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Contact: Brian Kennedy
202-639-5994

Grocery Manufacturers Association Advocates Building Food Safety Capacity of Foreign Governments through Stronger Public-Private Collaboration

WASHINGTON, DC – In remarks today before the World Bank's *First East Asia Pacific Agribusiness Trade & Investment Conference*, being held in Singapore, Dr. Robert Brackett, Chief Science Officer of the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), stressed the important role that public-private collaboration can play in strengthening the food safety capacity of regulators, growers and food manufacturers in the East Asia Pacific region.

“By bringing together the combined knowledge and specialized expertise of private industry, the government, and education institutions, we can help to provide growers, manufacturers and regulators in the Asia-Pacific region with education and training in food safety that is consistent with International best practices,” said Brackett. “Combined with food safety legislation currently before Congress that places prevention as the cornerstone of our food safety system and increased industry vigilance, building the food safety capacity of our foreign trading partners 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.