



Report on the APEC Food Safety Incident Network *Surabaya 2013*

On 12 April 2013, the APEC Food Safety Incident Network (FSIN), a group of food safety regulators from APEC member economies, as well as key international stakeholders, met for its inaugural workshop. The establishment of an APEC FSIN was the centerpiece recommendation from the Food Safety Incident Management Workshop held in 2011 in Big Sky, Montana. The following primary objectives for the FSIN were identified:

- improved information-sharing and communication, including on risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, amongst member economies, to provide accurate and timely information on emerging food safety issues, or in the event of a food safety incident;
 - development and implementation of FSCF-agreed approaches to improve food safety incident preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms within APEC; and
 - strengthened participation of member economies in INFOSAN, and other international networks, to increase the ability to respond to food safety emergencies of international significance.
1. In the spirit of the APEC Indonesia 2013 theme of “Resilient Asia-Pacific, Engine of Global Growth” the importance of food safety in a global market was recognised and that food safety incident preparedness, response and recovery 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. It was confirmed that the strategic goals of the FSIN, as developed at the Big Sky meeting, inform the scope of the work of the FSIN. Noting that the definition of an incident has yet to be agreed upon, participants agreed that this should be decided early in the development of the Network.
 3. FSIN members committed to enhancing connectivity between member economies and other key incident management stakeholders, including government, industry, academia and INFOSAN. It was acknowledged that the FSIN provides a mechanism to facilitate knowledge transfer, and provide expertise and advice, and progress workplan priorities. FSIN members agreed that partnering economies with various levels of expertise to progress workplan priorities is key. The partnering of economies will be facilitated through the FSIN Secretariat.
 4. The FSIN discussed a set of draft principles for the operation of the FSIN which focused on: strengthening the linkage between the FSIN and INFOSAN; sharing of food safety expertise and information in a timely manner; and partnering of economies to facilitate knowledge transfer and the adoption of a forward workplan. The INFOSAN Secretariat is in support of the forward workplan and the proposed principles of FSIN and will, to the extent possible, support member economies and the FSIN Secretariat in achieving the goals of FSIN. It was also recognised that the effective implementation of the FSIN principles depends upon each economies’ policies, regulations and laws.
 5. FSIN interaction and information exchange will be delivered through a web-based tool (portal) using the INFOSAN Community Website which will be administered by the FSIN Secretariat. It was agreed that :
 - a. Australia will take the role of FSIN Secretariat for the first year of operation, partnering with Chile, who will take over the following year. The Secretariat role will function on a rotational basis.

- b. The FSIN Secretariat will facilitate the partnering of economies and will provide direction for information, advice and expertise.
6. A forward workplan was discussed to get the FSIN Secretariat operational through the FSIN portal on the INFOSAN Community Website. FSIN member economies will further review the workplan with the intention of reaching agreement by mid-May 2013. Member economies volunteering to lead and/or partner workplan activities were welcomed. Provision of expert advice from industry on workplan activities was also encouraged.
7. The following recommendations were agreed upon to form the basis of our work for the next two years:

Recommendations for future FSIN action from 2013 – 2015

1. Build on existing communication networks and processes, specifically by:
 - a. Supporting INFOSAN in developing an FSIN portal within the INFOSAN website for use of the member economies' food safety regulators
 - b. Assigning an FSIN Secretariat to liaise closely with the INFOSAN Secretariat and member economies' INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points
 - c. Providing members access, through the FSIN portal and via other means, to information advice and expertise on:
 - i. Incident identification
 - ii. Risk analysis elements
 - iii. Recall and incident management protocols and related documents
 - iv. e-learning tools
 - v. industry contacts
2. Continue to strengthen the coordination and implementation of food safety incident management capacity building activities that support sustainable learning outcomes, in partnership with a broad range of government, industry and academic stakeholders. To advance this, the FSIN is developing a work plan for the FSCF's capacity building arm (the Partnership Training Institute Network or PTIN) to consider.
3. Progress FSIN work priorities through the use of a workplan. Proposals for inclusion on the workplan should identify the FSIN goal that it addresses, the lead economy (and partner economy), and the timeline for completion. Proposals for new work will be provided to the FSIN Secretariat for circulation to members for support. The work plan will be reviewed regularly by the FSCF.

8. We look forward to reporting on progress made on the FSIN workplan at the next meeting of the FSCF in 2015.



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Surabaya, Indonesia
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