



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

# **APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum**

**APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum**

**February 2015**



## Content

<b>1. Background</b>	1
<b>2. FSCF Meetings and Outcomes</b>	7
FSCF 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting	7
FSCF 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting	10
FSCF 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting	13
FSCF 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	18
FSCF Special Session	22
<b>3. FSCF achievements noted in Leader's Declaration</b>	29
<b>4. FSCF achievements noted in Ministerial Statements</b>	31



## 1. Background

In November 2004, the 16<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting in Santiago noted China's efforts to promote cooperation among APEC member economies on food safety and encouraged member economies to determine how APEC might complement the ongoing work of other international organizations.



In June 2005, APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade noted and welcomed the efforts of Australia, China, Thailand and Viet Nam to advance food cooperation and commended officials for their work in identifying an appropriate role for APEC. In November 2005, the 17<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting noted the outcomes of the Food Safety Cooperation Seminar held in September 2005 in Korea and welcomed the progress made by member economies including the establishment of an Ad Hoc Steering Group.



The Ad Hoc Steering Group met in February 2006 and September 2006 and presented their Final Report titled *APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative* to the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) on 8 September 2006, recommending the formation of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF).



On 4 April 2007, the FSCF was formerly established in the Hunter Valley, Australia. FSCF agreed to work together to build robust food safety systems so as to accelerate progress towards harmonization of food standards with international standards to improve public health and facilitate trade. APEC member economies also agreed to work together to strengthen capacity building activities and information sharing by signing the *Hunter Valley Statement*.

The FSCF is a forum of food safety regulators which seeks to build robust food safety systems in the region that are consistent with the Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) of the World Trade Organization. It is co-chaired by Australia (Food Standards Australia New Zealand, FSANZ) and China (General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, AQSIQ).



In 2008, the United States initiated the Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) that was established under the FSCF and is a public private partnership that brings together industry, academia, government, and development banks to deliver food safety capacity building in five key areas: supply chain management, incident management, regulatory systems, laboratory capacity building, and risk analysis. The PTIN has a Steering Group to guide activities that is administered by the United States and co-chaired by Australia and China. As Co-Chairs, Australia and China are responsible for providing leadership to the FSCF and its PTIN; providing the FSCF Secretariat; organizing FSCF meetings and associated activities; reviewing the work and future direction of the FSCF; and reporting on the work of the FSCF to APEC through the SCSC. Since the FSCF and its PTIN were formed, food safety has been recognized as a high priority for APEC. APEC Trade Ministers and APEC Economic Leaders

have reinforced the increasing importance of food safety capacity building in the APEC region and endorsed the work of the FSCF and its PTIN.

### **Strategic goals**

At the FSCF meeting in 2007 it was agreed that the FSCF goals were to assist APEC member economies to achieve:

- Transparent information-sharing and communication networks that provide accurate and timely information to consumers and producers on food safety.
- Food safety regulatory systems within economies, including food inspection/assurance and certification systems that are consistent with members' rights and obligations under the SPS and TBT Agreements of the World Trade Organization; and are harmonized, to the extent possible, with international standards (such as Codex, OIE, IPPC).
- Enhanced skills and human resource capacities to enable the development of national food safety regulatory frameworks that are harmonized to the extent possible, with international standards.

One of the key roles undertaken by the FSCF has been prioritizing food safety capacity building needs by APEC member economies. This process identified a broad range of areas where capacity needed development, both in technical areas, but also in areas of organizational management and legislative systems. The extensive list of capacity building priorities have been grouped into four broad areas and these include:

- food safety regulatory systems
- food inspection and certification systems
- technical skills and human resource capacity
- information sharing and communication networks.

## 2. FSCF Meetings and outcomes

### FSCF 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting– 2007 – Australia



On 4 April 2007, the FSCF was formally established in the Hunter Valley, Australia. Food safety regulators from APEC Economies agreed to work together to strengthen food safety capacity building activities and improve information sharing. During the meeting, FSCF identified priority capacity building areas and developed a two-year strategic approach, guided by broad goals of the Forum, agreed Operating Principles of the Forum.

The outcomes were recorded in the *Hunter Valley Statement* available at: <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/Documents/Hunter%20Valley%202007%20Statement.pdf>.



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation



## Hunter Valley 2007 Statement

### APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

#### A Strategic Approach to Capacity Building in Food Safety

On 4 April 2007, food safety regulators from APEC Economies met in the Hunter Valley, Australia and agreed to work together to strengthen food safety capacity building activities and improve information sharing. To action this, Economies agreed to recommend a strategic approach on capacity building activities within APEC.

