



BUILDING A NETWORK OF **AQUACULTURE TRAINERS** in the APEC Region

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Need for Aquaculture Training

Aquaculture is a vitally important industry in the APEC region. According to the FAO, 20 of 21 APEC economies are aquaculture producers and 9 APEC economies are in the top 20 global producers worldwide. Aquaculture development and commerce have provided substantial benefits, but continued success depends on building capacity to assure food safety in aquaculture products and respond to unanticipated animal diseases. Building capacity in these areas also contributes to trade facilitation in the region and increases food security.

APEC FSCF PTIN and GFSP Partnership

The PTIN and Global Food Safety Partnership identified this need and have partnered to work together since 2015 to provide a series of training events with the goal of developing a cadre of trainers as an “APEC network” to communicate and coordinate delivery of pertinent information for responsible and successful aquaculture operations.

Creating a Network of Aquaculture Trainers

The first of these training events took place in September 2015 in Viet Nam where 24 trainers from 11 APEC economies gathered at World Bank headquarters in Hanoi to take part in a four day program to prepare them to carry forward and deliver training in their respective economies. Candidates went through a rigorous selection process to assure that they had the capability to act as trainers, were from recognized training institutions, and had the authority to deliver training. Trainers were also expected to complete an introductory product safety HACCP course developed by the Seafood HACCP Alliance prior to arriving in Hanoi. When they arrived in Hanoi, they learned how to deliver training in sanitation and preventive control procedures,

aquaculture regulations, food safety hazard analysis, laboratory competency, on farm quality assurance, and animal disease prevention. Upon completion, they were awarded certificates from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) to recognize they were now certified to deliver the seafood HACCP curriculum. The training format was a collaborative effort between the Responsible Aquaculture Foundation (RAF), AFDO, the Seafood HACCP Alliance, and the Global Aquaculture Alliance in addition to APEC and GFSP.

Assisting with Mentoring of New Trainers

After completion of the initial training, several economies expressed interest in further mentoring to assist them as they delivered training in their own economies. An extension of the project was provided by APEC and a training mentor from the Global Aquaculture Alliance was sent to assist Peruvian trainers in delivering training to about 25 of their seafood inspectors in June 2016. The Peruvians translated materials into Spanish and successfully delivered the training.

Subsequently, New Zealand expressed interest in providing funding for a further joint APEC/GFSP mentoring project in Viet Nam which assisted the original Vietnamese trainers in preparing and delivering training to Vietnamese participants in Viet Nam. That training was successfully completed at World Bank headquarters in Hanoi in November 2017 with training material translated into Vietnamese.

Looking Ahead

There is a continued need for additional training in food safety and disease management and further work which builds on the original joint APEC/GFSP projects is being pursued by the Responsible Aquaculture Foundation in collaboration with the Global Aquaculture Alliance.