

Standards and Trade Development Facility

Grant Application

1. Project Title:

Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies.

2. Requesting government / agency or private body

General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), People's Republic of China (Co-Chair, APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum).

3. Collaborating government(s) / agency

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), Co-Chair, APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FSANZ and FAO will work together to implement the project.

4. Project objectives

The overall goal of the project is to improve the capacity of developing APEC Member Economies to develop and implement activities that enhance the safety and quality of food as a means to improve public health and facilitate trade.

The specific objectives are to:

- improve the knowledge and skills of food safety regulators from developing APEC Member Economies to plan and conduct capacity building needs assessments regarding their national food control systems;
- assist the food safety authorities in APEC Member Economies to develop national capacity building actions plans based on the outcome of the assessments.

The project will complement the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative. The knowledge and skills developed by participants to plan and carry out a capacity needs assessment of the national food control system will directly feed into the ongoing work programme of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (Forum). Details in relation to the Forum have been attached at Attachment 4.

5. Project activities

Activity 1: Survey of experiences in capacity building needs assessment of participating economies (Month 1-3)

A short survey will be developed and distributed to developing APEC Member Economies to obtain information on their experiences in capacity building needs assessment and related programmes, and seek nominations of experts to attend the training. This information will be used to improve the design and delivery of the training activities (see below) and ensure they are tailored to the situation and requirements of the participating economies.

Organisation responsible:

The needs assessment survey will be jointly developed by the FAO and FSANZ. It will be distributed to eligible APEC Member Economies in conjunction with the invitation to attend the training by FAO and FSANZ. **The survey should include a request for information on and identification of all existing and completed capacity needs assessments by bilateral donors and other international organizations in the food safety area.** Collation and analysis of the results will be undertaken jointly by FSANZ and the FAO.

Activity 2: Provision of training on capacity building needs assessment and the development of related capacity building action plans (Month 4-8)

A one-week training workshop will be provided in Beijing, China that focuses on:

- how to carry out a capacity building needs assessment of the national food control system; and
- how to develop capacity building strategies and action plans using two new FAO tools¹.

FAO and FSANZ (terms of reference at Attachment 1) will provide the training. A practical, hands-on approach will be used and material on training of trainers will be incorporated to provide a basis for the participants to pass on their new knowledge and skills to others in their economies, as a means to enhance the impact and sustainability of the training.

The training will strengthen the knowledge and skills of participants to identify and address capacity building needs in national food control systems. This will include a focus on the following areas:

- Identifying capacity building needs based on the gaps between the current situation of the national food control system and the desired future situation (vision).
- Practical aspects of conducting a capacity building needs assessment (e.g. involving stakeholders, obtaining high-level commitment, using indicators to monitor progress, etc.).
- Use of tools and techniques to support the identification and prioritization of capacity needs (e.g. SWOT analysis, cost-benefit analysis, regulatory impact assessment).
- Development of capacity building strategies and action plans.
- Benchmarks for monitoring and evaluating the impact of capacity building activities.

For the purpose of the workshop, all participants will be expected to:

- have a good working knowledge of English, as the workshop will be conducted in English;
- occupy a senior position within their economy's food safety regulatory system. Specifically they should have a role in identifying food safety capacity building priorities for their economy;
- have a thorough understanding of their economy's food safety system;

¹ FAO (2006). Strengthening national food control systems: Guidelines to assess capacity building needs (available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0601e/a0601e00.pdf>); and ii) FAO (in press). Strengthening national food control systems: A quick guide to assess capacity building needs.

- be in a position to coordinate follow-up activities such as the organisation of a workshop assessing food safety capacity needs and the development of action plans for strengthening food safety capacity in their own economies;
- commit to attend all components of the workshop for the period of one week; and
- have the support of their supervisors to undertake follow-up activities associated with the training of trainers workshop.

Organisation responsible:

FAO will provide the tools to be used during the workshop including: *Strengthening national food control systems: Guidelines to assess capacity building needs* and *Strengthening national food control systems: A quick guide to assess capacity building needs* as well as topics and questions for group exercises; and case studies for working group sessions.

FSANZ will undertake liaison with eligible APEC Member Economies and organise participant's travel to attend the training. The coordinator based in China will assist FSANZ with arranging accommodation for participants and will be the primary local contact point for other arrangements including those associated with arranging the venue as per the terms of reference in Attachment 2.