1. In the spirit of the APEC Australia 2007 theme of “Strengthening our community, building a sustainable future”, we recognised that while Economies in the Asia Pacific region have different needs, there is value in identifying, prioritising and coordinating food safety capacity building activities. This will have significant benefits for the health and well-being of the entire population of APEC members as well as trade facilitation in this region.
2. We recognised that better coordination of food safety capacity building activities is crucial to building robust food safety systems, to accelerating progress towards harmonisation of food standards with international standards, and to improving public health and facilitating trade.
3. We acknowledged that in an increasingly global food system, a coordinated regional approach to food safety capacity building activities would provide Economies with the ability to respond in a positive and far-sighted way.
4. As food safety regulators in APEC Economies, we noted that we are in a unique position to provide advice and guidance to SCSC in their consideration of food safety capacity building activities. We also accepted responsibility to work together to ensure the effectiveness and responsiveness of APEC funded projects. As part of this cooperative approach, we would also work in consultation with other APEC fora to access their expertise in relevant capacity building activities.
5. We identified priority capacity building areas and developed a two-year strategic approach, recognising and welcoming the extent to which Economies are already working in partnership on several capacity building projects.
6. In developing this strategic approach, we were guided by the broad goals of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative, which we note was agreed by APEC Economies in 2006, to
  - a. Develop transparent information-sharing and communication networks that provide accurate and timely information to consumers and producers on food safety.
  - b. Work towards establishing domestic food safety regulatory systems within economies, including food inspection/assurance and certification systems that:

- i. are consistent with members' rights and obligations under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements of the World Trade Organisation; and
    - ii. are harmonized, to the extent possible, with international standards (such as Codex, OIE, IPPC); and
  - c. Enhance skills and human resource capacities to enable the development of national food safety regulatory systems that are harmonized with international standards.
7. We noted that the Food Safety Cooperation Initiative can make an important contribution to APEC's second Trade Facilitation Action Plan.
8. In developing the strategic approach we welcomed and carefully considered the advice and input provided by experts at the concurrent seminar, "Latest developments and challenges in food safety".
9. We supported the agreed Operating Principles of the Forum, highlighting the necessity and value of partnerships within the region. We agreed to continue to support each other by providing advice, information and networking support.
10. We agreed to review the strategy the next time the Forum convenes to ensure that the longer-term benefits from the close and productive work at the Hunter Valley continue to be realised.

Mr Graham Peachey  
Co-Chair

Dr Lin Wei  
Co-Chair

Hunter Valley  
Australia  
4 April 2007

## FSCF 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting– 2009 – Singapore



The FSCF met in Singapore in July 2009 for the FSCF 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting. This meeting included over 50 participants from 19 member economies. Members welcomed progress made since the establishment of the FSCF, on improving information sharing and the coordination of efforts in food safety capacity building. During this time it was considered that the FSCF has raised the profile of food safety in the region with greater leverage of resources for food safety incidents, improved communication and information sharing between economies.

Delegates discussed and endorsed the Review of Progress, including the successes and challenges experienced in advancing the FSCF's goals and objectives, and from that, set key forward directions.

The FSCF noted the formation of the FSCF PTIN in 2008 and the first FSCF PTIN Steering Group meeting held in the margins of the 2009 FSCF meeting. In addition, the FSCF PTIN held its first capacity building workshop on “Hot Topics in Risk Analysis.”

The outcomes were recorded in the *Singapore Statement* available at: <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/Documents/Signed%20Singapore%20Statement%202009%20new.pdf>.

## **APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum *Singapore Statement 2009***

### **An ongoing commitment to improving food safety**

On 30 July 2009, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), a group of food safety regulators from APEC member economies and key international stakeholders, met face to face for the second time since its establishment in 2007, in Singapore, in the margins of SOMIII. The FSCF agreed to reaffirm its commitment to work together to build robust food safety systems so as to accelerate progress towards harmonisation of food standards with international standards, as recommended in the World Trade Organisation's SPS/TBT Agreements, to improve public health and to facilitate trade. In doing so, member economies recognised the significant progress made to date, and agreed to continue their efforts in strengthening food safety capacity building activities and improving food safety information sharing across the APEC region.

1. We, the members of the FSCF, acknowledged gratefully the support and direction given by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade and Economic Leaders in both 2007 and 2008, and APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in 2009, with respect to the FSCF and the FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (FSCF PTIN).
2. We welcomed the progress that has been made since the establishment of the FSCF, to improve information sharing and the coordination of efforts in food safety capacity building. Since April 2007, when the FSCF was established in the Hunter Valley, Australia, over 550 people from 19 APEC member economies have participated in, or contributed to, FSCF meetings and activities. This included at least 440 participants who have taken part in 24 capacity building activities held in 5 cities across the region. This is the first time that APEC member economies have coordinated their efforts in the area of food safety in this way and are working together to target priority areas of need. This demonstrates real and tangible progress.
3. We recognised that not only have we supported each other in preparing and undertaking food safety capacity building activities, we have also utilised our unique position to provide advice and guidance to SCSC in their consideration of at least eight food safety capacity building activities.
4. We supported the revised FSCF *Operating Principles*; the agreed food safety capacity building priorities; and the revised FSCF *Implementation Plan 2007-2011*, recognising the extent to which member economies are already working in partnership on capacity building projects and welcoming the growing numbers of APEC member economies participating in the work of the FSCF. In continuing to direct our energies into identified and agreed priority capacity building areas, we recognised the significant benefits this would have for the health and well-being of the entire population of APEC members as well as trade facilitation in this region.
5. To build on our success to date and to address areas of challenge, we agreed that over the next two years, we would focus our attention on:
  - a. Strengthening our coordination of food safety capacity building activities, utilising a broad range of government, industry and academic stakeholders. We will look to achieve this, particularly through providing strong support to the implementation of the FSCF PTIN;
  - b. Building on already established networks and processes, particularly to strengthen our ability to share information in the event of food safety emergencies;
  - c. Continuing to make progress towards the establishment of robust food safety systems and greater harmonisation to international standards across APEC member economies.
6. We agreed to continue to review the direction of the FSCF to ensure that the longer-term benefits designed to be achieved by the FSCF will continue to be realised.
7. We look forward to our next meeting of the FSCF in the United States in the margins of SCSC2 in 2011.



