHO country needs assessment tools, wider use of whole genome sequencing (WGS) technologies, revision of the three fives for better integration in school education, and the launch of a successor initiative to the Codex Trust Fund. Linking food safety with combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and IHR core capacity building is important in the context of global and regional food safety strategies.

2.2.3 Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015

Mr Hoejskov summarized the progress on implementing the regional strategy. Considerable improvements were made on strengthening national food safety systems, but with great variation between countries. Multisectoral coordination and collaboration has improved. Food laws, regulations and policies have been strengthened. coordination and plans to respond to food safety incidents and emergencies have advanced. Several guidance documents and training materials have been produced. The IHR monitoring framework shows countries' progress in all seven themes of the regional food safety strategy. Examples of specific activities and achievements were highlighted.

Ongoing challenges include coordination across programmes and national borders, limited access to financial capital as well as technical, scientific and administrative expertise and capacity to respond to food safety events and INFOSAN alerts. Active participation in Codex Alimentarius activities and the limited awareness of food safety among small-scale food producers and consumers were identified as other key challenges.

Food safety systems development requires a regional strategic approach and country-tailored implementation. The *Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015* remains relevant to guide action on food safety and it will be used until a new strategy has been developed.

2.2.4 South-East Asia's Regional Food Safety Strategy

Dr Gyanendra Gongal presented progress in implementation of the regional strategy for 2013–2017. Legal frameworks for food safety exist in most countries, but enforcement remains a significant challenge. Food inspection and quality control is a serious challenge due to lack of sufficient human resources and proper training of inspectors. In export-oriented sectors, some countries have developed parallel systems where the control of food safety differs significantly between export-oriented sectors and sectors producing for domestic markets. In South-East Asia, informal food production and distribution systems prevail and effective implementation of food safety measures in these sectors is very challenging. Another issue of regional importance is food adulteration.

Since the early 1990s, the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia has worked closely with Member States to improve national food safety programmes through technical assistance and collaborative activities. In 1998, the first 10-point regional strategy for food safety in the South-East Asia Region was adopted. This strategy was replaced by the current regional strategy. The current strategy has four strategic elements: 1) developing country-oriented, integrated and multisectoral food safety policies and plans of action; 2) addressing appropriate food control systems that encompass the entire food chain; 3) addressing effective control and prevention mechanisms for foodborne diseases, including surveillance system; and 4) strengthening partnerships and networking for increased participation and contribution at standard-setting meetings of stakeholders.

For each strategic element, key activities and achievements were highlighted. Technical support has been provided to Member States to develop national policies and strategies including legislation, national standards and guidelines for improving national food safety system, surveillance of foodborne diseases and partnership and networking at national and regional levels. Major emphasis was given to strengthen national codex committees and INFOSAN networking. Results of the assessment of INFOSAN in South-East Asia, the status of the INFOSAN network and communication during food safety events of international concern were highlighted. The need to improve food safety in South-East Asia remains, particularly in resource poor countries. The South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions had benefitted from bi-regional cooperation and collaboration using common technical and financial resources.

2.2.5 The global FAO programme for food safety

Mr Heilmann explained that food security is FAO's core mandate and food safety is an important component of food security. Food trade is critical to assure global food security and food safety has become a key requirement for market access. FAO supports science-based food safety governance and decision-making, and works on enhancing national capacity of food safety management. The five pillars for FAO's global food safety strategy are: 1) strengthening national food control capacities, including the guidance on food safety assessment; 2) supporting science-based food safety governance; 3) promoting improved multi-sectors food safety management along the food chain; 4) providing food safety platforms and databases; and 5) developing food safety intelligence and foresight.

On behalf of Mrs Shashi Sareen, Senior Food and Nutrition Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Heilmann introduced ongoing national and regional food safety projects supported by FAO in Asia. These projects cover areas such as food laboratory capacity strengthening, food chain certification and accreditation, and implementation of food safety standards in the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). FAO's future priorities for food safety in Asia are: food control capacity; coordination and collaboration; indicators for food safety; risk-based inspection; harmonization of food standards and regulations; and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on agri-food production.

2.2.6 Global developments of INFOSAN

Dr Peter Karim Ben Embarek reviewed the origin of INFOSAN and re-affirmed the goals of the network. INFOSAN has two main aims: 1) emergency activities for the food safety incident response; and 2) non-emergency activities to strengthening national capacity-building to manage food safety risks. INFOSAN focuses on information sharing, partnership promotion and capacity-building at country level to better manage food safety risks. So far 35 major food safety events were managed by INFOSAN in 2015. Key features on the INFOSAN community website were highlighted. These can help countries to stay up-to-date on recent developments.

Discussion re-affirmed that WHO is giving top priority to food safety and participants recognized the significant technical support and advice provided by WHO on food safety. The discussion also emphasized links between AMR and food safety. Increased use of antimicrobials in primary production is directly linked with the level of AMR bacteria in food products. The need for intensified collaboration between the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and human health sectors was emphasized.

2.3 Session 2: understanding developments in food safety

2.3.1 Global food safety foresight

Professor Reilly discussed the global nature and growing complexity of the food chain, which means that risks posed by unsafe foods have the potential to quickly evolve from a local problem to an international emergency in a short period of time. While global trade in foods brings many benefits for consumers and contributes significantly to economic development, it also brings fresh challenges to food authorities around the world. Experience shows that with the increased volume of foods traded globally comes an increased risk of spreading foodborne pathogens and contaminants across national borders, thereby creating new challenges for food authorities and necessitating more efficient global sharing of food safety information.

National governments play a role in protecting the health of consumers. Effective national food control can be undermined by fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions, inconsistencies in enforcement and weaknesses in food surveillance and monitoring. Experience from the past 20 years shows the value of an integrated approach from farm-to-table covering all sectors of the food chain, including feed production, primary production, food processing, storage, transport and retail sale.

Over the past 10 years, the importance of social media as a method for rapid dissemination of food-safety related information has near surpassed traditional media channels. Some recent food scares have exposed weaknesses in national risk communication systems where information on evolving food incidences were rapidly communicated through social media networks in advance of

notifications from official government channels. Effective risk communication is essential to underpin a comprehensive and responsible risk management programme.

Introduction of new food production and processing technologies, such as high pressure processing, genetic modification and cloning, will challenge food safety authorities around the world. The need for a greater focus on evidence-based decision-making and the use of risk analysis principles underpin enforcement actions.

The risks to the food supply are no longer only those posed by chemical, biological or physical hazards. Criminal intent and intentional violation of the law must be taken into account when assessing risk. Inter-agency cooperation and collaboration should be strengthened to deal with food crimes. The world requires a new perspective of food safety to combat food crime. This perspective should incorporate police techniques such as intelligence gathering, forensic accounting, financial investigation and communications, digital and internet proficiency. The aim is to better coordinate the activities of stakeholders to provide more enhanced levels of consumer protection. In facing these emerging issues, trust between governments, consumers and Food Business Operator (FOB) is of utmost importance.

2.3.2 Emerging food safety issues in Asia

Dr Ymshik Lee's presentation focused on three key areas: 1) food safety management issues emerging with the changing food environment; 2) latest developments on food policies; and 3) proposals for ensuring food safety in Asia. New developments related to food safety include globalization of the food chain, changing patterns of food consumption, changing demographics, new technologies, growing awareness of food safety among consumers, and the paradigm shift on food risk management. Some countries have developed new food safety policies to manage emerging issues of food safety. Food safety challenges cannot be solved by one country alone. All countries need to strive to support and help each other on managing food safety risks. Therefore, technologies and information must be shared between countries. Improved communication, coordination and collaboration across countries are critical to address food safety challenges.

2.3.3 Expert interventions and plenary discussion

The two temporary advisors, Dr Chen Junshi and Dr Kunihiro Kubota, shared expert interventions.

Dr Chen mentioned that due to the nature of food safety and globalization of the food chain, countries need to be prepared for new emerging food safety risks. To address emerging food safety risks, countries need strong food safety systems and implementation of preventative measures such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). Food fraud is an increasing concern for food safety authorities. Food frauds may not be food safety related, but they should still be addressed under the risk analysis framework. Countries need to follow recent developments in science and transfer scientific evidence into practical risk management measures.

Dr Kubota mentioned that the internet is an excellent platform for international rapid exchange of information. However, food safety authorities need to be critical of online information as it may not always be correct and trustworthy. The internet also provides a platform for online training and education and sharing information with consumers. During food safety events, rapid sharing of information may help to stop or slow down foodborne disease outbreaks.

