

Report of the THIRD EXPERT MEETING on 'Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation'

5-6 November 2018



THIRD EXPERT MEETING
Shanghai Marriott City Centre, Shanghai, China
5 – 6 November 2018



Trade Facilitation through
an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation



Overview

The THIRD EXPERT MEETING on 'Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation' was successfully held in Shanghai, China, on 5 and 6 November 2018. The meeting was attended by 59 participants, representing 13 APEC member economies and three non-government and private sector organisations. This meeting was co-hosted by Australia and China.

Mr Kexin Bi, the China Co-chair of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum, Director General of Import and Export Food Safety of the General Administration of Customs of China, opened the meeting.

On Day One, participants reviewed the key features and the process taken in developing the APEC Food Safety Modernisation Framework that Facilitates Trade (the Framework). This was followed by sessions to review and build consensus support of the draft Framework text paragraph by paragraph. Changes made were largely editorial in nature. Participants also introduced to the draft text a new principle on 'continuous improvement' of economies' food safety regulatory systems, aligning the text with Codex guidance material. An Executive Summary was also added. To conclude the first day's proceedings, a panel discussion provided an opportunity for reflection and observation on the development of the Framework.

The Framework was successfully agreed in principle, pending another round of the review of the final text.

Day Two featured a number of positive case studies demonstrating the successful application of the principles described in the Framework. This included presentations on transparency in food standards setting processes, risk- and evidence-based decision making, whole of food chain preventative approaches, and stakeholder consultation approaches in the development and implementation of food safety regulatory control measures by APEC member economies. A preliminary digital design of the Framework was also presented to the meeting which was well received. The participants agreed that the Framework should be published as an interactive web based PDF and a standard PDF to facilitate its uptake. The last session on Day 2 explored practical steps to facilitate the uptake of the Framework. Proposals discussed included:

- 1) communication within and beyond APEC about the Framework, including translation of the Framework into additional languages;
- 2) exploring future opportunities to collaborate with relevant international food safety activities (including FAO/WHO) including the burden of foodborne illness;
- 3) commitment from economies' decision makers is required to facilitate the uptake of the Framework;
- 4) developing a collective action plan to facilitate the uptake of the Framework where specific uptake and implementation can be led by individual economies;
- 5) partnering with peak food industry organisations, WHO, FAO and Codex, involving international experts to facilitate the Framework uptake; and
- 6) incorporating the Framework principles into the future direction, and the long-term vision of food safety under the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum.

The meeting was closed with an address by Dr Scott Crerar, General Manager on Risk Assessment of Food Standards Australia New Zealand, representing Australia Co-chair of APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum.

Participation

The THIRD EXPERT MEETING co-hosted by Australia and China under the APEC project (SCSC 04 2017S) of “Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation”, was held at Shanghai Marriott Hotel, City Centre, Shanghai, China, from 5-6 November 2018.

The meeting was attended by 59 participants (Table 1) from 13 APEC member economies and three non-government organisations (NGOs). Participants from APEC member economies included officials of various government agencies involved in food safety controls or food import and export controls or food standards development. The NGOs were Food Industry Asia, the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme, and the Australian Winemaker’s Federation.

Table 1: List of participants at the meeting

Economy or NGO	Number of participants
Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (NGO)	1
Food Industry Asia (NGO)	2
Australian Winemakers’ Federation (NGO)	2
Australia	9
Chile	1
China	23
Malaysia	1
New Zealand	3
Papua New Guinea	1
Peru	1
The Philippines	1
Republic of Korea	2
Singapore	2
Thailand	1
U.S.A.	7
Viet Nam	2
Total	59

Note: Seven nominees from Indonesia, Mexico and Papua New Guinea were unable to attend the meeting due to logistic reasons.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of this EXPERT MEETING was to finalise the draft Framework, to demonstrate the principles described in the Framework through a number of positive case studies, and to explore future steps to facilitate the uptake of the Framework.

The Conduct of the Meeting

The meeting agenda (Appendix A), the latest draft of the APEC Food Safety Modernisation Framework that Facilitates Trade (Appendix B), and a copy of previously agreed APEC Food Safety Modernisation Roadmap (Appendix C) were provided to meeting participants as background information.

The meeting was opened by Mr Kexin Bi, Director-General of Imported and Exported Food Safety of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). His speech described the significance of this project and its potential benefits to the APEC region for both food safety enhancement and modernisation and trade facilitation. As the China Co-chair of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), Mr Bi highlighted the close linkage of this project’s output with the objectives of the

APEC FSCF, and welcomed participants to Shanghai for this important meeting and the China International Import Expo which was held in Shanghai in the same week.

Day One

The objectives of the first day of the meeting were to:

- review the process taken in developing the APEC Food Safety Modernisation Framework that Facilitates Trade (the Framework);
- introduce the key features of the Framework; and
- consider and finalise the Framework.