Mr Steve McCutcheon  
Co-Chair  
Australia

Singapore  
30 July 2009



Dr Lin Wei  
Co-Chair  
The People's Republic of China

## FSCF 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting– 2011 – United States of America



The APEC FSCF held its third meeting on 17 May 2011 in the margins of the APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM2), Big Sky, Montana, United States of America. Delegates welcomed the progress that had been made since the establishment of the FSCF across a range of areas.

Progress was notable, particularly in: raising the profile of food safety in the region; improving communication and information sharing, including the establishment of the FSCF and its PTIN websites; providing a range of capacity building activities in areas of high priority; and advancing food safety standards and systems. Outcomes were recorded in the *Big Sky Statement*, available at:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/documents/FSCF%20Big%20Sky%20Statement%202011.pdf>.

The FSCF PTIN also held a range of workshops in the margins of the FSCF third meeting. The outcomes are available here:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/documents/Report%20on%20the%20Incident%20Management%20Workshop.pdf>.

Signing of APEC FSCF and World Bank Memorandum of Understanding  
(MOU)



To build on the good working relationship that had been established with the World Bank, an MOU was signed between the FSCF and the World Bank, focusing on collaboration on food safety capacity building in the APEC region.

The MOU is available here:

<http://fscf-ptin.apec.org/docs/APEC%20FSCF%20World%20Bank%20MOU%20Signed%2018May11.pdf>



**APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum  
Big Sky Statement 2011**

**Demonstrated progress and an ongoing commitment to improving food safety**

On 17 May 2011, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), a group of food safety regulators from APEC member economies, as well as key international stakeholders, met face to face for the third time since its establishment in 2007; in Big Sky, Montana, the United States of America, in the margins of SOMII. In reviewing the significant progress made towards meeting its goals, the FSCF restated its commitment to work together to strengthen food safety systems; and progress towards a safe food supply and harmonisation of food standards with international standards, as recommended in the World Trade Organisation's SPS/TBT Agreements. This commitment is made with a view to improve public health and to facilitate trade in the APEC region.

1. We, the members of the FSCF, acknowledged gratefully the support and direction given by the APEC Sub-Committee for Standards and Conformance; the Committee for Trade and Investment; the Ministers Responsible for Trade; and the APEC Economic Leaders, since our establishment in 2007 and throughout 2009 and 2010, since we last met.
2. We welcomed the progress that has been made since the FSCF last met in Singapore in 2009, across a range of areas, particularly in: raising the profile of food safety in the region, resulting in increased support for related activities; improving communication and information sharing, including the establishment of the FSCF and its PTIN websites; advances made to food safety standards and systems both within economies, where standards and systems have been advanced as a result of FSCF activities; and across the region, including in the areas of food safety incident management, recognising standards for pesticide maximum residue levels, supply chain management and export certificates.
3. With respect to food safety capacity building, we recognised the range of activities that have been undertaken to address identified priority areas. Since the FSCF was established in 2007; and the FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network in 2008; 35 capacity building activities have been undertaken, with participants from 21 member economies, held in 11 economies throughout the APEC region. This capacity building response has been coordinated across APEC member economies through the FSCF and its PTIN; and has involved food safety stakeholders from an expanded network involving government, private sector, academic, international government organisations and donor body participants. We endorsed the FSCF PTIN Review of Progress and its reviewed Terms of Reference. In addition, the first on-line food safety training module is now available through the FSCF PTIN website. We recognised the critical role of industry in progressing the work of the FSCF PTIN.
4. We supported the revised FSCF *Operating Principles*; the agreed *Food Safety Capacity Building Priorities*; and the revised FSCF *Record of Activities and Implementation Plan 2007-2011*, recognising the extent to which member economies are already working in partnership on capacity building projects and welcoming the growing numbers of APEC member economies participating in the work of the FSCF. In addition, we welcomed the opportunity to advance our collaboration on food safety capacity building with international organisations, such as the World Bank.