Discussion included that new issues provide new opportunities and challenges for countries. We need to think about potential new opportunities to develop new food safety strategic plans and programmes. We do not know when or where food safety risks and incidents will happen. Countries need to invest time and effort in strong food safety systems based on the risk analysis framework. The paradigm of food safety management needs to shift from food to people. Food safety authorities should make full use of the internet to strengthen event-based foodborne disease surveillance.

2.4. Session 3: strengthening national food safety system

The session was structured in two parts: panel discussions on national food safety priorities followed by group discussions on future priorities for strengthening national food safety systems.

2.4.1 Current priorities

Four panel discussions were organized, consisting of a short introductory presentation delivered by temporary advisers and resource people and followed by panel discussions. Each panel addressed themes of the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regional food safety strategies. Based on the top three food safety priorities identified by Member States, participants were divided into four panels:

Panel 1: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong SAR (China), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia and Viet Nam;

Panel 2: Bhutan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka;

Panel 3: China, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines and Timor Leste; and

Panel 4: Cambodia, India, Indonesia and Thailand.

Panel discussion 1: food safety coordination, policy and legislation

Professor Reilly's introductory presentation highlighted key issues related to food safety regulatory framework and policy as well as the inter-agency coordination at country level. There are a number of building blocks in official food control systems with food control management at the centre. Food legislation is linked with laboratories, food inspection, and information education and communication. Legislation must be clear and concise and must define roles and responsibilities of all concerned agencies involved in national food control. To underpin consumer confidence, food safety regulations must be enforced consistently. The agency supporting and controlling agri-food and food production must be separated from the agency managing food safety to avoid conflict of interests.

The panel members had identified food legislation and coordination as a key priorities for strengthening food safety in their countries. In some countries, food legislation is out of date and in need of review and revision. National legislation should be in line with international agreements and recommendations such as World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements and Codex Alimentarius.

The issue of inter-agency coordination was highlighted by most panel members as a challenge for effective evidence-based policy-making and enforcement. The mechanisms of developing policy and legislation varied among the countries. Some countries, such as Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Viet Nam, have established multisectoral steering committees for coordination and policy-making. Draft policy documents are developed under the leadership of the committee and shared among different agencies and the private sector for comments. Effective multisectoral coordination requires a strong lead agency and commitment from all sectors to contribute towards a common goal.

The mechanism and functionality of coordination among agencies varied between countries. In small countries such as Brunei Darussalam, effective coordination may be more easily achieved than in big countries where multiple layers of government agencies are involved. In bigger countries, multisectoral coordination can be challenging due to the high number of stakeholders. The panel confirmed that protocols for interagency coordination and collaboration which specify the roles and responsibilities of each agency may be helpful.

Questions on the difference between food safety policy and food legislation were raised. Food safety policy and legislation complement each other. Food safety policies are general statements and outline the Government's intended actions. A policy can be used as background for developing food safety regulations or other legal measures.

Another question was raised about the role of the police in food safety management. While police are not directly involved in food safety management, they play an important role in criminal investigation activities, such as in situations of food fraud.

Panel discussion 2: food safety data to better guide policy and risk analysis

Ms Joanne Chan Sheot Harn's introductory presentation explained the importance of evidence-based food safety data to better guide policy and risk analysis. The role of food monitoring and laboratory services is important in generating accurate, reliable and timely data to inform policy and risk analysis. Examples included monitoring of incident trends, identification of hazardous food and prediction of risk. The reliability of data can be improved through accreditation against international standards and participation in proficiency programmes. For effective food control, links between food control agencies and the public health system through links of food contamination monitoring with foodborne disease data can give rise to early warning and appropriate risk-based food control policies. Sharing data can also be valuable in improving food alert systems and outbreak investigation.

The panel stressed that various types of data need to be collected to assist in policy making and risk management. This may include data from food monitoring and surveillance, data related to chemical contamination such as pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues and heavy metals, data about illegal food additives and fraudulent labeling and data from food importers.

The data can be generated and collected from sources including food laboratories, the private sector and external sources such as data shared by other countries and international agencies. Food safety data is not only limited to laboratory data. Depending on the purpose of data collection, attention should also be given to epidemiological surveillance data and data collected for research purposes.

Comments included that accreditation of food laboratories can help improve the reliability of food testing data and as such improve interventions to combat food fraud. Several participants were concerned about the online marketing and information sharing through social media. These new ways of communication were seen as upcoming challenges for food safety authorities.

Panel discussion 3: risk-based food inspection and food safety training and education

Professor Reilly's introductory presentation on risk-based food inspection, training and education compared the traditional approach to food inspection with risk-based food inspection. Traditional inspection is based on prescriptive regulatory requirements and has limited flexibility and no prioritization of hazards. The risk-based approach to food inspection is a science-based approach based on an assessment of risk factors such as public health risks, resource availability and compliance history. Risk profiling is key to develop a risk-based food inspection system. Regular training of inspectors is important to ensure competence among food authorities.

The panel recognized the importance of risk-based food inspection to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement activities and to make better use of resources. Despite the availability of updated food regulations in some countries such as China, Nepal and Philippines, implementation of risk-based inspection is still fairly new.

The panel recognized that an up-to-date registration and licencing system is a prerequisite for risk profiling and planning of risk-based inspection activities. Simple and streamlined licencing systems can reduce the administrative burden on food businesses. Training and education of food inspectors is also important. In most countries, food inspectors need training and continued education to be able to assess food safety risks and implement risk-based food inspection activities.

Panel discussion 4: food safety incident and emergency detection, assessment and management

Dr Barbara Butow's introductory presentation highlighted that a global food supply increases the risk of contaminated food spreading across borders. Early detection of and response to food safety incidents is important, to assist two FAO/WHO booklets on food safety emergency response planning were recommended.

Detection of food safety incidents should be underpinned by multiple sources of information and national protocols should be in place to ensure consistency in the response to food incidents and emergencies. Food safety incident and emergency programmes should link with national disaster risk management plans and include a component on risk communication. Science-based risk assessment is

an important first step in the response to a food safety event and INFOSAN plays an important role in providing information for risk management options.

The panel discussion revealed that only few countries in Asia have protocols and food incident response systems in place to respond to food safety incidents and emergencies. INFOSAN was recognized as an important network for sharing information between countries. However, active participation in INFOSAN and mechanisms for rapid response to INFOSAN alerts are yet to be established in several countries.

Plenary discussion highlighted the opportunity associated with social media in the detection of foodborne disease outbreaks. Economic impact assessments are also a means to advocate high-level political attention to food safety emergency response. The food industry has a key role in reporting and managing food safety incidents and emergencies in close collaboration with government agencies.

Keys to successful management of food safety incidents include good preparation, including collaboration and sharing of information between food laboratories, surveillance and response teams, national disaster risk management offices and food authorities. Simulation exercises can also test preparedness and communication mechanisms.

2.4.2 Future priorities

The second part of the session identified priorities to inform national actions, development of a new Western Pacific regional food safety strategy and guide implementation of South-East Asia's *Regional Food Safety Strategy*. Based on national strategies, policies and plans, the groups were requested to 1) discuss and identify 3–5 common priorities among Member States for strengthening national food safety systems in the next 3–5 years; 2) discuss why these are priority issues and 3) how the countries plan to address these priorities.

Participants were divided into the following four groups facilitated by temporary advisers or resource people:

- 1) China, Hong Kong SAR (China), Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea;
- 2) Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand;
- 3) Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Viet Nam;
- 4) Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste.

Group presentations were followed by questions and clarification.

The groups identified common national food safety key priorities:

- develop and update national food safety legislation and food standards;
- strengthen national food monitoring and foodborne disease surveillance programmes;
- enhance risk-based food inspection and enforcement services;
- strengthen laboratory capacity-building to support national food safety programmes;
- develop national food safety systems for responding to food safety incidents and emergencies;
- enhance the provision of scientific advice to inform the development of food safety policy; and
- increase public awareness of food safety, strengthen risk communication and consumer education to reinforce consumer confidence in food safety.

Additional food safety priorities identified included:

- strengthen food import control through implementation of risk-based approaches;
- develop food traceability systems;
- strengthen management of online retail sales and food marketing;
- improve regulations and technical requirements of food labelling;
- increasing participation in cross-cutting AMR-related activities in relation to food safety;
- intensify national efforts to combat food fraud;
- reduce dietary intake of salt and sugar;
- strengthen prevention and rapid response to food safety incidents; and

- enhance the management of food safety in small and medium food businesses.

