



APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

June 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming FSCF Events:

- **June 21-22, 2018:** Workshop on Trade Facilitation through the recognition of Food Safety Systems Equivalence (Lima, Peru)
- **October 3-5, 2018:** Workshop on Building Competence in Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (Santiago, Chile)
- **October 9-10, 2018:** Workshop and Survey on Maximum Residue Limits Harmonization (Brisbane, Australia)
- **October 11-12, 2018:** Second Expert Workshop on Trade Facilitation through harmonization of MRLs for pesticides (Brisbane, Australia)
- **October 18-19, 2018:** Workshop on Export Certificates (Brisbane, Australia)
- **October 20, 2018:** Workshop on Dairy Export Certification
- **November 5-7, 2018:** Third Expert Meeting on Trade Facilitation through a Framework on Food Safety Modernisation (Shanghai, China)

See details on the next page

For more information on the APEC FSCF PTIN including links to past workshop materials, please visit:

fscf-ptin.apec.org

FSCF PTIN: The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) helps APEC Member Economies anticipate, prevent, and manage incidents, and thus better assure the safety of the food chain and grow food trade in the Asia Pacific region. Working across borders, the FSCF PTIN engages the food industry and academics with regulators, to provide capacity building in food safety. The goal is to facilitate trade and protect public health by building the capacity of stakeholders in the supply chain in the use of international standards and best practices in food safety management from production to consumption, specifically in five areas: incident management, supply chain management, laboratory capacity building, regulatory systems, and risk analysis.

[Links to Current FSCF Publications](#)

- [Framework for Self-Assessment of Laboratory Capacity Building Needs](#)
- [Improving Food Safety through Hand Washing and Drying Capacity Building](#)
- [Food Industry Associations: Their Role and Value in Policy and Regulation](#)
- [Asociaciones De Industrias De Alimentos: su rol y valor en las normativas y regulaciones](#)
- [Streamlining Export Certificate Requirements for Food Products in the APEC Region: Facilitating Trade and Improving Food Safety by Advancing Science-based International Standards](#)
- [Building a Network of Aquaculture Trainers in the APEC Region](#)

Expert Meetings on Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization

The project proposes to develop an 'APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization' (the Framework) to assist economies that are modernizing their food safety systems to do so while facilitating trade. The Framework will include principles and guidelines to food safety modernization outlining approaches to apply transparent, risk-based food safety controls based on international standards, such as those established by Codex Alimentarius Commission. The framework will also include a roadmap covering existing and future work on trade facilitation through food safety modernization. The project will be facilitated by three expert meetings, two of which have already occurred:

- **First Expert Meeting: Hanoi, Viet Nam, November 15-17, 2017**

The first meeting of the APEC project, Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization, was initiated by Australia, and outlined a draft and key principles of the Framework and roadmap. The three-day expert meeting was attended by 48 participations from thirteen APEC member economies and five NGOs. The aim was to establish the purpose, scope, principles and key content of an APEC framework and roadmap on food safety modernization and reach a consensus on the core elements of the project.

Over the course of three days, the expert participants discussed the changing landscape of food safety and trade in the APEC region, and created a draft roadmap for the progress of food safety modernization in APEC economies. They did this by going over approaches to food safety in trade that are currently being used by member economies via group exercises. The participants were then briefed on the process and outcome of the Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety, delivered by Mr. Peter Hoesjkov of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. The meeting concluded with all participants agreeing on a draft framework in preparation for the second expert meeting in Port Moresby, PNG.

View workshop report and presentations [here](#)

- **Second Expert Meeting: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, May 21-22, 2018**

The Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization project was continued at SOM2 in Port Moresby, PNG with further consultations among APEC member economies to build consensus on the Framework. The twelve economies in attendance narrowed the draft's focus to food safety regulatory systems. The Framework will be used as a guide, and is intended to help developing economies modernize their food safety systems. The revised draft will be available in June 2018 and will be edited and finalized before presentation by Australia in Chile next year.

View the final project report [here](#)

View supporting documents [here](#)

- **Third Expert Meeting: Shanghai, China, November 5-7, 2018**

The project is planned to continue in Shanghai to road-test the Framework through real life examples, demonstrating its application and utility. The Framework will be edited and inputs from APEC economies will be incorporated during the meeting.