5. We welcomed the endorsement of the World Bank/APEC FSCF Memorandum of Understanding. With regard to this agreement, we explored opportunities for deepening the working relationship with the World Bank, as reflected in the Discussion Paper *Taking Food Safety Capacity Building for the Asia Pacific Region to the Next Level* and we also committed to working with the Bank to operationalize the agreement.

To build on our success to date and to address areas of challenge, we agreed on the following recommendations that would form the basis of our work for the next two years:

**Recommendations for future action from 2011 – 2013**

1. Build on already established communication networks and processes, specifically by:
  - a. Continuing to promote access to FSCF/PTIN documents, reports of food safety capacity building activities and, where appropriate, training materials via the FSCF and FSCF PTIN websites;
  - b. Sharing information on emerging food safety issues and during food safety emergencies, particularly by supporting the newly established FSCF Food Safety Incident Network;
  - c. Engaging all member economies more fully in the work of the FSCF and its PTIN.
2. Continue to strengthen the coordination and implementation of food safety capacity building activities that support sustainable learning outcomes, utilising a broad range of government, industry and academic stakeholders. To advance this, the FSCF PTIN will develop a 2-3 year strategic work plan, to be implemented with its partners, including the World Bank.
3. Continuing to focus on priority food safety capacity building needs, consistent with the agreed FSCF Capacity Building Priority Areas, particularly in the areas of:
  - a. food inspection and certification systems;
  - b. risk analysis;
  - c. laboratory capacity; and
  - d. identifying and addressing gaps in economy level food safety systems.
4. Work towards a sustainable resource base for implementing capacity building activities through collaboration with relevant international and regional organisations, with donor organisations and with the private sector.
5. Support the implementation of the agreed recommendations regarding the pilot project for promoting harmonization of pesticide maximum residue limits in the APEC region; reduce unnecessary certificate requirements and advance harmonization of export certificates to Codex Guidelines; and identify additional areas where convergence on food safety standards and systems can be progressed.

6. We agreed to regularly review the direction of the FSCF and the FSCF PTIN to ensure that the longer-term benefits achieved by the FSCF and the FSCF PTIN will continue to be realised.
7. We look forward to our next meeting of the FSCF in Indonesia in the margins of SCSC2 in 2013.



Mr Steve McCutcheon  
Co-Chair, Australia  
Big Sky, Montana, United States of America  
17 May, 2011



Dr Lin Wei  
Co-Chair, China

## FSCF 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting– 2013 – Indonesia



The meeting of 13 April 2013 built on the work already undertaken by the FSCF since its establishment in 2007 and proved very successful, with a number of high level outcomes. Approximately 80 delegates from 16 APEC member economies participated in the meeting, as well as representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) / INFOSAN, the World Bank, GSI and ASEAN.

Delegates welcomed the progress that had been made since the establishment of the FSCF across a range of areas. Progress was notable, particularly in: raising the profile of food safety capacity building between APEC member economies in its four priority areas; rolling out freely available supply chain management and aquaculture training modules in collaboration with the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP); continuing collaboration with the GFSP and the World Bank in developing pilot training programs in the APEC region.

The FSCF endorsed an action plan to implement the *APEC Regulatory Cooperation Plan*, which was recommended by APEC Ministers in 2012. This action plan sets out the steps by which the FSCF will promote alignment to relevant international standards, and consistency with WTO obligations. The action plan focuses on two areas: export certificates and pesticide Maximum Residue Limits. The FSCF also committed to new collaboration with the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum and continued cooperation with the GFSP. The FSCF also agreed upon a set of forward recommendations for the next two years. Outcomes were recorded in the *Surabaya Statement*, which is available here:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/Documents/Surabaya%20Statement%202013.pdf>.

In the margins of the 4<sup>th</sup> FSCF meeting, the FSCF held a series of workshops, including:

- Workshop on Educating Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on food safety standards, led by Indonesia
- FSCF PTIN Steering Group
- First Workshop of the Food Safety Incident Network (FSIN). Report is available here:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/Documents/FSIN%20Report.pdf>.



## **APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum *Surabaya Statement 2013***

### **Towards Regulatory Cooperation**

On 13 April 2013, in Surabaya, Indonesia, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), a group of food safety regulators from APEC member economies, as well as key international stakeholders, met for the fourth time since its establishment in 2007. In reviewing the progress made towards meeting its goals, the FSCF restated its commitment for member economies to work together to strengthen food safety systems, progress towards a safer food supply, and promote harmonisation of food standards with international standards, as recommended in the World Trade Organisation's SPS/TBT Agreements. This commitment was made with a view to improving public health and facilitating trade in the APEC region.