FAO and FSANZ will jointly plan the content and programme of the workshop; and deliver the training programme.

Activity 3: Development of national action plans (month 14)

An evaluation survey will be designed and carried out six months after the training workshop to monitor and assess progress in the assessment of capacity building needs and development and implementation of national action plans in follow-up to the training workshop.

Specific targets that will be included in the programme and that will be used as indicators of success will include:

- organization of national workshops on assessing the need for capacity building in the national food control systems in participating APEC countries within six months of completion of the training workshop;
- development of action plans for strengthening the capacity in the national food control systems in participating APEC countries within six months of completion of the training workshop;
- summaries of national experiences in applying the FAO tools to assess food safety capacity have been prepared
- provision of summaries of national experiences to the STDF, FAO, FSANZ; and the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum.

Organisation responsible:

FAO and FSANZ will prepare a questionnaire template to be used in the workshop evaluation survey. The questionnaire should be completed by all participants in the training workshop. This would enable the experiences / findings to be compared between countries.

6. Private sector participation

The training will address and promote the involvement of concerned stakeholders from farm to table (including the food industry, academia and consumers) in a capacity building needs assessment of the national food control system. Sessions will provide examples of how involving stakeholders can improve the results of needs assessments. Participating economies that have already involved the private sector in capacity building activities related to food control will be able to share their experiences on how this was achieved; representatives of private sector industry associations in these economies will be invited to attend the workshop.

7. Project outputs

The project will improve the ability of food safety regulators and private sector representatives from developing economies in APEC to assess the capacity building needs of their national food control system and develop capacity building action plans. Specific deliverables of the project will include the following:

- 20 food safety regulators and private sector representatives from developing economies in APEC have new knowledge and new skills to plan and carry out a capacity needs assessment of the national food control system using FAO tools on this subject;
- Creation of a network of trainers who could facilitate and lead future training on capacity building needs assessment and follow-up activities in developing APEC Member Economies and other developing economies;
- Organisation of national workshops on assessing the need for capacity building in the national food control systems in participating APEC Economies;
- Development of action plans for strengthening the capacity in the national food control systems in participating APEC countries within six months of completion of the training workshop;
- Summaries of national experiences in applying the FAO tools to assess food safety capacity have been prepared; and
- Development and testing of an approach and methodology for training in the assessment of capacity building needs, which could be further replicated in other regions in the future.

8. Reporting

Four reports will be provided to the STDF Secretariat during the life of the project. The reports will include:

- An inception report including the survey questionnaire on capacity building needs and a summary of the responses received from APEC members;
- A report of the proceedings of the training workshop, including information on participants and an unaudited financial report of expenditure incurred;
- A report on the development of national action plans and how the project has fed into the broader APEC Food Safety Co-operation Forum;
- A final report will be circulated to all APEC Member Economy contact points and the STDF Secretariat after completion of Activity 3. This report would include non-confidential summaries of the findings in application of the capacity assessment tools.

In addition to the reports above, short statements on progress should be provided to the Secretariat in advance of each STDF Working Group meeting.

9. Project Impact

By providing training on the assessment of capacity building needs of food control systems and development of capacity building action plans to food safety regulators and private sector representatives from developing APEC Member Economies, this project will support economies to carry out activities that improve the delivery and performance of food control systems. This will strengthen their ability to provide a safe supply of food for consumers, contributing to improved public health, and enhance their ability to compliance with international agreements (particularly the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures), contributing to trade development.

The project will also lay the groundwork for, and enhance the operation of activities to be carried out within the framework of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum. The Forum will coordinate capacity building activities to: improve food safety cooperation outcomes; accelerate progress towards harmonisation of food standards with international standards (such as Codex, OIE and IPPC); improve the transparency of food standards and regulations of APEC Member Economies, and facilitate trade in food products.

The Forum will develop a two-year work programme that coordinates and prioritises information sharing and capacity building gaps not already addressed by other international or regional organisations.

The proposed training will enable developing APEC Member Economies to better identify priority capacity building needs and communicate this within the context of the Forum. Through this, capacity building activities that are based on a client-based approach, tailored to demonstrated needs, and based on internationally-accepted guiding principles (e.g. food chain approach and participation of stakeholders from farm to table, harmonization with international standards, risk analysis, transparency, etc.) can be promoted, facilitated and delivered in developing APEC Member Economies.