These priorities were identified because of increased consumer concern about food safety, increased complexity of the food chain and new technologies. The risks of rapid spread of foodborne diseases and potential economic losses are also main reasons for the prioritization. Limited human and financial resources increases the need for prioritization and implementation of risk-based approaches. The international requirements for evidence-based policy-making also increase the need for better food monitoring and surveillance of foodborne diseases.

The groups identified the following measures to address the common food safety priorities:

- strengthen multisectoral coordination and collaboration;
- regularly review and amend food regulations and standards;
- promote timely information sharing between stakeholders, including communication with consumers;
- mobilize financial and human resources to support food safety activities; and
- organize simulation exercises on food safety emergency response.

Key points raised in discussion were:

- National food safety systems in Asia are at different stages of development. As such many food safety priorities differ between countries.
- Science-based data and advice is necessary to support advocacy and food safety policy development. Considering the technical capacity needed and costs associated with data generation and collection, countries should consider using internationally available data and data from other countries to underpin national food safety programmes.
- Legislation is the foundation of national food safety systems. However, risk-based food legislation may not function well if the compliance capacity of the food industry is low. Capacity to comply should be the basis of regulations. This requires strategic approach: starting simply and focusing on the basics of food hygiene and sanitation.
- Food safety programmes underpin and contribute to agri-food sector development, employment, economic development and the development of tourism. The prerequisite for all these is a safe and good quality food supply.
- Active surveillance through sentinel sites should be prioritized over event-based surveillance as event-based surveillance is inadequate for preventing foodborne disease outbreaks.
- The safety and quality of online food retail sales is an increasing concern. However, there is no evidence that food sold online is of higher risk than food sold through conventional retail channels. This is an area which may need further research.

2.5 Session 4: enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing in Asia during food safety events

The session consisted of two parts: 1) plenary presentations covering regional activities and national experiences related to INFOSAN; and 2) group discussions on enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing in Asia during food safety events.

2.5.1 INFOSAN in Asia: overview of event response and communication

Mr Carmen Savelli delivered a presentation on INFOSAN in Asia: overview of event response and communication. Progress in enhancing INFOSAN in Asia includes that in 2012 Asia was the first region to develop a regional INFOSAN strategy and the only region where INFOSAN emergency contact points have met regularly over the past years.

Benefits associated with enhancing INFOSAN in Asia include early identification and reporting of food safety events of international concern, timely information exchange during such events, improved national food safety systems development and improved capacity of INFOSAN members to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

Challenges and suggestions to improve event response and communication through INFOSAN include that currently 25% of the designated members are not yet registered on the INFOSAN

community website. The unregistered members miss out on opportunities to share information. Immediate registration on the website and becoming active and functional members were requested. Timely responsiveness during a food safety event is important. In 2014 INFOSAN members from the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions were involved in 55% (22/40) INFOSAN food safety events. INFOSAN emergency contact points were requested to improve the timely response to INFOSAN requests during food safety events, especially to acknowledge the receipt of information from the INFOSAN Secretariat.

Examples to illustrate good uses of the INFOSAN community website were shared. One country's risk management decisions can be used as reference for others during food safety events. INFOSAN members were encouraged to participate in the global discussion forum and share information on food safety issues that may be of interest to other countries.

2.5.2 Enhancing INFOSAN in Asia: progress and achievements

The joint presentation by Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov and Dr Gyanendra Gongal looked at progress and achievements in enhancing INFOSAN in Asia.

Mr Hoejskov reviewed progress in the Western Pacific Region against the four themes of the Strategy for Enhancing INFOSAN in Asia: INFOSAN community development; capacity-building and education; responding effectively to food safety emergencies; and support to enhance the global INFOSAN network. Asia is one of the more active regions in the INFOSAN community website. Contact details for emergency contact points and focal points were updated. Collaboration activities in cross-cutting programmes to support IHR core capacities were conducted and the IHR-INFOSAN communication exercise in December 2014 were discussed. The exercise contributed to improving communication between IHR and INFOSAN and demonstrated areas for improvement. The exercise also concluded that email communication worked well and the telephone communication could be improved. Communication to the INFOSAN Secretariat was successful with event management information shared on the INFOSAN community website.

Dr Gongal provided an overview of INFOSAN in the South-East Asian Region. In most Member States, INFOSAN emergency contact points are based at the Ministry of Health. Key challenges include limited financial and human resources and most countries have no established standard operating procedures (SOPs) for communication and dissemination of information. INFOSAN has proved itself as a real timely and efficient means of alert and response to address food safety events in Asia. However, some countries are lagging behind in making the best use of the INFOSAN community website and networking. It is time to expand INFOSAN networking within countries to prevent food safety events and improve emergency response.

2.5.3 Using INFOSAN to develop and improve national food recall and traceability systems

Dr Peter Karim Ben Embarek presented on traceability and recall systems. INFOSAN can be used to develop and improve national food recall and traceability systems. New challenges to the recall and traceability systems have been caused by the global and complex food chain. To better identify foodborne pathogens, there is a need to move from public health microbiology to WGS. Case examples of foodborne disease outbreaks worldwide were shared to explain the role and benefit of WGS to support food traceability and recall.

2.5.4 Strengthening food recall and traceability systems in Australia including INFOSAN communication

Dr Barbara Butow shared experiences in strengthening food recall and traceability systems in Australia, including INFOSAN communication. Food businesses in Australia must have a documented food recall system in order to meet the requirements in the Food Standards Code. The role of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is to coordinate food recalls and the role of the state/territory jurisdictions is to implement recalls. FSANZ has recently revised and improved its food recall protocol by addressing five key areas: the co-ordination process; engagement with

stakeholders; communication of recall information; monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and collection and analysis of food recall data. These changes have strengthened Australia's food recall framework through the development of an efficient automated system which uses a "single source of truth". All recalls relating to exported food are immediately communicated to the INFOSAN Secretariat.

FSANZ also actively uses the INFOSAN community website to post information and/or call for data about recalls or emerging issues. FSANZ is working with the jurisdictions and industry groups to review Australia's food traceability framework and is working towards a system in which data requirements are better defined and aligned across the food supply chain. The aim is to identify a consistent implementation approach for growers, producers, processors, distributors, retailers and food service operators enabling quick and accurate sharing of information between food regulatory authorities. A strong food recall system depends upon: an efficient and effective system; knowledge and understanding of roles and responsibilities by industry, government and consumers; good working relationships and cooperation between government and industry; and central government coordination and reliable traceability.

2.5.5 Food safety events and the role of INFOSAN in Thailand

Mrs Jongkolnee Vithayarungruangsri presented on food safety events and the role of INFOSAN in Thailand. The INFOSAN network in Thailand was developed in three phases. During phase I (2003–2006) the national food safety system was established in line with WTO and IHR (2005) requirements. The Food Safety Operation Center was established to provide rapid response to international requests as well as to conduct food safety monitoring, surveillance and inspection. The Center is chaired by the Prime Minister of Thailand and meets every three months. In phase II (2007–2011), the national INFOSAN structures were established and capacity-building was provided including development of a national guideline for food safety emergency response in 2010. Phase III (2012–2016) focuses on strengthening INFOSAN activities and food safety system. Every year a national INFOSAN workshop is organized and contact details and the SOP for responding to food safety emergencies are revisited. From 2014 to 2016, two national pilot projects on managing food safety emergencies will be conducted including training of food safety officers.

2.5.6 INFOSAN in Hong Kong – best practices in INFOSAN communication

Dr Lee Siu-yuen introduced Hong Kong SAR (China)'s experience in working with INFOSAN. The FEHD acknowledges the importance of multilateral communication within the INFOSAN community. An example incident from September 2014 of substandard fats and oils produced in Taiwan (China) was shared to illustrate the approach used for emergency risk communication. To communicate with stakeholders effectively, combined use of different communication tools such as press conference, press release, food alert (public), rapid alert (trade), trade consultation forum, trade briefing meeting and designated webpage for the incident are used. Transparent, timely and responsive communication with various stakeholders from trade, the public, exporting countries and other INFOSAN members in collaborative manner is the key to rapid response to food safety emergencies.

2.5.7 Intersectoral outbreak investigations and response in Cambodia

Dr Sovann Ly presented on intersectoral outbreak investigations and response in Cambodia. Multisectoral collaboration has led to the development and implementation of the SOP for Foodborne Disease: Intersectoral Outbreak Investigations and Response, food laboratory capacity survey, and outbreak review. The vision for food safety in Cambodia is to build a modern, integrated and efficient national food safety system that protects the health of consumers and supports the development and export capacity of the food sector. The legal framework for food safety in Cambodia and the institutional arrangements for food control are based on the farm-to-table approach involving multiple ministries and agencies.