1. We, the members of the FSCF, acknowledged the support and direction given by the APEC Sub-Committee for Standards and Conformance; the Committee for Trade and Investment; the Ministers Responsible for Trade; and the APEC Economic Leaders, since our establishment in 2007 and throughout 2011 and 2012.
2. We recognised the range of food safety capacity building activities that the FSCF and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) have undertaken since the last FSCF meeting in Big Sky, United States of America, in 2011 to address identified priority areas in laboratory capacity building, regulatory systems (including export certificates), supply chain management, incident management, and risk analysis. These include several workshops in these five priority areas and the initial roll out of freely-available, replicable supply chain management and aquaculture training modules in collaboration with the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP). Activities have been coordinated across APEC member economies through the FSCF and its PTIN, and have involved food safety stakeholders from an expanded network involving government, private sector, academia, and international organisations.
3. We welcomed APEC's acknowledgement of the important food safety capacity building work being undertaken by the FSCF and its PTIN, as evidenced by its commitment to fund a suite of capacity building programs from 2013 - 2015.
4. The FSCF endorsed an Action Plan to implement the APEC Regulatory Cooperation Plan, as called for by APEC Ministers in 2012. The FSCF Action Plan sets out specific steps by which the FSCF will promote alignment to relevant international standards wherever possible consistent with WTO obligations, beginning with two areas (Export Certificates and Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits). We committed to begin implementing this Action Plan immediately and to report on progress in 2014. With respect to participation in the working groups, we welcomed the Wine Regulatory Forum.
5. The FSCF welcomed the commitment to enhancing connectivity between member economies and other incident management stakeholders, such as industry, through the Food Safety Incident Network, which held its inaugural workshop in Surabaya.
6. The FSCF commended the important work being done to educate small and medium sized enterprises on food safety standards, led by Indonesia.

7. We reaffirmed the FSCF *Operating Principles* and the *Food Safety Capacity Building Priorities* and recognised the extent to which member economies are already working in partnership on capacity building projects, and welcome the growing numbers of APEC member economies participating in the work of the FSCF.
8. We also welcomed continued collaboration with the GFSP and the World Bank. We look forward to the GFSP piloting training in APEC prior to global rollout.
9. We agreed to regularly review the direction of the FSCF and its PTIN to ensure that the longer-term benefits achieved by the FSCF and its PTIN will continue to be realised.
10. We look forward to the next meeting of the FSCF in the Philippines in 2015.



Dr Lin Wei  
Co-Chair, China

Surabaya, Indonesia  
13 April, 2013



Dr Paul Brent  
Co-Chair, Australia

## FSCF Special Session – 2014 –China



Members of the APEC FSCF held a Special Session, involving a range of food safety regulators and key international stakeholders, to discuss progress with the FSCF Action Plan to Implement the APEC Regulatory Cooperation Plan, which was endorsed at the 4th APEC FSCF held in Surabaya, Indonesia (April 2013).

The Special Session reviewed progress on the Action Plan in two areas, namely roadmaps for Export Certificates and Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs). Participants also discussed next steps and made suggestions for additional focus areas and further work.

The outcomes of the Special Session are detailed in the *Report of the APEC FSCF Special Session*, available here:

- <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/Documents/APEC%20FSCF%20Beijing%20Statement%20%28final%29.pdf>

- <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/science/international/apec/Documents/APEC%20FSCF%20-%20Report%20of%20the%20Special%20Session.pdf>.

On 12 September 2014, FSCF invited high level food safety regulators and senior food industry representatives from the Asia Pacific region, along with relevant international stakeholders to the APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue on Food Safety in Beijing, China. Participants exchanged ideas on how to work together to construct a “food safety partnership shaping the future”, so as to deal with the complex challenges emerging in the food safety area, and to secure a safe and sufficient food supply today and in the years to come. The Dialogue adopted the *APEC Food Safety Beijing Statement 2014*, in which it was agreed to take initial steps in some key areas.

The success of the 2014 APEC FSCF events was welcomed by Ministers and commended by economic leaders.

**Special Session of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum  
Advancing the FSCF Regulatory Cooperation Roadmaps for  
Export Certificates and Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits**

***Report of the APEC FSCF Special Session***

On 13 September 2014, in Beijing, China, a Special Session of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), including food safety regulators and key international stakeholders, met to discuss progress with the FSCF Action Plan to Implement the APEC Regulatory Cooperation Plan. This plan was endorsed at the 4<sup>th</sup> APEC FSCF, held in April 2013, in Surabaya Indonesia.

The objective of the FSCF Action Plan is to promote alignment to relevant international standards wherever possible and consistent with WTO obligations, which was agreed by APEC Ministers in 2011 and reaffirmed in 2012. In Surabaya, it was agreed that work would focus on two initial areas (export certificates and pesticide maximum residue limits) with additional areas to be subsequently identified and actioned.

The FSCF Special Session reviewed progress on the Action Plan in the two areas, discussed next steps, and discussed proposals for additional focus areas and further work.