10. Project inputs (STDF contribution)

	Estimated cost (US\$)
Travel and DSA of 20 participants from APEC developing economies ² (excluding Russia) (approximately \$3,000 per person based on economy airfares from each participating economy and DSA of \$191.00)	60,000
Travel and DSA of 4 international experts / resource persons from FAO and FSANZ based on DSA of \$191.00 and return business class airfares to Beijing from Canberra (2), Bangkok (1) and Rome (1)	22,000
Travel and DSA of resource person from STDF Secretariat	5,500
Senior local coordinator/liaison point, China (Terms of reference at Attachment 2)	1,500
Printing and stationary costs	8,000
Workshop meeting rooms, refreshments, etc.	6,000
Independent end of project external evaluation – evaluator to be selected by the STDF	10,000
Total	US\$ 113,000

² APEC Travel-Eligible Economies include: Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam.

11. **Non-STDF contributions (in-kind support from FAO and FSANZ)**

	Estimated cost (US\$)
Staff time (FAO and FSANZ) for development, distribution, review and synthesis of training needs assessment survey (16 days)	6,000
Staff time (FAO and FSANZ) for the development of workshop materials, workshop delivery and evaluation, documentation (32 days)	12,000
Travel/DSA for face to face meeting between FSANZ/FAO staff (7 days)	40,000
Staff time (FSANZ in liaison with Chinese coordinator) for coordination of meeting, participants, facilitation of logistical arrangements (32 days)	12,000
Preparation, dissemination and synthesis of workshop evaluation survey (8 days)	3,000
Preparation of a report of the workshop and follow-up actions undertaken for distribution within APEC economies (FSANZ) (16 days)	6,000
Total	79,000

Terms of Reference – FAO/FSANZ International Experts

For the purpose of the capacity building activity *Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies*, FAO and FSANZ will:

1. Develop and distribute the needs assessment survey
2. Collate and analyze the results from the needs assessment survey
3. Collaborate with the local facilitator in organizing the logistical arrangements involved in organizing the training workshop including organization of travel arrangements for participants
4. Plan the content and programme of the workshop
5. Develop workshop materials and provide the tools to be used during the training
6. Deliver the training programme
7. Develop, disseminate and synthesize the workshop evaluation survey
8. Prepare reports for the STDF Secretariat
9. Undertake follow-up actions undertaken within participating APEC economies

Terms of Reference - Local Coordinator

For the purpose of the capacity building activity *Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies*, the local coordinator in Beijing will:

1. Assist in identifying a hotel in Beijing with suitable facilities for the workshop (including availability of PowerPoint projector and screen, pin boards, etc. space for working groups) and liaise with FSANZ regarding the cost of the meeting rooms, communication equipment, coffee breaks and lunches for participants.
2. Obtain information on visa requirements for participants and liaise with national authorities to help participants obtain their visas.
3. Assist FSANZ in obtaining information on hotels near the workshop venue and airport transfer.
4. Assist FSANZ in liaising with hotel staff to arrange coffee breaks and lunch, set up the workshop venue (including PowerPoint, etc.).
5. Provide assistance required during the workshop (including support to obtain photocopies, liaise with hotel staff, DSA payments, etc.).

Background and rationale

Effective food control systems are essential for food security, public health, consumer protection and international trade. However, in many countries, food control systems are unable to ensure an adequate supply of safe food for domestic consumers or to meet international sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for food exports. Moreover, in many countries, government officials often have a limited understanding of what kind of capacity is needed.

The identification and prioritization of needs are important initial steps in the capacity building process in order to ensure that capacity building activities are demand-driven and tailored to local circumstances. FAO has developed two new tools to assist governments to assess capacity building needs in food control systems and develop capacity building strategies and action plans:

- FAO (2006). *Strengthening national food control systems: Guidelines to assess capacity building needs* (available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0601e/a0601e00.pdf>)
- FAO (forthcoming). *Strengthening national food control systems: A quick guide to assess capacity building needs*.

APEC has 21 “member economies”, which account for approximately 40 percent of the world's population, approximately 56 percent of world GDP and about 48 percent of world trade. The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative was established to support the development of the APEC Food System by coordinating capacity building activities which aim to: improve food safety cooperation outcomes; accelerate progress towards harmonisation of food standards with international standards (such as Codex, OIE and IPPC); improve the transparency of food standards and regulations of APEC member economies, and facilitate trade in food products. The Initiative is led by Australia and China and culminated in the first APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum in April 2007 involving senior representatives from food safety agencies and other key officials from APEC Member Economies.