The process of developing the SOP for foodborne disease was outlined. The SOP encourages better coordination between stakeholders by designating focal points and assigning roles and responsibilities for stakeholders. In August 2015, training and provincial pilot projects were conducted to facilitate implementation of the SOP. A foodborne disease outbreak was reviewed with 852 cases in March

2015. The example demonstrated the usefulness of the SOP and the well-coordinated inter-ministerial response including risk communication. A food laboratory survey was introduced in September 2015. The survey assessed food analysis capacity across various government agencies and provided recommendations for capacity building in food testing, foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response.

2.5.8 Intersectoral outbreak investigations and response in Cambodia

Ms Citra Prasetyawati shared experiences on strengthening INFOSAN in Indonesia. In Indonesia, inter-agency communication is a significant challenge despite a clear statement regarding the roles and responsibilities of the ministries involved in food safety. The national food safety network and sub-networks were described: 1) food Intelligence network for risk assessment, 2) food safety promotion network related to risk communication, and 3) food control network for risk management. Under each of the sub-networks, systems and programmes have been established including the Indonesia Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, Indonesia Food Testing Laboratory Network, Indonesia Risk Assessment Centre and Risk Management Programme for industry as well as other national initiatives.

When the national INFOSAN emergency contact point receives an INFOSAN alert, a multi-agency working group meets, and connects with the National IHR Focal Point to ensure that all concerned parties receive the information/notification. Examples were shared of how Indonesia had managed food safety incidents reported through INFOSAN. Management of these food safety incidents had strengthened cross-sectoral coordination, risk communication, laboratory capacity, traceability and food recall systems, and led to development of a food safety emergency response plan. Continued improvement to the national food safety system in Indonesia will happen through organization of regular meetings of the working group, improved coordination between the National IHR Focal Point and the INFOSAN emergency contact point, capacity-building of the focal points in all ministries, strengthened laboratory capacity, especially for aflatoxin testing, and activities for INFOSAN local contact points.

2.5.9 Development of an effective rapid-response system for food risk

Dr Oh Il-Ung presented an overview of the development of an effective rapid alert system for food risk. The INFOSAN Secretariat coordinates the exchange of information during food safety events of international concern. Challenges associated with INFOSAN include the need to regularly update contact information of INFOSAN members; to shorten the time needed by countries to reply to information requests from INFOSAN; to build capacity on risk assessment and to share risk assessment findings through the network; to further develop in-country INFOSAN networks; to enhance the online collaboration among members using the INFOSAN community website; and to enhance the human resources needed to fully perform the functions of INFOSAN.

Past and ongoing activities that contribute to improved coordination and exchange of information on food safety events of international concern include the INFOSAN in Asia group on the INFOSAN community website; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Safety Incident Network (FSIN) which was created in 2013; the ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (ARASFF); and the European Union (EU) Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (EU RASFF). The advantages and disadvantages of alert systems were summarized. Legally binding networks and mechanisms are more likely to be functional as members are required to participate and share information.

Key actions to strengthen INFOSAN in Asia include easier access to telephone and email details of INFOSAN emergency contact points and focal points and strengthening the platform for INFOSAN in Asia.

2.5.10 Review of INFOSAN processes and procedures

Mr Carmen Savelli discussed INFOSAN processes and procedures. This included the process of food safety event detection and action by the INFOSAN Secretariat including information sources to detect an event; internal assessment and verification; external assessment by national INFOSAN Emergency contact points and posting of INFOSAN alert.

INFOSAN covers all food safety issues of international concern which may include animal feed, food producing animals, food for human consumption and food ingredients anywhere along the food chain from farm to table. However, events related to prescribed medicines and food security issues are not covered by INFOSAN. Reliable information sources and the quality of information provided by members to the INFOSAN Secretariat is important. From 2010 to 2014 most (49%) notifications of INFOSAN events were report by WHO regional offices followed by WHO headquarters event-based surveillance (21%) and INFOSAN members (19%). Other sources of notification included the EU RASFF and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The flow of information exchange between the INFOSAN Secretariat and INFOSAN emergency contact points in Member States as well as resources for improved communication between INFOSAN emergency contact points and National IHR Focal Points were discussed. All INFOSAN members should be made aware of the confidential nature of the information and the purpose of the information sharing is to reach an effective food safety and/or public health outcome. The requirements for event reporting to the INFOSAN Secretariat include a summary of the event, details of the food and hazard, export/import information, laboratory information and other related information including sources of information.

Discussion of the presentations included that food fraud should be managed by INFOSAN since food adulteration may become a food safety issue and not only an economic one. INFOSAN can be strengthened as a network for information exchange. The focus must be on making the network sustainable and active.

2.5.11 Group discussion: enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing during food safety events

The group discussion aimed: 1) to improve the capacity of INFOSAN emergency contact points and focal points to actively participate in INFOSAN; and 2) to improve the capacity of national food safety managers to use INFOSAN to improve food safety emergency response.

Participants were divided into the four groups. Group 1 consisted of INFOSAN emergency contact points while group 2, 3 and 4 consisted of participants responsible for overall food safety management.

Group 1: INFOSAN in Asia

Group 1 worked on a case study on a typical food safety event with international implications. Through this case study participants were able demonstrate the flow of information during a food safety event, share experiences and highlight challenges to be addressed by the INFOSAN Secretariat.

The group concluded that during food safety emergencies, epidemiological investigation can contribute to identifying the scope of the emergency and the source of contamination. Laboratory evidence can give final conclusions on the food safety event. Timely reporting to the INFOSAN Secretariat and information sharing through INFOSAN may allow other countries to take risk management action in a timely manner. Countries should be prepared to deal with food safety emergencies. To do so, countries must have the necessary structures, fully documented procedures and clear processes in place, including protocols and SOPs. The group recommended further training of INFOSAN emergency contact points and INFOSAN focal points for them to better understand INFOSAN and how to use and contribute to the network.

Group 2: Emergency risk communication applied to food safety

Group 2 discussed best practices for food safety emergency risk communication based on INFOSAN alerts, notices and information notes. The group highlighted that food safety risk communication is fundamental to understand the impact and risk levels of food safety emergencies. The group highlighted the importance of considering the political context, social culture and economic issues in risk communication. For food safety risk communication to be effective, it needs to be timely, open, transparent and responsive. The group also acknowledged the importance of identifying target audiences when food safety messages for being formulated.

Group 3: Food recall and traceability systems

Group 3 discussed food recall and traceability systems and how INFOSAN can be used to improve action on food recalls at the country level. The group emphasized the importance of all countries registering on and actively using the INFOSAN community website and actively participating in INFOSAN.

The group highlighted the need for INFOSAN to provide precise details of recalled food including brand and company name, distribution details, batch numbers and the reason for the recall. Regular network meetings and country-level trainings on the use of the INFOSAN network would be beneficial. INFOSAN could provide examples and facilitate discussions of best practices among members. To deal with information gaps, the group proposed development of evidence-based protocols at the inter-agency basis, using best scientific information, re-testing food products at national reference laboratories and conducting rapid risk assessments.

Group 4: IHR and INFOSAN in the context of multi-sectoral coordination for food safety emergency response

The group identified options to improve IHR and INFOSAN linkages within the broader context of multisectoral coordination at national and regional levels. Development of SOPs and training material for communication between National IHR Focal Points and INFOSAN emergency contact points as well as for outbreak investigation of and emergency response to food safety events is essential. The group recommended regular national and regional meetings to assess ongoing issues and suggest possible solutions. The group also recommended simulation exercises to test the functionality of multisectoral coordination mechanisms. Functions of National IHR Focal Points and INFOSAN emergency contact point should be integrated into one department to avoid a request for multi-channels of emergency reports. The group also suggested introducing new tools such as mobile networks for emergency reports and information sharing. The group highlighted the importance of evaluating food safety events and improving communication mechanisms based on lessons learned.

Discussion on the group presentations focused on risk communication during food safety incidents. Risk communication should inform the consumers of unsafe food and inform the industry and other agencies of actions they need to take. The messages should include the nature of the food problem, advice for consumers and response actions undertaken by concerned agencies. Only a few countries (e.g. Australia, China and Malaysia) have guidelines for risk communication.