**a) Export Certificates**

1. The objective of the work on export certificates is to contribute to the facilitation of harmonized export certificate requirements, practices and procedures with relevant international standards.
2. The FSCF endorsed the work undertaken by the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF) on export certificates which included a study on export certificate requirements among APEC economies. This will allow economies to evaluate the current requirements for export certificates, and reduce regulatory burden through self certification, consolidation, electronic certification and mutual acceptance. The FSCF also commended the progress of the WRF pilot work on model export certificates to examine the consolidation of export certificates through the development of a model export certificate that takes into account the common elements of different certificate requirements. The goal for this consolidated certificate is to reduce the unnecessary regulatory burden, in the economies that currently require export certificates.
3. Following the 4<sup>th</sup> APEC FSCF meeting, an electronic working group (eWG) was convened to progress the FSCF Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap for Export Certificates. The eWG produced three documents, the first “tools” in the APEC toolbox. These documents were endorsed at the FSCF Special Session:

- a. a common nomenclature document;
- b. a certificate compendium; and
- c. an electronic certification document.

These documents, combined with the Export Certificates Principles and Recommendations document, provide a solid foundation for continued work on export certification.

4. The FSCF commended the work to date as consistent with APEC's efforts to create an environment for the efficient movement of goods, services and people across borders in the region through policy alignment and economic and technical cooperation as well as the overall goal of the FSCF.
5. The FSCF supported new and ongoing work on;
  - a. Electronic certification guidance;
  - b. Development of risk profiles to identify low and high risk commodities;
  - c. Development of APEC model certificates and attestations based on existing relevant international standards;
  - d. Update of the Principle Document; and
  - e. Proposing new work for the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

**b) Pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)**

1. The overall objective of this work is to facilitate, where practical and appropriate, greater regulatory convergence of MRLs across the region, and to promote alignment to international standards. Pesticide MRLs for wine grapes and wine were selected for use as a pilot study in the first instance.
2. Following the 4<sup>th</sup> APEC FSCF meeting, members of the MRLs Working Group, the APEC WRF and the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG) have progressed key aspects of this work.
3. The FSCF endorsed four broad principles for the harmonisation of MRLs within the APEC region:
  - Participation in development of Codex MRLs through involvement in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues.
  - Adoption of Codex MRLs in domestic legislation and in trade, where appropriate.
  - Exchange of data or work-share to support establishment of pesticide MRLs by member economies, particularly if there is no equivalent domestic MRL.
  - Development of unilateral 'recognition' or 'import tolerance' on a case-by-case basis, where practical and appropriate to domestic regulation, for specific pesticide/commodity MRLs of trading partners.
4. The FSCF commended the contributions by the WRF on the pilot work on pesticide MRLs in wine and wine grapes. In support of the project objective, the APEC Wine Regulatory Forum Working Group has undertaken preliminary work in the areas of:

- identifying agrichemicals where MRL policy has the potential to disrupt trade, including undertaking three case studies to develop options for resolving these issues;
  - undertaking an exercise in enhanced risk controls that relate to laboratory capabilities and technical expertise;
  - compiling a compendium of wine regulation databases; and
  - assessing the costs of differing MRLs for wine grapes and wine in the APEC region.
5. The FSCF endorsed the proposed future activities to further progress the pilot work on wine grapes and wine MRLs include developing additional communication linkages, data compilation and exchange of work and capacity building and training. The future activities will be progressed out-of-session over the next twelve months.
  6. The FSCF commended the progress of the Action Plan for Pesticide MRLs in wine grapes and wine.
  7. The FSCF endorsed a second pilot pesticide MRL project on an unprocessed food commodity and agreed on mango as the tropical fruit to be used. Members also agreed to commence work to implement the second pilot project.

**c) Additional Regulatory Cooperation work**

8. Members considered having a follow up discussions on: allergen management in the food industry, food fraud, co-regulation and trade association capacity building at the next FSCF meeting.

**d) Report of APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue on Food Safety**

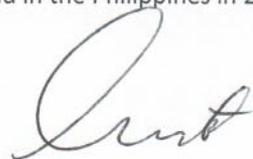
9. It was reported to this Special Session that on 12 September 2014, FSCF invited high level food safety regulators and senior food industry representatives from the Asia Pacific region, along with relevant international stakeholders to the APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue on Food Safety in Beijing, China. Participants exchanged ideas on how to work together to construct a “food safety partnership shaping the future”, so as to deal with the complex challenges emerging in the food safety area, and to secure a safe and sufficient food supply today and in the years to come. The Dialogue adopted the *APEC Food Safety Beijing Statement 2014* (see attached), in which it was agreed to take initial steps in some key areas.
10. We look forward to the next APEC FSCF biennial meeting to be held in the Philippines in 2015.

