

APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum *Singapore Statement 2009*

An ongoing commitment to improving food safety

On 30 July 2009, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), a group of food safety regulators from APEC member economies and key international stakeholders, met face to face for the second time since its establishment in 2007, in Singapore, in the margins of SOMIII. The FSCF agreed to reaffirm its commitment to work together to build robust food safety systems so as to accelerate progress towards harmonisation of food standards with international standards, as recommended in the World Trade Organisation's SPS/TBT Agreements, to improve public health and to facilitate trade. In doing so, member economies recognised the significant progress made to date, and agreed to continue their efforts in strengthening food safety capacity building activities and improving food safety information sharing across the APEC region.

1. We, the members of the FSCF, acknowledged gratefully the support and direction given by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade and Economic Leaders in both 2007 and 2008, and APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in 2009, with respect to the FSCF and the FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (FSCF PTIN).
2. We welcomed the progress that has been made since the establishment of the FSCF, to improve information sharing and the coordination of efforts in food safety capacity building. Since April 2007, when the FSCF was established in the Hunter Valley, Australia, over 550 people from 19 APEC member economies have participated in, or contributed to, FSCF meetings and activities. This included at least 440 participants who have taken part in 24 capacity building activities held in 5 cities across the region. This is the first time that APEC member economies have coordinated their efforts in the area of food safety in this way and are working together to target priority areas of need. This demonstrates real and tangible progress.
3. We recognised that not only have we supported each other in preparing and undertaking food safety capacity building activities, we have also utilised our unique position to provide advice and guidance to SCSC in their consideration of at least eight food safety capacity building activities.
4. We supported the revised FSCF *Operating Principles*; the agreed food safety capacity building priorities; and the revised FSCF *Implementation Plan 2007-2011*, recognising the extent to which member economies are already working in partnership on capacity building projects and welcoming the growing numbers of APEC member economies participating in the work of the FSCF. In continuing to direct our energies into identified and agreed priority capacity building areas, we recognised the significant benefits this would have for the health and well-being of the entire population of APEC members as well as trade facilitation in this region.
5. To build on our success to date and to address areas of challenge, we agreed that over the next two years, we would focus our attention on:
 - a. Strengthening our coordination of food safety capacity building activities, utilising a broad range of government, industry and academic stakeholders. We will look to achieve this, particularly through providing strong support to the implementation of the FSCF PTIN;
 - b. Building on already established networks and processes, particularly to strengthen our ability to share information in the event of food safety emergencies;
 - c. Continuing to make progress towards the establishment of robust food safety systems and greater harmonisation to international standards across APEC member economies.
6. We agreed to continue to review the direction of the FSCF to ensure that the longer-term benefits designed to be achieved by the FSCF will continue to be realised.
7. We look forward to our next meeting of the FSCF in the United States in the margins of SCSC2 in 2011.



Mr Steve McCutcheon
Co-Chair
Australia

Singapore
30 July 2009



Dr Lin Wei
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