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**Grocery Manufacturers Association and Other Eminent Food Safety Training Experts Gather For Expert Working Group at World Bank**

***Roadmap developed for addressing critical food safety training needs in Asia Pacific Region***

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Representatives from the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) joined other eminent food safety experts at a high-level Expert Working Group meeting on best practices in food safety training for the Asia Pacific region. The meeting was held at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN).

“As the leading voice on behalf of the food and beverage industry in calling for reforms that will help improve the safety of our global food supply, GMA welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Expert Working Group.” said Dr. Robert Brackett, GMA’s chief science officer. “This meeting brought together food safety training experts from government, industry and academia for an extremely insightful and productive dialogue about critical food safety training needs in the Asia Pacific region that directly impact food safety on a global scale.”

The objective of the meeting was to bring together a core group of food safety and training experts from the APEC economies and build a partnership that will deliver enduring food safety training in the APEC region under the FSCF PTIN. The group developed a roadmap for identifying and developing a generic set of training materials that could be adapted to meet the critical food safety training needs identified by the APEC Economies, throughout the entire food supply chain, from production through consumption.

The Expert Working Group identified four specific areas with the most critical food safety training needs in the APEC region: risk analysis; lab capacity; incident management and supply chain management; and identified available materials.

“Our industry’s strong participation in this two day meeting is another example of our unwavering commitment to working cooperatively with government and other stakeholders to enhance and modernize the global food safety system,” continued Dr.

Brackett. “Combined with food safety legislation that places prevention as the cornerstone of our food safety system, this work to address the critical food safety training needs in the APEC region will help modernize our food safety system and bolster consumer confidence in the safety and security of the food supply globally.”

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*The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) represents the world’s leading food, beverage and consumer products companies. The association promotes sound public policy, champions initiatives that increase productivity and growth and helps to protect the safety and security of the food supply through scientific excellence. The GMA board of directors is comprised of chief executive officers from the association’s member companies. The \$2.1 trillion food, beverage and consumer packaged goods industry employs 14 million workers, and contributes over \$1 trillion in added value to the nation’s economy. For more information, visit the GMA Web site at [www.gmaonline.org](http://www.gmaonline.org).*