In countries with powerful mass media, press releases can be an effective way of communicating food safety risks. However, some countries mentioned that communication through a spokesperson can be more effective. Internet tools such as Facebook and Twitter are other communication channels that are gaining popularity can also be used to reach consumers. Food safety authorities should conduct risk communication in an open and transparent way to prevent consumers from losing confidence in the food safety system.

2.6 Session 5: Moving forward in a changing environment

Mr Hoejskov's introductory presentation emphasized the need to move forward in a changing environment. The presentation summarized current and future priorities identified during the first three days of the meeting. The future priorities identified for strengthening national food safety systems included:

- Strengthen national food safety legislation including legislation, regulations and standards in line with international recommendations including measures to control the online sale of food.
- Improve coordination of the formulation and implementation of food control measures across sectors and national borders.
- Build and/or strengthen food laboratory capacity and laboratory networks to support national food control efforts.
- Establish or strengthen foodborne disease surveillance and food monitoring programmes to help inform policy and risk management.

- Strengthen food safety emergency response systems through development of SOPs, guidelines and effective communication across concerned programmes and sectors.
- Develop, promote and distribute food safety education material to food producers, handlers and consumers.
- Strengthen risk-based food inspection and enforcement including food import and export inspection and certification.
- Implement measures to tackle food fraud and adulteration including false incorrect and misleading labelling.
- Promote the development and implementation of science-based food safety measures and strengthen the scientific basis for contributing to national and international food standards development.
- Establish and improve food recall and traceability systems as part of overall food safety emergency preparedness.
- Strengthen food safety risk communication capacity as part of the overall risk analysis framework and use social media and online communication channels to reach specific target groups.

Participants were divided into three groups. Group 1 consisted of INFOSAN emergency contact points while Group 2 and 3 consisted of food safety managers from the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions respectively.

2.6.1 Group 1: Enhancing INFOSAN in Asia

The group highlighted the importance of establishing effective INFOSAN structures at the national level. The group recommended that Member States share national INFOSAN protocols, progress, experience and best practices with other countries. In addition, the group suggested the INFOSAN Secretariat assist countries in developing structured protocols to strengthen INFOSAN at the national level and provide INFOSAN-related online seminars and trainings as well as reference documents.

2.6.2 Group 2: Strategic direction for food safety in South-East Asia

The group agreed that the South-East Asia *Regional Food Safety Strategy* is a useful framework for strengthening national food safety systems. Within the strategy's strategic elements, the group agreed that there is a need to establish and strengthen a structured regional mechanism to monitor progress in strengthening national food safety systems as well as to formulate a strategic direction for WHO's country-specific cooperation with Member States in line with countries' needs and priorities.

2.6.3 Group 3: Strategic direction for food safety in the Western Pacific

The group recognized the continued relevance of the *Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015*. The group suggested to reshape the strategic direction, actions and indicators of the strategy. In particular, the group suggested that the new strategy should follow a stage-based approach which may allow countries to use the strategy to guide country-specific action in accordance with their respective needs and priorities. The group recognized the need for the new strategy to consider all the basic components of national food safety systems. However, issues such as systems to monitor e-commerce, foodborne disease surveillance and food monitoring, emerging food testing methodologies and food traceability, risk communication and food recall systems should also be included.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusions

- Countries in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions have made good progress in strengthening INFOSAN and national food safety systems including complying with IHR core capacity requirements for food safety. Particular progress has been shown in the development of food laws, regulations and standards as well as in strengthening multisectoral coordination and communication between National IHR Focal Points and INFOSAN emergency contact points.

Other areas of progress include food inspection and enforcement, collection and use of food safety data to support policy and risk analysis.

- Review of countries' current and planned priorities for food safety reconfirmed the relevance of the *Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015* and South-East Asia's *Regional Food Safety Strategy* in guiding food safety action in Member States.
- INFOSAN is a critical platform for rapid exchange of food safety information for alert and response between countries in Asia and beyond. The INFOSAN community website is increasingly used to share information and to discuss food safety issues of common interest.
- Global food safety initiatives such as the food safety theme of World Health Day 2015, the launch of the Codex Trust Fund 2 and estimation of the global burden of foodborne diseases in December 2015 provide momentum to strengthen advocacy and promotion of food safety in both regions.
- More work is needed to strengthen INFOSAN and national food safety systems in Asia. National food safety systems in Asia are at different stages of development and Member States are experiencing challenges in fully implementing the regional food safety strategies.
- Food safety authorities are challenged by emerging issues such as globalization of the food chain, increased complexity of the international food supply, new technologies, internet commerce, increasing consumer demand and expectations, food fraud and climate change. These issues put pressure on food safety authorities and call for a renewed strategy and implementation of more focused and innovative activities, including strengthening foodborne diseases and food safety incidents surveillance, response and risk communication.
- AMR is a growing global public health issue. Combating AMR requires various actions, including improved awareness among policy-makers, food producers, consumers and the public of AMR-food safety risks.
- Outputs from the meeting serve as important considerations in shaping the strategic direction for food safety in the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regions.

3.2 Recommendations

3.2.1 Recommendations for Member States

Member States are encouraged to:

- 1) continue to use the Western Pacific and South-East Asia food safety strategies to guide national food safety programmes and actions;
- 2) continue to engage in developing a new regional food safety strategy for the Western Pacific;
- 3) engage in and contribute to the development and implementation of priority food safety programmes for strengthening INFOSAN and national food safety systems in line with national priorities;
- 4) build on the momentum created by global food safety initiatives – such as World Health Day 2015, the launch of the Codex Trust Fund 2 and estimation of the global burden of foodborne diseases – to continue to advocate enhanced attention to food safety;
- 5) continue to actively participate in INFOSAN and share information through the INFOSAN community website;
- 6) continue to work towards strengthening national food safety systems with particular emphasis on foodborne disease surveillance and response, risk communication, laboratory capacity and multisectoral coordination, including improving coordination between National IHR Focal Points and INFOSAN emergency contact points; and

- 7) raise the issue of AMR in relation to food safety and actively participate in cross-cutting AMR-related activities including development of national AMR action plans.

3.2.2 Recommendations for WHO

WHO is requested to:

- 1) continue to use the Western Pacific and South-East Asia regional food safety strategies to support and guide national efforts to strengthen food safety systems;
- 2) in consultation with Member States, technical experts and partners, develop a new regional food safety strategy for the Western Pacific taking into consideration food safety issues and priorities identified by Member States during the meeting;
- 3) in consultation with technical counterparts in Member States, develop country-tailored priorities to guide cooperation between WHO and Member States in food safety;
- 4) strengthen the function of INFOSAN in Asia including continuously updating contact details of designated INFOSAN emergency contact points and INFOSAN focal points, actively sharing information on food safety incidents and emergencies and best practices for food incident management, including enhanced collaboration with regional networks;
- 5) in partnership with FAO, continue to work in a coordinated manner with regional food safety initiatives such as APEC Food safety Cooperation Forum and ASEAN Expert Group for Food Safety and OIE; and
- 6) consider organizing a regional meeting on strengthening national food safety systems including INFOSAN in 2017.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of participants

1. Participants

Western Pacific Region

- Brunei Darussalam Ms Mahani Haji Muhammad, Senior Health Officer, Disease Control Division, Environmental Health Services, Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Jalan Menteri Besar, Bandar Seri Begawan, Tel. : (673) 2381 640 ext. 7728, Fax No: (673) 2381 755, mahani.muhammad@moh.gov.bn; mahani209@hotmail.com
- Cambodia Dr Ly Sovann, Director, Department of Communicable Disease Control, Ministry of Health, No. 151-153 Kampuchea Krom Avenue, Phnom Penh, Tel. No: (85 5) 12 825 424, Fax No: (85 5) 23 880 441, sovann_ly@online.com.kh
- Mr Aing Hoksrun, Chief, Food Safety Bureau, Department of Drug and Food, Ministry of Health, No. 151-153 Kampuchea Krom Avenue, Phnom Penh, Tel. : (85 5) 85 338 066, E-mail : hoksrunaing@gmail.com
- China Mr Tian Jianxin, Director of General Office, Department of Food Safety Standards, Risk Surveillance and Assessment, National Health and Family Planning Commission, of the People's Republic of China, No. 1 XiZhi Mei, South Road, Xi Cheng District, Beijing, Tel. : (86 10) 6879 2611, Fax No: (86 10) 68791474, shipinsizhc@126.com
- Hong Kong SAR (China) Dr Philip Yuk-yin Ho, Consultant (Community Medicine), (Risk Assessment and Communication), Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 45/F Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Tel. : (85 2) 2867 5600, Fax No: (85 2) 2526 8279, yyho@fehd.gov.hk
- Japan Dr Ai Koba Sato, Director, Office of the International Food Safety, Environmental Health and Food Safety Department, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Tel. : (81 3) 3515 2326, Fax No: (81 3) 3503 7965, satou-ai@mhlw.go.jp
- Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Somthavy Changvisommid, Director General, Food and Drug Department, Ministry of Health, Simouang Road, Vientiane Capital 01000, Tel.: (856) 2 121 4013, Fax No: (856) 2 121 4015, csomthavy_fdd@yahoo.com
- Mrs Viengxay Vansilalom, Head, Food Control Division, Food and Drug Department, Ministry of Health, Simouang Road, Vientiane Capital 01000, Tel. No: (856) 2 121 4013, Fax No: (856) 2 121 4015, vsysanhouth@yahoo.com
- Malaysia Dr Chin Cheow Keat, Deputy Director, Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, 62590 Putrajaya, Tel. No: (6 012) 2681051 / (603) 8885 0795, chin@moh.gov.my
- Madam Zawiyah binti Sharif, Principal Assistant Director, Surveillance Section, Food Safety and Quality Program, Ministry of Health, Level 3,

