



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