By providing training on needs assessment and follow-up to food safety regulators and private sector representatives from APEC member economies, this project will support governments to plan and carry out activities that improve the delivery and performance of food control systems, which will enhance their ability to provide a safe supply of food for consumers and enhance compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and measures.



Hunter Valley 2007 Statement

APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

A Strategic Approach to Capacity Building in Food Safety

On 4 April 2007, food safety regulators from APEC Economies met in the Hunter Valley, Australia and agreed to work together to strengthen food safety capacity building activities and improve information sharing. To action this, Economies agreed to recommend a strategic approach on capacity building activities within APEC.

1. In the spirit of the APEC Australia 2007 theme of “Strengthening our community, building a sustainable future”, we recognised that while Economies in the Asia Pacific region have different needs, there is value in identifying, prioritising and coordinating food safety capacity building activities. This will have significant benefits for the health and well-being of the entire population of APEC members as well as trade facilitation in this region.
2. We recognised that better coordination of food safety capacity building activities is crucial to building robust food safety systems, to accelerating progress towards harmonisation of food standards with international standards, and to improving public health and facilitating trade.
3. We acknowledged that in an increasingly global food system, a coordinated regional approach to food safety capacity building activities would provide Economies with the ability to respond in a positive and far-sighted way.
4. As food safety regulators in APEC Economies, we noted that we are in a unique position to provide advice and guidance to SCSC in their consideration of food safety capacity building activities. We also accepted responsibility to work together to ensure the effectiveness and responsiveness of APEC funded projects. As part of this cooperative approach, we would also work in consultation with other APEC fora to access their expertise in relevant capacity building activities.
5. We identified priority capacity building areas and developed a two-year strategic approach, recognising and welcoming the extent to which Economies are already working in partnership on several capacity building projects.

6. In developing this strategic approach, we were guided by the broad goals of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative, which we note was agreed by APEC Economies in 2006, to
 - a. Develop transparent information-sharing and communication networks that provide accurate and timely information to consumers and producers on food safety.
 - b. Work towards establishing domestic food safety regulatory systems within economies, including food inspection/assurance and certification systems that:
 - i. are consistent with members' rights and obligations under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements of the World Trade Organisation; and
 - ii. are harmonized, to the extent possible, with international standards (such as Codex, OIE, IPPC); and
 - c. Enhance skills and human resource capacities to enable the development of national food safety regulatory systems that are harmonized with international standards.
7. We noted that the Food Safety Cooperation Initiative can make an important contribution to APEC's second Trade Facilitation Action Plan.
8. In developing the strategic approach we welcomed and carefully considered the advice and input provided by experts at the concurrent seminar, "Latest developments and challenges in food safety".
9. We supported the agreed Operating Principles of the Forum, highlighting the necessity and value of partnerships within the region. We agreed to continue to support each other by providing advice, information and networking support.
10. We agreed to review the strategy the next time the Forum convenes to ensure that the longer-term benefits from the close and productive work at the Hunter Valley continue to be realised.