- Block E7, Complex E, Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62590 Putrajaya, Tel. No: (603) 8885 0736 / (6013) 4235080, Fax No: (603) 8885 0798, zawiyahsharif@moh.gov.my
- Mongolia
 Dr Enkhmaa Deleg, Officer-in-charge, Food Security, Office of National Security Council of Mongolia, Square of Chinggis Khaan-1, Sukhbaatar district, Ulaanbaatar, Tel. : (976) 9900 8216, e.deleg@yahoo.com
 Dr Ganzorig Dorjdagva, Officer-in-charge, Policy Implementation and Coordination for Nutrition and Food Safety, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Policy Implementation & Coordination, Ministry of Health and Sports, Olympic street 2, Government building VIII, Sukhbaatar district, Ulaanbaatar, Tel. : (976) 9914 5428, dganz_2000@yahoo.com
- Philippines
 Engr Maria Sonabel S. Anarna, Supervising Health Program Officer, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tel. : (632) 732 9966, masonabel@yahoo.com; masonabel@gmail.com
 Ms Christian Grace B. Estimada, Food-Drug Regulation Officer II, Center for Food Regulation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Tel. : (632) 857 1991 to 93, cgbestimada@fda.gov.ph; cgestimada@gmail.com
- Republic of Korea
 Dr Ilung Oh, Senior Scientific Officer, Risk Information Division, Consumer Risk Prevention Bureau, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, 187 Osongsaemyoung2-ro, Osong-eup, Chungcheongbuk-do, Tel. No: (82 43) 719 1760, Fax No: (82 43) 719 1750, ollong@korea.kr
- Viet Nam
 Ms Nguyen Man Ha Anh, Officer, Division of Legislation and Foreign Relation, Viet Nam Food Administration, Ministry of Health, 138A Giang Vo St., Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Tel. No: (84 4) 3846 4489, Fax No: (84 4) 3846 3739, manhaanh@gmail.com
 Mrs Vu Hong Thi Anh, Deputy Head, Planning and General Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, No. 10 Nguyen Cong Hoan St., Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Tel. No: (84 4) 3771 4195, Fax No: (84 4) 3831 7221, anhhong.nafi@mard.gov.vn
- South-East Asia Region
- Bangladesh
 Dr Shahnila Ferdousi, Head of Public Health Laboratory, Institute of Public Health, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Mobile: 01819122732, fshahnila@yahoo.com
- Bhutan
 Ms Gyem Bidha, Sr Lab. Officer and Focal Person for INFOSAN, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Thimphu, Tel. No: 17718471, gyem.bidha@yahoo.com
- India
 Mr Ashish Vinayakrao Gawai, Deputy Secretary (Food Safety), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Room No. 402 D, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011, Telefax. : (91 11) 2306 2292, Mobile: (91 98) 1812 2971, av.gawai@nic.in; ashishgawai@hotmail.com
 Mr Sunil Kumar Bakshi, Advisor (Codex/Regulations), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-

- 110002, Tel. : (91 11) 2323 7439, Mobile : (91 90) 9914 6815,
E-mail : sbakshi@fssai.gov.in
- Indonesia
Dr Imran Agus Nurali, SpKO, Director of Environmental Health,
Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Disease Control, and
Environmental Health, Jalan Percetakan Negara No. 29, Jakarta Pusat
10560, Tel. : (62 21) 424 5778, E-mail : ian88ellyas@yahoo.com
Ms Citra Prasetyawati, Food Safety Officer, Directorate for Food Safety
Surveillance, and Extension-National Agency for Drug and Food Control,
Republic of Indonesia, Jalan Percetakan Negara No. 23, Jakarta Pusat
10560, Tel. : (62 21) 4280 3516, Fax No: (62 21) 4287 8701,
citraprasetyawati@gmail.com
- Maldives
Ms Sajidha Mohamed, Senior Scientific Officer, Maldives Food & Drug
Authority, Male, Tel. : (960) 3014304, Fax No: (960) 3014315,
sajidha@health.gov.mv; foodsafetydivision@health.gov.mv
- Myanmar
Dr Chaw Nu Nu Aye, Assistant Director, Department of Food and Drug
Administration, Ministry of Health, Office No. 47, Naypyitaw,
E-mail : chawnunuaye@gmail.com
- Nepal
Mr Sanjeev Kumar Karn, Director-General, Department of Food
Technology and Quality Control, Ministry of Agricultural Development,
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, E-mail : sanjeevkkarn@gmail.com;
skkarn@dftqc.gov.np; sanjeevkkarn@hotmail.com
- Sri Lanka
Dr Sarath Amunugama, Deputy Director General (Public Health Services-I),
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine, Suwasiripaya, 365,
Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10,
Tel. : (94 11) 269 4077, Fax No: (94 11) 269 4077,
amunugama@sltnet.lk
- Thailand
Dr Paiboon Eamkum, Deputy Director, Bureau of Food Safety Extension
and Support, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health,
Tiwanon Road, Nonthaburi 11000, Tel. No: (66 2) 965 9730,
Fax No: (66 2) 588 3020, Mobile: (66 81) 857 9535,
Pvivaxm@hotmail.com
Mrs Jongkolnee Vithayarungruangsrri, Senior Adviser, Bureau of Food
Safety Extension and Support, Office of Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Public Health, Tiwanon Road, Nonthaburi 11000,
Mobile : (66 95) 801 0505, jongkolnee.moph@gmail.com
- Timor Leste
Mrs Tomasia de Sousa, Head, Environmental Health Department,
Ministry of Health, Dili, Tel. : (91-11) 2330 9584,
Fax No: (91-11) 2337 0197, hanslok23@yahoo.com

2. Consultant

Dr Zhang Jinjing, Deputy Director General, China Food and Drug Administration, 26 Xuanwumen
Xidajie, Beijing 100053, China, Tel. : (86 10) 8837 5679, Fax : (86 10) 8837 5678,
zhangjj@cfda.gov.cn

3. Temporary Advisers

Dr Chen Junshi, Senior Research Professor, National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment,
No.37,Guangqu Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100022, China, Tel. : 86 10) 52165519,
Fax : (86 10) 8313 2212, E-mail : jshchen@ilsichina.org

Dr Kunihiro Kubota, National Institute of Health Sciences, Division of Safety Information on Drug and Food 2nd Section, (Food Microbial), Section Chief, 1-18-1 Kamiyoga, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo 158-8501, Japan, Tel. : (81 3) 3700 1403, Fax : (81 3) 5717 7180, E-mail : kubotak@nihs.go.jp

Dr Lee Ymshik, Deputy Director General, Risk Information Division, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, 187 Osongsaengmyeong2(i)-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdeok-gu cheongju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do 28159, Republic of Korea, Tel. : (82 43) 719 1751, Fax No: (82 43) 719 1750, eaglelee@korea.kr

Professor Alan Reilly, Adjunct Professor, Institute of Food and Health, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland, Tel. : (353) 14906 299, Mobile: (353) 0 8723 64914, E-mail : alan.reilly@foodsafety.ie; alan.reilly@ucd.ie

4. Resource persons

Dr Barbara Butow, Deputy Section Manager, Strategic Science International and Surveillance Section, Food Information, Science and Technology Branch, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, 55 Blackall Street, Barton, ACT 2600, Australia, Tel. : (61 2) 6271 2283, Fax no: (61 2) 6271 2278, Barbara.Butow@foodstandards.gov.au

