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Grocery Manufacturers Association Applauds Establishment of Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) for Food Safety

Initiative Will Improve Safety of Increasingly Global Food Supply

WASHINGTON, DC – At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Conference being held this week in Singapore, Dr. Robert Brackett, Chief Science Officer of the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), applauded the establishment of the Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) for Food Safety.

“The Grocery Manufacturers Association has been the leading voice on behalf of the food and beverage industry in calling for reforms that will help improve food safety of our global food supply. And that is why GMA and our member companies are very pleased to be playing an active role in the Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN),” said Dr. Brackett. “The Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) for Food Safety will help improve the safety and security of the food supply by providing growers, manufacturers and regulators in the Asia-Pacific region with education and training that is consistent with International best practices.”

The PTIN is not intended to be an actual “bricks and mortar” facility, but instead will build upon existing resources in the region to create a network of institutes with the capacity to conduct training in international best practices in food safety. PTIN activities could include training in the follow areas: Supply Chain Management, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Aquacultural Practices (GAqP), Commercially-Sterile Packaged Foods, WTO Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, Food Safety Risk Analysis, and Good Manufacturing Practices (basic training as needed). Training through PTIN programs would be provided by expert faculty from academia, industry, and government agencies.

“The PTIN is another example of how the food industry is fully committed 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 and increased industry vigilance, the PTIN 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.