Mr Graham Peachey

Dr Lin Wei

Co-Chair

Co-Chair

Hunter Valley

Australia 4 April 2007

Capacity Building Priority Areas APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative (Final Report of Ad Hoc Steering Group, Sept 2006)	High Priority for Individual Economies (as of April 2007)
Food safety regulatory systems	4 (MX), 4 (VN), 1 (NZ), 4(PNG), 3(J), 3(A), 1(CHN), 4(CT), 4(CHL), 1(P), 2(T), 4(I), 4(PH), 4(M)
I. Legal and technical drafting to support the development of food laws and regulations harmonized with international standards	2 (MX), 3 (PNG), 1 (VN), 1(A), 3(CHN), 2(P), 3(T), 1(I), 1(PH),
II. Interpretation and enforcement of food regulation	1 (MX), 2(PNG), 2 (VN), 3(A), 2(CHN), 3(P), 2(T), 2(I), 2(PH)
III. Food safety control systems (including primary production)	1 (NZ), 2(A), 1(CHN), 1(P), 1(T), 3(I), 1(M)
Food inspection and certification systems	1(MX), 2(VN), 1(PNG), 4(J), 2(A), 2(CHN), 3(CT), 3(P), 3(T), 1(I), 3(PH), 2(M), 1(CHL)
IV. Legislative framework for conformity assessment bodies	2(CHN), 2(T), 1(I), 3(M)
V. Communication (electronic information exchange systems regarding recall, communication with trade partners and consumer information)	1 (MX), 2 (VN), 1(J), 1(CT) 3(CHN), 3(CHL), 1(P), 1(T), 1(M),
VI. Personnel and training of inspectors and system auditors.	1(CHL), 3(T), 2(I), 1(PH)
VII. HACCP audit.	2 (MX), 1 (VN), 1(A), 3(J), 1(CHN), 2(P), 2(PH)
VIII. Evaluation and data collection.	3 (MX), 1 (PNG), 2(J), 2(A), 2(CT), 2(CHL), 3(P), 3(I)
IX. General training of inspectors using international standards (eg Codex)	3 (VN), 3(CT), 3(PH), 2(M)
Technical skills and human resource capacity (internationally accredited standards and procedures)	2(MX), 1(VN), 1(PNG), 1(J), 1(A), 4(CHN), 2(CT), 2(CHL), 2(P), 4(T), 2(I), 1(PH), 1(M)
X. Food safety capacity evaluation.	3 (MX), 2(A), 1(CHN), 1(CT), 3(T)
XI. Laboratory capacity (capacity to carry out appropriate testing sampling and analysis)	1 (PNG), 1 (VN), 2(J), 2(CHN), 2(CT), 3(CHL), 1(P), 2(T), 1(I), 1(M)
XII. Food handling and preventative approaches to food-borne risks (General principles of food hygiene).	1 (MX), 1(J), 3(CHN), 3(P)
XIII. Microbiological risk analysis.	2 (PNG), 1 (A), 2(CHL), 2(P), 1(CHL), 3(I), 1(PH)
XIV. Risk analysis in chemical safety.	2 (MX), 3 (PNG), 3(A), 2(CHL), 1(I), 2(PH), 3(M)
XV. Increasing analytical capacity and training.	2 (VN), 3(J), 3(CT), 1(T), 3(PH), 2(M)
XVI. Master classes/Staff interchanges.	4 (PNG)
Information-sharing and communication networks	3(MX), 3(VN), 1(PNG), 2(J), 4(A), 3(CHN), 1(CT), 3(CHL), 4(P), 1(T), 3(I), 2(PH), 3(M)
XVII. Food Safety Cooperation Focal Points (exchange information on capacity-building opportunities, joint projects, technical issues – new methods etc)	2 (MX), 3(A), 1(CHN), 2(CHL), 2(P), 1(T), 2(I), 1(PH), 2(M)
XVIII. Cooperation at multilateral forums on food safety capacity building issues, when appropriate.	3 (MX), 3(J), 1(A), 2(CHN), 1(CT), 3(P), 3(I), 3(M)
XIX. Disease surveillance.	1 (PNG), 1 (VN), 3(CHN), 3(PH)
XX. Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.	1 (MX), 2 (VN), 1(J), 2(A), 2(CT), 1(CHL), 1(P), 3(T), 1(I)
XXI. Information session on Food Safety Management systems, e.g. ISO 22 000 (Food safety management systems – requirements for any organizations in the food chain.)	3 (VN), 2(J), 3(CHL), 2(T), 1(M)

APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

STRATEGIC APPROACH 2007-2009

Capacity Building Priority Areas (as at 4 April 2007)	Description of activity and lead economies	Stage of development (1. Funded, 2. In- development 3. Preliminary.)	Proposed Venue, Date and Contact.
Food safety regulatory systems			
(a) Legal and technical drafting to support the development of food laws and regulations harmonized with international standards	<p>II. Development of guidelines for assessment & monitoring of foods derived from GMO. <i>Viet Nam</i></p> <p>III. Development of food law based on the existing Act of Food Hygiene & Safety. <i>Viet Nam</i></p> <p>Developing Food Laws, Standards and Enforcement Systems. <i>Australia</i></p>	<p>Preliminary</p> <p>Preliminary</p> <p>Preliminary</p>	<p>Nguyen Hung Long Vietnam Food Administration nguyen_hung_long@yahoo.com</p> <p>Sonia Bradley, FSANZ, Australia. sonia.bradley@foodstandards.gov.au</p>
(b) Interpretation and enforcement of food regulation	Preparation & enforcement of circulars based on Food Law. <i>Viet Nam</i>	Preliminary	Nguyen Hung Long Vietnam Food Administration nguyen_hung_long@yahoo.com
	Training for food inspectors, food industry & consumers for the interpretation & enforcement of the food regulations. <i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
	Seminar on national food safety control systems. <i>China/Australia</i>	In-development	Ms Ding Zhiyin, AQSIQ . Ms Zhang Rong, AQSIQ. Ms Sonia Bradley, FSANZ.
(c) Food safety control systems (incl primary production)	<i>New Zealand</i>	Funded	Neil McLeod, NZFSA, Neil.McLeod@nzfsa.govt.nz