Ms Joanne Chan Sheot Harn, Division Director, Food Laboratory, Health Sciences Authority, 11 Outram Road-169078, Singapore, Fax: (65) 6213 0722 / (65) 6213 0749, CHAN_Sheot_Harn@hsa.gov.sg

Dr Lee Siu-yuen, Assistant Director (Food Surveillance and Control), Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 2867 5511, Fax: (852) 2521 9527, siuyuenlee@fehd.gov.hk

Professor Wu Yongning, Chief Scientist and Professor, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA), Director of Key Lab of Food Safety Risk Assessment, National Health and Family Planning Commission, Head of WHO Collaborating Center for Food Contamination, Monitoring (China), 7 Panjiayuan Nanli, Beijing 100021, China, Tel. : (86 10) 67779118, Fax No: (86 10) 67791253, wuyongning@cfsa.net.cn; china_cdc@yahoo.cn

5. Observers

Hong Kong Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Dr Yeung Tze-kiu, Samuel, Principal Medical Officer (Risk Assessment & Communication), 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong SAR (China), Tel: (852) 2867 5185, Fax No: (852) 2893 3547, stkyeung@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Wong Wang, Christine, Principal Medical Officer (Risk Management), 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Tel. : (852) 2867 5180, Fax : (852) 2869 7326, cwong@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Chow Chor-yiu, Senior Medical Officer (Risk Management), 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Tel. : (852) 2867 5432, Fax : (852) 2869 7326, cychow@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Tung Lap-yan, Duncan, Senior Medical Officer (Risk Communication), 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Tel. : (852) 2867 5602, Fax : (852) 2893 3547, dlytung@fehd.gov.hk

Mr Chan Wai Yan, Dicky, Scientific Officer (Risk Management), 43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, Tel.: (852) 2867 5134, Fax: (852) 2869 7326, waychan@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Chong Tsz-kit, Scientific Officer (Nutrition Labelling Education), 3/F, 4 Hospital Road, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 3962 2066, Fax No: (852) 2803 0534, ktkchong@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Tang Shiu-ping, Anna, Scientific Officer (Programme Planning) 1,
43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong,
Tel. No: (852) 2867 5607, Fax No: (852) 2893 3547, asptang@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Lum Hon-kei, John, Scientific Officer (Programme Planning) 2,
43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong,
Tel. No: (852) 2867 5610, Fax No: (852) 2893 3547, jhklum@fehd.gov.hk

Dr Lin Fu-po, Violette, Scientific Officer (Technical Publication) 1,
43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong,
Tel. No: (852) 2867 5336, Fax No: (852) 2893 3547, vfplin@fehd.gov.hk

Ms Chen Yung-yung, Melva, Scientific Officer (Technical Publication) 2,
43/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong,
Tel. No: (852) 2867 5616, Fax No: (852) 2893 3547,
myychen@fehd.gov.hk

Hong Kong
Department of Health

Dr Ho Chi-hin, Billy, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Epidemiology
Section), 3/F, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong,
Tel.: (852) 2125 2340, Fax No: (852) 2711 4847, smo_es4@dh.gov.hk

Dr Lam Tin-long, Terence, Scientific Officer (Medical), (Enteric and
Vector-borne Disease Office), 4/F, 147C Argyle Street, Kowloon,
Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 2125 2245, Fax: (852) 2711 0927,
so_m_evbdo2@dh.gov.hk

Hong Kong
Agriculture,
Fisheries and
Conservation
Department

Dr Sit Hon-chung, Thomas, Assistant Director (Inspection & Quarantine)
7/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road,
Kowloon, Hong Kong, Tel.: (852) 2150 6602,
Fax : (852) 2311 3731, thcsit@afcd.gov.hk

Hong Kong
Government
Laboratory

Dr Clare Ho, Senior Chemist (Residues Section), 800 Victoria Road,
Pokfulam, Hong Kong, Tel: (852) 2538 2012,
Fax: (852) 2551 5632, E-mail: cho@govtlab.gov.hk

Hong Kong
Customs and Excise
Department

Ms Chan Yin-hong, Senior Investigator (Consumer Goods Safety Unit 3),
14/F, Customs Headquarters Building, 222 Java Road, North Point,
Hong Kong, Tel.: (852) 3759 3585, Fax : (852) 3108 3427,
yin_hong_chan@customs.gov.hk

Chinese University
of Hong Kong

Dr Shanquan Chen, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT,
Hong Kong, Mobile : (852) 5135 1654, chenshanquancuhk@126.com

National Assembly
of the
Republic of Korea

Ms On Sehyun, Legislative Researcher, Health and Welfare Committee,
National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, Tel. No: (82 2) 788 2384,
Fax No: (82 2) 788 3364, E-mail: onsh@assembly.go.kr

Korea
Ministry of Food
and Drug Safety

Ms Jang Inseong, Deputy Director, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety,
187 Osongsaengmyeong2-ro, Osong-eup, Chungcheongbuk-do,
Republic of Korea, Tel. : (82 43) 719 1718, Fax No: (82 43) 719 1710,
dlstjd04@korea.kr

Mr Seo Jiwoo, Scientific Officer, Professional Engineer Food stuff,
Risk Information Division, Consumer Risk Prevention Bureau,
Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, 187 Osongsaengmyeong2-ro,
Osong-eup, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea,
Tel. : (82 43) 719 1754, Fax No: (82 43) 719 1750,
Mobile: (82 10) 8724 4653, seke0924@korea.kr

Korea
National Food Safety
Information Service

Dr Kwak No-Seong, President, National Food Safety Information Service,
110-750 Boryung Building, 5th Floor, WonNam-Dong 66–21, Jongno-Gu,
Seoul, Republic of Korea, Tel. : (82 2) 744 8203,
Fax No: (82 2) 744 8205, forsome@foodinfo.or.kr

Dr Lee Joohyoung, Principal Researcher, Department of Policy Research,
National Food Safety Information Service, 110-750 Boryung Building,
5th Floor, WonNam-Dong 66–21, Jongno-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea,
Tel. : (82 2) 744 8207, Fax No: (82 2) 744 8205, jhlee1@foodinfo.or.kr

Mr Yim Jinsu, Administrative Officer, National Food Safety Information
Service, 110-750 Boryung Building, 5th Floor, WonNam-Dong 66–21,
Jongno-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, Tel. : (82 2) 744 8511,
Fax No: (82 2) 744 8205, jsyim1@foodinfo.or.kr

Viet Nam
Food Administration

Ms Tran Viet Nga, Deputy Director–General, Vietnam Food
Administration, Ministry of Health, No. 138A Giang Vo str., Ba Dinh dist.,
Hanoi, Viet Nam, Tel. : (84 4) 3846 4489 (ext. 3030),
Fax No: (84 4) 3846 3739, tranvietnga@vfa.gov.vn

Ms Nguyen Thuy Duong, Officer, Vietnam Food Administration,
Ministry of Health, No. 138A Giang Vo str., Ba Dinh dist., Hanoi,
Viet Nam, Tel. : (84 4) 3846 4489 (ext. 5040),
Fax No: (84 4) 3846 3739, thuyduongvfa@gmail.com

World Organisation
for Animal Health

Dr Yooni Oh, Regional Project Coordinator, OIE Regional Representation
for Asia and the Pacific, Food Science Building 5F, The University of
Tokyo, 1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8657, Japan,
Tel. : (81 3) 5805 1931, Fax No: (81 3) 5805 1934, y.oh@oie.int

Dr Veronica Yu, Secondment Officer, OIE Regional Representation for
Asia and the Pacific, Food Science Building 5F, The University of Tokyo,
1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8657, Japan,
Tel. : (81 3) 5805 1931, Fax No: (81 3) 5805 1934, v.yu@oie.int

6. Secretariat

Dr Li Ailan, Director, Health Security and Emergencies, World Health Organization, Regional Office
for the Western Pacific, United Nations Avenue, 1000 Manila, Philippines, Tel: (632) 528 8001, Fax:
(632) 521 1036, lia@wpro.who.int

Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, Technical Lead–Food Safety, World Health Organization, Regional Office
for the Western Pacific, United Nations Avenue, 1000 Manila, Philippines, Tel: (63 2) 528 9914, Fax
: (63 2) 521 1036 / 526 0279, E-mail : hoejskovp@wpro.who.int

Dr Zhang Pingping, National Professional Officer, World Health Organization, 401, Dongwai
Diplomatic Office Building, 23, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, 100600 Beijing China,
Tel. : (86 10) 6532 7189, Fax : (86 10) 6532 2359, Email : zhangp@who.int

