

**APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum
Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)
Activities Update
February 2012**

This is an update on the activities of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN). The PTIN was created to address the need to engage the food industry and academics with the regulators, to strengthen capacity building in food safety. The PTIN goal is to facilitate trade and protect public health by building the capacity of stakeholders in the supply chain in the use of international best standards and practices in food safety management from production to consumption. In doing so, the PTIN helps APEC Member Economies anticipate, prevent and manage incidents, and thus better assure the safety of the food supply chain in the Asia Pacific region.

Global Food Safety Partnership Program Outreach and Development of Three Year Plan

On November 12, 2011, government and industry joined together to create the first-of-its-kind fund focused on expanding global food safety capacity building. The fund will be managed by the World Bank, building on the landmark MOU between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Safety Cooperation Forum and the World Bank signed in May 2011. This proposed fund will work to expand knowledge and understanding for effective food safety management across the world.

This innovative public-private partnership secured \$1 million in generous seed money from Mars Incorporated and Waters Corporation, as well as from the U.S. Agency for International Development. These initial pledges provide the platform for additional contributions as the training programs get underway. The World Bank Group and industry participants are currently exploring appropriate financing mechanisms. The goal is to raise \$15-20 million over the next 10 years with concerted outreach to encourage other economies and industry partners to join this effort. (see <http://fscf-ptin.apec.org/docs/events/partnership-hawaii/Background%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>)

A comprehensive three year plan of activities to be pursued under the partnership is under development. In the short term, the first training event centered around the PTIN supply chain training modules is being planned for this spring in Beijing.

Development of Metrics to Measure Impact of Capacity Building

As part of the three year plan to achieve sustainability of global food safety capacity building through the Global Food Safety Partnership, there are three programmatic pillars to ensure delivery of objectives. Pillar 3 focuses on strengthening analytics and metrics. Work has begun on development of a results-based measurement framework to measure the impact of food safety programs under the Partnership and to assist in identifying modifications to programs if needed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Export Certificate Workshop

The PTIN Export Certificate Working Group has been rescheduled to April 24-25 in the Washington, DC area. Registration for this workshop is now open. This working group will build on outcomes from an FSCF PTIN Export Certification Roundtable held in February 2010 in Australia on the margins of Codex CCFICS meetings where best practices for the appropriate use of export certificates were identified. The expected outcomes will be to encourage more engagement and participation by APEC economies in CODEX CCFICS meetings. The Working Group will develop criteria for determining when a food or agricultural certificate should be required. This criterion could result in development of a guidance document for submission to CCFICS which may include a proposal for new work on export certificate attestations. There will also be a commitment to using existing international guidance on export certificates as well as use of electronic certificates.

For more information (including registration form) see <http://fscf-ptin.apec.org/events/export-certificate-workshop/> or contact Lori Tortora at Lori.Tortora@fas.usda.gov or (202)720-0634

Series of Laboratory Capacity Building Workshops Planned for 2012

Building on priorities and needs identified from the 2010 PTIN Expert Working Group assessment and the laboratory capacity building workshop held in Bangkok in 2011, the following three year plan to address laboratory capacity building was developed:

- FY12: Analytical Methods/Validation/Fitness for Purpose
- FY13: Sampling
- FY14: Quality Assurance/Proficiency

Three sub-regional in-laboratory train-the-trainer events are planned to address Analytical Methods/Validation/Fitness for Purpose in APEC pesticide residue laboratories in the following regions within the next year:

- Chile, Peru, Mexico
- Vietnam, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia
- Malaysia, Thailand, Russia, and China

These trainings will be in-laboratory hands-on efforts, including a lecture element, and based on a train-the-trainer curriculum. Depending upon individual host economy conditions, the location of the 3 sub-regional trainings will be either national laboratories or universities.

Upon completion of the sub-regional trainings, participants will be linked with PTIN experts who will be on hand to address any issues or problems that arise as the participants train their colleagues/implement the information discussed during the trainings.

A regional PTIN workshop will be held as a follow-up to the sub-regional trainings to discuss issues, problems, and solutions identified.

For more information contact Kelly McCormick at Kelly.McCormick@fas.usda.gov or (202) 720 - 1347

Roll out of PTIN Supply Chain Management Training Modules

The first PTIN training modules based on a PTIN workshop given in Beijing in November 2010 and developed by Michigan State University are under final review and expected to be released shortly. Once released, they will be freely and publicly available on the PTIN website.

The first regional training using the Supply Chain Training Modules is expected to take place in Spring 2012 in Beijing, China, with simultaneous translation into Mandarin.

The PTIN Aquaculture Supply Chain Training Modules are expected to be released in late spring/early Summer 2012.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Food Safety Risk-Benefit Analysis Workshop held in November 2011 in Manila

The Philippines held an APEC workshop on Food Safety Risk-Benefit Analysis on November 22-24, 2011 in Manila. The project introduced the concept of Food Safety Risk-Benefit Analysis in the APEC region and explored its possibility in complementing the traditional Food Safety Risk Analysis tools. Specifically, the Seminar aimed to: (a) identify available scientific approaches and methods needed for conducting risk-benefit analysis of foods; (b) to explore opportunities and limitations to quantitatively/qualitatively compare risks and benefits; and (c) to define further research or capacity needs of each member economy in the region.

For more information, please contact Israel Dela Cruz at iqdelacruz@gmail.com.

Laboratory Capacity Workshop held in August 2011 in Bangkok

This two-day APEC FSCF PTIN endorsed laboratory capacity building workshop sponsored by the United States and held in Thailand focused on the prioritization of laboratory capacity building needs and highlighted the Global Context of Food Safety stressing the importance of laboratory capacity to industry, international trade, and public health. An APEC PTIN laboratory capacity assessment was discussed, and three training modules covering APEC laboratory capacity building priority areas will be presented. For the final report of this workshop and training materials, please see: <http://fscf-ptin.apec.org/events/workshop-on-laboratory-capacity-building/>

For more information, contact Janet Leak Garcia at Janet.Leak-Garcia@fas.usda.gov.

Visit the PTIN web site at fscf-ptin.apec.org