The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

Encouraging Transparency in Food Safety Regulatory Systems in the APEC Region

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Need for Action

- Rising concern about food safety in the Asia Pacific region
- Recognized need to improve regulator and manufacturer technical competence
- In 2007, APEC Leaders noted the need for further work
Establishing a plan

• The Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) were proposed to respond to this direction from Leaders.

• In November 2008, in Lima, Peru, APEC Leaders acknowledged the importance of food safety and endorsed the newly established FSCF PTIN.
APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)

- Chaired by Australia and China
- Food safety regulators from the 21 APEC economies
- Focus on food safety capacity building and regulatory dialogue
  - Encourage and align use of science-based international standards to Codex standards
  - Encourage adherence to WTO SPS and TBT obligations
FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

- Administered by the United States
- Public-Private Partnership Model for improving food safety and facilitating trade in the APEC region
- Works with FSCF Regulators to deliver capacity building
FSCF PTIN Priority Capacity Building Areas

Stronger food safety systems + Improved understanding of regulatory compliance = Fewer food safety incidents and trade disputes

- Food Safety Regulatory Systems
- Supply Chain Management
- Laboratory Capacity
- Incident Management
- Risk Management
APEC Work on SPS Transparency and Coordination

• **Past FSCF PTIN Workshops**

Workshops in 2015 and 2016

- Effective Industry/Regulator Communication
- Better Food Safety Regulation Through Increased Transparency and Public Regulation

Resulting Publication: "Food Industry Associations: Role and Value in Policy and Regulation"

• **Upcoming APEC Work In August, 2019**

- 12th Conference on Good Regulatory Practices
- Promoting Transparency/Improvement of Information submitted in SPS Notifications
Lessons Learned in APEC Work on Public Consultation

Benefits:
- Better food safety regulations
- Better public health outcomes
- Builds confidence in regulatory system
- Well written rules are trade facilitating

Challenges:
- Adequate time for consultation
- Interagency coordination
- Rapidly changing food environment
- Identifying key stakeholders
- Consultation fatigue
- Addressing many and varied comments
Guiding Concepts

- Consultation
  - Engage early and standardize processes

- Communication
  - Identify and maintain key points of contact - provide timely outreach, updates, and feedback

- Collaboration
  - Commit to building cross-sectoral relationships. It takes time

- Coordination and Capacity Building
  - Identify capacity building needs - consider international standards and regulatory coherence/alignment.
Key Impacts from FSCF PTIN GRP Work

FSCF PTIN independent review shows workshops encouraged adoption of good regulatory practices in APEC economies in areas such as:

- including public consultation in drafting of food safety regulations
- and publishing regulations more systematically.
Three Key Takeaways

- Public comment leads to better fit for purpose food safety regulations
- Private sector can provide unique technical and scientific information and production knowledge
- Use of web portals/the internet/other technology for sharing notifications electronically helps to share information widely
Where to go for more information: http://fscf-ptin.apec.org