Dr Nguyen Thi Phuc, Technical Officer, Avian and Pandemic Influenza, World Health Organization,
304 Kim Ma Street, Hanoi, Viet Nam, Tel. : (844) 38 500 100, Fax : (844) 37 265 519,
phucn@who.int

Dr Maho Imanishi, Technical Officer–Zoonotic Diseases, World Health Organization, 304 Kim Ma
Street, Hanoi, Viet Nam, Tel. : (844) 38 500 100, Fax : (844) 37 265 519, imanishim@who.int

Dr Gyanendra Gongal, Scientist, International Health and Regulations, Health Security and
Emergency Response, World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, World
Health House Indraprastha Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Road New Delhi 110002, India,
Tel: (91 11) 2330 9313, Fax : (91 11) 2337 0197, gongalg@who.int

Mr Sharad Prasad Adhikary, Technical Officer (Food Safety), WHO Country Office for Indonesia, Jakarta, adhikarys@who.int

Dr Dubravka Selenic Minet, DVM, MPH, Consultant, WHO Country Office for Thailand, Permanent secretary building 2, Ministry of Public Health, Tiwanon Rd, Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand, Mobile: (66 8) 70713310, Tel. : (66 2) 5470145, Fax : (66 2) 591 8199, selenicminetdu@who.int

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Tel. : (41 22) 791 2773, Fax : (41 22) 791 0746, miyagishimak@who.int

Dr Peter Karim Ben Embarek, Scientist, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Tel. : (41 22) 791 1498, Fax : (41 22) 791 0746, Mobile : (41 79) 472 92 00, benembarekp@who.int

Mr Carmen Savelli, Technical Officer, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Tel. : (41 22) 79 13234, Fax : (41 22) 791 0746, savelllic@who.int

Mr Martin Heilmann, FAO INFOSAN Focal Point, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome Italy, Tel. : (39 06) 570 55942, Martin.Heilmann@fao.org

Annex 2. Programme of activities

Day 1–Monday, 23 November 2015

08:00–08:30 Registration

08:30–10:00 Opening session

Welcome and opening remarks

Dr Li Ailan, Director, Division of Health Security and Emergencies
World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO)

Mr Martin Heilmann, FAO INFOSAN Focal Point
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mrs Cherry Tse, Permanent Secretary for Food and Health, Food and Health Bureau,
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

Self- introduction

Objectives and background

Nomination of Chairs and Rapporteur

Administrative announcements

Group photo

10:00–10:30 Coffee/tea break

10:30–12:30 Session 1 - Plenary: Global and regional updates

10:30–10:40 Reflections of Food Safety: An old issue in the new context

- Dr Li Ailan, WHO/WPRO

10:40–11:05 Global update on food safety

- Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, WHO/HQ

11:05–11:20 Implementation of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015

- Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

11:20–11:35 Implementation of Regional Food Safety Strategy for South-East Asia 2013–2017

- Dr Gyanendra Gongal, WHO/SEARO

11:35–11:55 Implementation of FAO global and regional food safety programme

- Mr Martin Heilmann and Ms Shashi Sareen, FAO (via skype)

11:55–12:10 Global INFOSAN update and developments

- Dr Peter Ben Embarek, WHO/HQ

12:10–12:30 Questions and clarification

12:30–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–14:50 Session 2 - Plenary: Understanding developments in food safety

13:30–13:50 Global food safety foresight–current and future emerging issues

- Prof Alan Reilly, University College Dublin

13:50–14:20 Emerging food safety issues in Asia

- Dr Lee Ymshik, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Republic of Korea

- 14:20–14:30 Expert interventions and plenary discussion
- Dr Junshi Chen, National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment, China
 - Dr Kunihiro Kubota, National Institute of Health Sciences, Japan
- 14:30–14:50 Questions and clarification
- 14:50–15:15 Coffee/tea break
- 15:15–16:30 Session 3–Panel discussions: Strengthening national food safety systems
– current priorities
- 15:15–15:25 Introduction to the session, background and structure
- Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO
- 15:25–16:30 Panel discussion 1: Food safety coordination, policy and legislation
- Prof Alan Reilly, University College Dublin

Day 2–Tuesday, 24 November 2015

- 08:30–08:45 Recap from day 1
- 08:45–10:00 Session 3–Panel discussion: Strengthening national food safety systems
- current priorities
- Panel discussion 2: Food fraud and food safety data to better guide policy and risk analysis
- Ms Joanne Chan Sheot Harn, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore
- 10:00–10:30 Coffee/tea break
- 10:30–11:30 Panel discussion 3: Risk-based food inspection and food safety training and education
- Prof Alan Reilly, University College Dublin
- 11:30–12:30 Panel discussion 4: Food safety incident and emergency detection, assessment and management
- Dr Barbara Butow, Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30–15:00 Session 3–Group discussion: Strengthening national food safety systems
-future priorities
- 13:30–13:40 Introduction to group discussion
- Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO
- 13:40–15:00 Four mixed country groups to identify future priorities for strengthening national food safety systems
- 15:00–15:30 Coffee/tea break
- 15:30–16:30 Session 3–Plenary: Strengthening national food safety systems–future priorities
- 15:30–16:10 Group presentations
- 16:10–16:30 Questions and clarification

Day 3–Wednesday, 25 November 2015

08:30–08:45 Recap from day 2

08:45 –10:00 Session 4 - Plenary: Enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing in Asia during food safety events

08:45–09:00 INFOSAN in Asia: Overview of event response and communication

- Mr Carmen Savelli, WHO/HQ

09:00–09:10 Enhancing INFOSAN in Asia–Progress and achievements

- Dr Gyanendra Gongal, WHO/SEARO

- Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

09:10–09:25 Using INFOSAN to develop and improve national food recall and traceability systems

- Dr Peter Karim Ben Embarek, WHO/HQ

09:25–09:40 Strengthening food recall and traceability systems in Australia including INFOSAN communication

- Dr Barbara Butow, Food Standards Australia New Zealand

09:40–10:00 Questions and clarification

10:00–10:30 Coffee/tea break

10:30–10:45 Food safety events and the role of INFOSAN in Thailand

- Ms Jongkolnee Vithayarungruangsi, Thailand

10:45–11:00 INFOSAN in Hong Kong–Best practices in INFOSAN communication

- Dr Lee Siu-yuen, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong SAR (China)

11:00–11:15 Intersectoral Outbreak Investigations and Response in Cambodia

- Dr Ly Sovann, Cambodia

11:15–11:30 Strengthening INFOSAN in Indonesia

- Ms Citra Prasetyawati, Indonesia

11:30- 11:50 Development of an Effective Rapid-Response System for Food Risk

- Dr Oh Ilung, Republic of Korea

11:50–12:10 Review of INFOSAN Processes and Procedures

- Mr Carmen Savelli, WHO/HQ

12:10–12:30 Question and clarification

12:30–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–15:00 Session 4–Group discussion: Enhancing INFOSAN and information sharing in Asia during food safety events

13:30–13:40 Introduction to group discussion

- Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

- Mr Carmen Savelli, WHO/HQ

Group 1: INFOSAN in Asia

Group 2: Food safety emergency risk communication

Group 3: Food recall and traceability systems

Group 4: IHR and INFOSAN in the context of multisectoral coordination for emergency response

15:00–15:30 Coffee/tea break

15:30–16:30 Group discussion contd.

Day 4–Thursday, 26 November 2015

08:30–08:45 Recap from day 3

08:45–09:25 Group presentations

09:25–09:45 Questions and clarification

09:45–10:00 Session 5 - Plenary: Moving forward in a changing environment

Summary of current and future priorities identified and introduction to group work

- Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

10:00–10:30 Coffee/tea break

10:30–12:30 Session 5–Group discussion: Moving forward in a changing environment

Group 1: INFOSAN in Asia: Identification of common priorities and concrete action plan for the coming year

Group 2: Future strategic direction for food safety in the Western Pacific

Group 3: Progress and future strategic direction for food safety in South-East Asia

11:50–12:20 Group presentations

12:20–12:30 Questions and clarification

12:30–13:30 Lunch break

13:30–15:00 Session 6 - Plenary: Conclusions and recommendations

13:30–14:00 Conclusions and recommendations

14:00–15:00 Closing session

Closing remarks

Mr Martin Heilmann, FAO INFOSAN Focal Point
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dr Li Ailan, Director, Division of Health Security and Emergencies
World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific

www.wpro.who.int