2. Food inspection and certification systems			
(a) Legislative framework for conformity assessment bodies			
(b) Communication (electronic information exchange systems regarding recall, communication with trade partners and consumer information)	<i>Mexico</i>	Preliminary	Patricia Pineda COFEPRIS ppineda@salud.gob.mx
Personnel & training of inspectors & system auditors.	Human resource development of food inspectors to be competent to carry out food auditing. <i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
HACCP audit.	Human resource development of food inspectors to be competent to carry out HACCP auditing. <i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
Evaluation and data collection.			
General training of inspectors using international standards (e.g. Codex).	Human resource development of food inspectors to be competent to develop food standards. <i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
3. Technical skills and human resource capacity (internationally accredited standards and procedures)			
V. Food safety capacity evaluation.	Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of national food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies. <i>China/Australia/ FAO/STDF</i>	Funded	07-08, Beijing, China 1. Sonia Bradley, FSANZ, Australia. sonia.bradley@foodstandards.gov.au 2. Lin Wei, AQSIQ, China. linwei@aqsiq.gov.cn

I. Laboratory capacity (capacity to carry out appropriate testing sampling and analysis)	Strengthen food laboratory capacity to conduct chemical and biological testing (including funding of equipment). <i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
(c) Food handling and preventative approaches to food-borne risks (General principles of food hygiene).			
(d) Microbiological risk analysis.	Managing microbiological food safety risks - <i>Australia (FSANZ & AusAID)</i>	Funded	Manilla, Philippines – August 2007. debbie.dewey@foodstandards.gov.au
(e) Risk analysis in chemical safety.	<i>Australia</i> – seeking partners	Preliminary	Sonia Bradley, FSANZ, Australia. sonia.bradley@foodstandards.gov.au
(f) Increasing analytical capacity and training.	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
(g) Master classes/Staff interchanges.	Masterclass in Agricultural Trade Policy and Biosecurity. Australia	Funded	Australia, June, 2007. lan.egerton@daff.gov.au
	<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg
4. Information-sharing and communication networks			
(a) Food Safety Cooperation Focal Points (exchange information on capacity-building opportunities, joint projects, technical issues – new methods etc)	<i>Australia / China</i>	No specific funding. Australia and China will coordinate.	AIMP website of APEC Secretariat – May 2007.
(b) Cooperation at multilateral forums on food safety capacity building issues, when appropriate.			
(c) Disease surveillance.	Strengthen disease surveillance system and establish a national database for foodborne diseases. <i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Preliminary	2007-08. Ms Rose Kavanamur, rose_kavanamur@health.gov.pg

(d) Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.	<i>Australia</i> – seeking partners	Preliminary	Sonia Bradley, FSANZ, Australia. sonia.bradley@foodstandards.gov.au
	Capacity building training on food safety risk communication for APEC developing economies	In-development	August 2007. Mr Gilberto Layese, Bureau of Agriculture & Fisheries Product Standards, Philippines. bafps@yahoo.com
(a) Information session on Food Safety Management systems, for e.g. ISO 22 000 (Food safety management systems – Requirements for any organizations in the food chain.)			



APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum Operating Principles

1. Background

- 1.1. In November 2004, the 16th APEC Ministerial Meeting in Santiago noted China's efforts to promote cooperation among APEC Economies on food safety and encouraged Economies to determine how APEC might complement the ongoing work of other international organisations.
- 1.2. In June 2005, APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade noted and welcomed the efforts of Australia, China, Thailand and Viet Nam to advance food cooperation and commended officials for their work in identifying an appropriate role for APEC. In November 2005, the 17th APEC Ministerial Meeting noted the outcomes of the Food Safety Cooperation Seminar held in September 2005 in Korea and welcomed the progress made by economies including the establishment of an Ad Hoc Steering Group.
- 1.3. The Ad Hoc Steering Group met in February 2006 and September 2006 and presented their Final Report to the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) on 8 September 2006, recommending the formation of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum.