Attachment: *APEC Food Safety Beijing Statement 2014*

Dr Lin Wei  
Co-Chair, China



Mr Steve McCutcheon  
Co-Chair, Australia



Beijing, China

13 September, 2014



## **APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue on Food Safety**

### *APEC Food Safety Beijing Statement 2014*

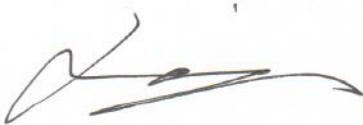
Responding to the 2014 APEC China year theme of “Shaping the Future through Asia-Pacific Partnership” and the goals of advancing regional economic integration and promoting innovative development, economic reform, and growth, on 12 September 2014, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), co-chaired by China and Australia, convened high level food safety regulators and senior food industry representatives from the Asia Pacific region, along with relevant international stakeholders, to the APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue on Food Safety in Beijing, China. Participants exchanged views on how to work together to support “a food safety partnership shaping the future”, so as to address complex challenges emerging in the food safety area, and to further secure a safe and sufficient food supply today and into the future.

The assembled participants acknowledged that:

1. Regulators and industry share the same goal to provide safe food to consumers.
2. Regulators and industry have essential, complementary roles in ensuring food safety. As such, effective cooperation, collaboration and communication between regulators and industry are critical to ensure the safety of food supply chains and further promotion of food trade in the APEC region.
3. Adhering to science-based international food safety standards is a basis for achieving predictability and stability in international trade.
4. It is critical that regulators and industry possess the required skills, resources and expertise to build and maintain safe and effective food safety systems.
5. The FSCF and its PTIN have contributed to strengthening the capacity to build and maintain food safety systems in the APEC region. This approach forms the basis of the Global Food Safety Partnership which is contributing to efforts more globally to improve food safety cooperation and capability.

A collaborative approach to building safe food supply chains across the region will contribute to the broader economic and trade objectives of APEC economies. We aim to further strengthen the communication and collaboration between governments and the food industry and to undertake shared activities in addressing food safety issues in the following areas:

1. Reinforce the communication and collaboration between APEC food safety regulators and the food industry under the FSCF, recognising the benefits of public-private partnerships. This increased communication and collaboration will support the improvement of food safety policies of APEC Member Economies;
2. As food safety regulators: commit to improve the transparency of policy development; adopt good regulatory practices; use science-based international food safety standards; and provide processes for the food industry to be involved in the development of food safety policies; and explore novel ways to recognize industry best practices and good industry performance;
3. As the food industry and its associations: commit to fulfil our shared food safety responsibilities; comply with food safety regulations and standards using best practices; provide input, expertise, and resources to food safety training and the development of food safety policies; and support small and medium sized enterprises; and
4. Enhance the food safety capabilities of APEC Member Economies and the food industry using the tripartite partnership model of the FSCF PTIN and, in particular, further addressing the needs of the food industry in the APEC region.



Dr Lin Wei  
Co-Chair, China

Beijing, China  
12 September, 2014



Mr Steve McCutcheon  
Co-Chair, Australia

### **3. FSCF achievements noted in Leader's Declaration**

*Leader's Declaration on Food Safety Cooperation Forum – related texts*

**Year:** 2008

**Indicative texts:**

“We endorsed the work of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum's Partnership Training Institute Network and called on Ministers to take additional steps to enhance food and product safety next year.”

**Year:** 2011

**Indicative texts:**

“Strengthen food safety systems and facilitate trade, including by supporting the Global Food Safety Fund – an innovative capacity-building partnership with the World Bank.”

**Year:** 2012

**Indicative texts:**

“Supporting the effective and multi-faceted work of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum;

Encouraging further cooperation and dialogue among the economies on understanding, recognition and capacity building regarding the benefits of harmonizing domestic regulations on food safety and quality with international standards consistent with the WTO Agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade

and on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;

Striving to improve domestic food safety systems by implementing preventive control measures, building information sharing networks, strengthening laboratory capacity, and building regional capacity to respond to high priority food safety hazards and minimize.”

**Year:** 2014

**Indicative texts:**

“We commend the ongoing efforts of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN), which will help ensure the safety of food produced and traded in the APEC region by improving food safety regulatory systems, encouraging harmonization with international science-based standards, building capacity in areas that will facilitate trade, and enhancing communication and collaboration between industry and regulators to address emerging food safety issues. We welcome the APEC Food Safety Beijing Statement of the 2014 APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue on Food Safety.”

#### **4. FSCF achievements noted in Ministerial Statements**

*Ministerial Statement on Food Safety Cooperation Forum – related texts*

**Year:** 2007

##### **Indicative texts (1):**

“However to sustain this momentum, we need to address the challenges that face us in the area of global trade imbalances, protectionism, urbanization, demographic changes, environment, energy, food safety, terrorism, crime, governance, women’s empowerment, pandemics and 21st century skills.”

##### **Indicative texts (2):**

“We recognized the need to deepen our cooperation, improve on current standards and practices and strengthen scientific risk-based approaches to food safety and other products to facilitate trade and ensure the health and safety of our populations. In this regard, we welcomed agreement this year on the establishment of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum, co-chaired by China and Australia. This initiative will assist our work to harmonize food safety regulations with international standards, to improve health and food safety outcomes and to establish more effective communication networks. We agreed to develop a more robust and strategic approach to strengthening, prioritizing and coordinating regional food safety, especially in regard to increasing capacity building activities. We instructed officials to explore ways to expand this work to include other products.”