Expert Workshops on Trade Facilitation through Harmonization of Pesticide MRLs

- **First Expert Workshop: Haikou, China, April 5-6, 2018**

Differences between APEC member economies' pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) for food or raw materials for food present a barrier to trade of food products in the APEC region. This project aims to facilitate trade of food products in the APEC region through the harmonization of import MRLs for pesticides among APEC member economies specifically via the development of two practical tools. The first is a database that will capture relevant information about government administration of regulatory import MRLs for pesticides in APEC member economies and the other is a template that will describe the necessary information that will enable an import MRL request to be raised to any APEC member economy. These will assist food importers to applying to APEC member economies to establish import MRLs for pesticides associated with a food or a raw material for food that is to be traded in the APEC region.

At the Haikou workshop, APEC economy delegates and international experts collaborated to develop the two practical tools, consulted with APEC member economies about the implementation of those tools, and worked to reach consensus on an approval system for requests on import MRLs for pesticides as well as the tools developed. The tools will be complementary to the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides - a guideline on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs* and is part of the FSCF Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap for MRLs.

View workshop report and presentations [here](#)

- **MRL Survey and Second Export Workshop: Brisbane, Australia, October 9-12, 2018**

The project will continue with a two-day workshop in Brisbane, Australia in October. The workshop will explore areas of MRL regulation and harmonization where consensus around best practices is critical for trade and will support the implementation of the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides* - a guideline on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs. View the *Guideline* [here](#)

The experts of the workshop plan to discuss a risk-based approach to pesticide testing, communication about pesticide risk to consumers and perceptions of food safety, best practices in establishing MRLs, and other risk-related topics. The workshop is proposed to finalize the two practical tools: the database and template.

Workshop on Trade Facilitation through the recognition of Food Safety Systems Equivalence: Lima, Peru, June 21-22, 2018

Peru will host a two-day workshop on food safety systems equivalence. The objectives of the workshop are 1) to generate exchange of views, increase knowledge and discuss the two approaches of determination of equivalence, a measure-by-measure approach and a food safety system equivalence approach among APEC economies; 2) to identify costs, benefits, strategies, challenges and best practices from APEC economies that have already designed and implemented policies and practices to recognize as equivalent other food safety systems; and 3) to elaborate a set of recommendations for cooperation among APEC economies for the development and implementation of food safety system equivalence approach.

View project proposal documents [here](#)

Workshop on Building Competence in Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance among APEC Economies: Santiago, Chile, October 3-5, 2018

Antimicrobial resistance is an emerging health issue related to food safety in the APEC region. It was stated in Ha Noi FSCF 2017 that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) issues as they relate to the impact on food trade where a concern and building competencies in AMR should be added to the priority areas. As a response, Chile plans to conduct a three-day workshop on surveillance methodologies and building competence on AMR. The activity will focus on encouraging APEC economies to participate actively in actions against AMR through the implementation of laboratory techniques to measure the susceptibility to antibiotics in a harmonized and standardized way and strengthen integrated surveillance of AMR present in microbial strains isolated from animals, environment and food. Participants are expected to participate in demonstrative laboratory training modules and the workshop is open to all APEC members.

Workshop on Export Certification and Survey: Brisbane, Australia, October 18-19, 2018

To continue the work of the FSCF Regulatory Roadmap on Export Certificates that began in 2013 and the 2017 Export Certificate Workshop in Hanoi, the U.S. will organize a two-day export certificate workshop, focusing on eliminating unnecessary duplicative requirements. The plan is for participants to discuss the legitimate basis for new export certificate requirements, the use of good regulatory practices, and related trade obligations under the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. The workshop will build on previously discussed topics such as assurances that can be provided by commercial documents and addressing the problem of fraudulent food shipments and operationalizing use of model certificates based on risk. Participants will also be asked to fill out a survey about what certificates they require in relation to food imports and exports, which can then be used by other APEC member economies.

Workshop on Dairy Export Certification: Brisbane, Australia, October 20, 2018

Varied and burdensome certification requirements for dairy exports among APEC economies increase transaction costs and consumer prices. A U.S.-sponsored workshop scheduled for October will promote an exchange of views among regulators, policy-makers and the business community on dairy certification requirements and explore a sector-specific approach to FSCF work on export certificates, with development of a model dairy certificate as a test case. The project aims to promote communication and information exchange among dairy regulators on factors to be considered before making the decision to implement requirements for an official certificate, and to explore a sector-specific approach to FSCF work on export certificates, by establishing a pilot working group to develop model dairy certificate attestations for voluntary adoption as appropriate by APEC economies, should their food safety regulations require official certificates.