2. Mandate

- 2.1. The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum implements the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative agreed by Member Economies in accordance with the Purpose and Goals described below.
- 2.2. The Forum reports to, and is subject to review by, the SCSC.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. Food safety and internationally harmonized food standards are key factors for improving public health and safety and facilitating trade in food for APEC economies.
- 3.2. To accelerate progress towards these outcomes, APEC will improve and strengthen information sharing and capacity building activities in food safety by enhancing cooperation between member economies and in regional activities.
- 3.3. The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum will identify, prioritise and coordinate capacity-building activities in APEC, including the needs of developing economies, taking into account other capacity building activities in the region.

4. Goals

- 4.1. The Forum goals reflect those of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Initiative, that is, to assist APEC Member Economies to achieve;
 - 4.1.1. Transparent information-sharing and communication networks that provide accurate and timely information to consumers and producers on food safety.
 - 4.1.2. Food safety regulatory systems within economies, including food inspection/assurance and certification systems that:
 - 4.1.2.1. are consistent with members' rights and obligations under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreements of the World Trade Organisation; and
 - 4.1.2.2. are harmonized, to the extent possible, with international standards (such as Codex, OIE, IPPC).
 - 4.1.3. Enhanced skills and human resource capacities to enable the development of national food safety regulatory frameworks that are harmonized with international standards.

5. Scope of Activities

- 5.1. The Forum will develop a work program that identifies, prioritises and coordinates potential capacity building activities in food safety in the APEC region. It will also assist Member Economies in their delivery and participation in these activities by providing advice, information and networking support from Forum members.
- 5.2. The capacity building activities will respond to Member Economies' needs in the following areas
 - 5.2.1. information-sharing and information networks
 - 5.2.2. food safety regulatory systems
 - 5.2.3. food inspection/assurance and certification systems
 - 5.2.4. technical skills and human resource capacity (internationally accredited standards and procedures);
- 5.3. The work program will complement existing activities carried out by other international or regional organisations.
- 5.4. Member Economies should consider joint development and delivery of capacity-building opportunities recommended by the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum. Funding of capacity building activities should be sought by Member Economies from normal APEC funding rounds or other domestic and international funding programs.

6. Tasks

- 6.1. The Forum will
 - 6.1.1. Review progress to improve food safety systems in APEC, drawing on a self-assessment by each Member Economy of their progress over the previous two years using the FAO/WHO Guidelines for strengthening national food control systems (http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/control_FCS_en.stm) and

Guidelines to assess capacity building needs
(<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0601e/a0601e00.pdf>).

- 6.1.2. Discuss and agree on priority capacity-building opportunities in the following areas:
 - 6.1.2.1.1. information-sharing and communication networks between member economies, and between producers and consumers
 - 6.1.2.1.2. food safety regulatory systems
 - 6.1.2.1.3. food inspection / assurance and certification systems
 - 6.1.2.1.4. technical skills and human resource capacities (internationally accredited assurance standards and procedures)
 - 6.1.3. Discuss related projects being undertaken as part of the APEC Food System by other APEC Fora and Sub-fora.
 - 6.1.4. Invite input from the APEC Business Advisory Council.
 - 6.1.5. Finalise a forward work plan, referred to as the Strategic Approach
 - 6.1.6. Carry out other activities as necessary, as requested by the SCSC.
 - 6.2. Inter-sessionally, Forum members will:
 - 6.2.1. participate in the Food Safety Cooperation Focal Point network to share information on capacity-building activities, coordinated by Australia and China
 - 6.2.2. report their involvement in food safety capacity-building activities under the APEC Food System chapter in e-Individual Action Plans.
7. Structure and Operation
- 7.1. The Forum will consist of senior officials (e.g. Chief Executive Officer equivalent) representatives of each APEC member economy's food safety regulatory agency, with other trade and economic representatives, as appropriate.
 - 7.2. The Forum will be co-chaired by Australia and China, and hosted by Australia in its APEC 2007 host role. The Forum will meet again in 2009 in the margins of SCSC 1, to review and evaluate progress and to consider its work program.
 - 7.3. The Forum will make recommendations on priorities to SCSC in its consideration of funding applications and contribute to the outcomes of the APEC Food System.
8. Coordination
- 8.1. The Forum will work closely with other APEC fora and related groups with an interest in food safety.