**Year:** 2008

**Indicative texts:**

“We expressed our strong support for the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) and commended the work it has undertaken to strengthen the capacity of member economies. We noted the concerns that consumers have about access to safe and affordable foods, and encouraged APEC officials to further pursue harmonized standards and risk based regulatory approaches. We endorsed the establishment of the FSCF’s Partnership Training Institute Network (FSCF PTIN) for food safety as a vehicle to enlist leadership and support from the private sector and academic experts in this important function, and instructed officials to report on the initial FSCF PTIN activities and outcomes of the second FSCF in 2009. The APEC FSCF PTIN will leverage academic and industry expertise and resources to develop a network of training institutes and trainers around the region to build capacity in the use of international best practices in food safety for regulators, manufacturers and producers and thus better assure the safety of the food supply chain in the APEC region.

We also reaffirmed our commitment to deepen cooperation on product safety. We recognized the importance of improving current standards and practices in this area, and direct officials to take steps in this regard, including by undertaking work to ensure the safety of toys in 2009.”

**Year: 2009**

**Indicative texts:**

“We commend the considerable progress made to improve information sharing and the coordination of APEC food safety capacity building efforts, including the successful meeting of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) held in July 2009. We also note the successful inaugural workshop by the FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) on Examination of Hot Issues in Risk Analysis held in August 2009 in Singapore. The network seeks to build capacity in the use of international standards and best practices in food safety for regulators, manufacturers and producers. We strongly support activities planned for the FSCF and the FSCF PTIN in 2010, including the launch of the first reproducible training modules in 2010. We note APEC’s collaboration with the World Bank on food safety and encourage future collaboration with international organizations on future APEC food safety activities.”

**Year: 2010**

**Indicative texts:**

“34. We commended the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) for developing a roadmap of actions to improve the accessibility and use of international standards and best practices for food safety, and for initiating partnerships with the World Bank and other international organizations to implement these actions. We noted the considerable progress made in 2010 to strengthen food safety systems and to

facilitate trade and investment through an ambitious program of capacity building activities, and urged further work to develop and improve localized and suitable food safety systems in 2011, including planned work to strengthen laboratory capacity and to reduce the negative impact of food safety incidents on public health and trade.”

**Year:** 2011

**Indicative texts:**

“We commended the work of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum and its Partnership Training Institute Network to strengthen food safety systems, better align domestic regulations to international standards, and expand the use of preventive controls in food supply chains in APEC. We recognized that improving food safety systems prevents costly food safety incidents, protects public health, and leads to greater confidence in trade, thereby creating a more prosperous and secure region. We welcomed the steps taken towards the creation of the Global Food Safety Fund at the World Bank that will implement the ground-breaking APEC-World Bank collaboration on food safety capacity-building. We instructed officials to work closely with all stakeholders to mobilize these resources, in order to improve access to safe food, consistent with APEC’s overall food security goals.”

**Year: 2012**

**Indicative texts:**

“31. We recognize that food safety capacity-building and regulatory cooperation play an important role in promoting public health, facilitating trade and increasing food security. We recognize the work of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) in building dialogue among food safety regulators and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN), which builds on a public private partnership to deliver food safety capacity building, including preventive control measures and strengthening of laboratory capacity.”

**Year: 2013**

**Indicative texts:**

“73. We recognized the continued efforts of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) in developing food safety capacity in the region, strengthening food supply-chains in the region and complementing the efforts in the alignment of domestic regulations with international standards.

74. We recognized that education of SMEs on Food Safety Standards plays an important role to improve the competitiveness of SMEs, facilitate trade and increase food safety which is eventually promoting public health. In this regard, we noted the importance of having comprehensive technical approaches to assist and build the capacity of SMEs to apply and enhance compliance of food safety standards.”

**Year:** 2014

**Indicative texts:**

“66. We welcome the outcomes of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum Special Session in Beijing and its Partnership Training Institute Network in developing robust food safety systems in APEC member economies, especially those reflected in the APEC Food Safety Beijing Statement 2014 of the APEC High-Level Regulator Industry Dialogue.

67. We are committed to strengthening APEC agricultural science and technology innovation and cooperation with a view to facilitating trade related agricultural products and promoting sustainable agricultural development. We will encourage the use of agricultural science and technology research in a market-oriented manner to improve food safety and security in the region.”

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Produced by

Dr. LIN Wei / Dr. LIU Hanxia

General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the  
People's Republic of China, AQSIQ

[linwei@aqsiq.gov.cn](mailto:linwei@aqsiq.gov.cn) [liuhanxia\\_cn@163.com](mailto:liuhanxia_cn@163.com)

For

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat

35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace

Singapore 119616

Tel: (65) 68919 600

Fax: (65) 68919 690

Email: [info@apec.org](mailto:info@apec.org)

Website: [www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org)

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