The meeting commenced with a review of the process taken to develop the Framework, including comments received during the 3rd and 4th round of consultation in relation to the 4th and 5th draft of the Framework, and how the comments had been addressed. This was followed by a presentation of key features of the Framework which highlighted the relevance of the Framework in progressing the APEC FSCF food safety agenda in facilitating convergence of food safety regulatory systems among APEC economies; in addressing the needs of APEC food safety regulators, and in promoting consistency with agreed international principles. This presentation re-emphasised the intent of the Framework is to guide member economies' enhancement or modernisation of food safety regulatory systems, and indicated that the development of the Framework has been a process of close stakeholder engagement.

Participants then spent a significant amount of time reviewing and editing the draft Framework paragraph by paragraph on screen. This session was led by two highly experienced experts on Codex process, Dr Scott Crerar who heads the Australian delegation to the Codex Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance; and Mr Steve Crossley who heads the Australian delegation to the Codex Committee on Food Additives. Editorial changes were made throughout the Framework to ensure consistency in expression. A new principle on continuous improvement and an Executive Summary were added and agreed to. These additions are featured below.

PRINCIPLE 10 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

APEC member economies should have the ability to undertake continuous improvement of their food safety regulatory system, and should regularly assess the effectiveness of the food safety regulatory system.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Framework advances the mandate of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum to assist APEC economies in facilitating trade in food while protecting the health of consumers. The Framework provides guidance to economies to assist them in enhancing or modernising their food safety regulatory systems. It contains ten principles that should support food safety enhancement and modernisation, such as transparency and risk-based decision making. The Framework recognises that APEC member economies are at different stages of economic development and have different needs in the enhancement or modernisation of their food safety regulatory systems.

Participants were actively engaged and the Framework was close to being finalised, with one final round of approval required considering the extensive edits.

The final session of Day One was led by Dr Duncan Craig and featured a panel of government food safety regulators from APEC economies. This session provided an opportunity for the panel to reflect on their observations and thoughts on the development of the Framework. It identified that:

- modernisation of food safety regulatory systems is a continuous process;
- an economy's food safety regulatory system needs to keep up with technology development;
- modernisation of food safety regulatory systems should employ a systematic approach and encourage information sharing among APEC economies;
- an economy's food safety regulatory system should be kept up-to-date, and an coordinated and integrated approach should be taken between the various authorities involved;
- modernisation of economy's food safety regulatory system needs to be a transparent and inclusive process, not only within the economy but with relevant elements of international systems such as those developed by Codex;
- while each economy can decide how to use this Framework, the uniqueness of this Framework and whether the Framework is specific for the APEC region may require further exploration; and
- consumer engagement is vital to the success of food safety modernisation. Partnership with other bodies to raise awareness and social media are various means that can facilitate consumer engagement in the enhancement or modernisation of food safety regulatory systems.

Day Two

The objectives of the second day of the meeting were to:

- provide positive case studies of food safety enhancement or modernisation that have facilitated trade;
- decide on how to make the Framework an interactive online tool; and
- identify practical steps that can be taken to facilitate the update of the framework to improve public health and assist trade.

The meeting started with a recap of the activities and outcomes reached on Day One by the Chair. This was followed by the presentation of a number of case studies by Australia, China, Chile, New Zealand, Vietnam and the United States on their enhancement or modernisation of food safety regulatory systems. The case studies demonstrated successful application of the principles described in the Framework in relation to but not limited to taking a transparent, risk-based and evidence-based approach; employing preventative, and whole of food chain process; and embracing the concept that food safety is a shared responsibility in the development and implementation of food safety regulatory measures. Participants appreciated a wide variety of experiences by economies in enhancing or modernising their food safety regulatory systems, ranging from food standard development, prevention of food fraud, imported food controls, coordination of economy's food safety regulation, protecting fresh produce food safety, to making street food safe.

To improve access and enhance user experience of the Framework, meeting participants were given a demonstration of a preliminary digital design of the Framework. The intention of the digital design was to make the Framework simple to read, easy to access, and interactive as an online document. The digital design logic was presented in a sequence of cover design, catalogue design, chapter page, graphic drawings and image selection. Participants found the digital design attractive, and preferred the Framework be published as both an interactive web-based PDF and a standard PDF. The latter option would allow users to download, save and print out as usual while the interactive web-based PDF would enhance user experience as an online document. Participants agreed that the Framework should be hosted on the APEC website in an easy to find location.

The afternoon session provided a free-thinking opportunity for participants to explore various practical steps that could be taken to facilitate the uptake of the Framework. This session was led by the Chair and assisted by a panel of experts involved in food safety regulation and food industry development. Proposals identified from the discussion included:

- 1) communicate the Framework strategically within and beyond APEC, and consider to translate the Framework into additional languages;
- 2) explore opportunities to collaborate with significant international activities such as the recent international work on the burden of foodborne illness and the World Bank publication of “The Safe Food Imperative - accelerating progress in low and middle-income countries”;
- 3) seek commitment from economies’ decision makers on food safety regulation for the uptake of the Framework;
- 4) tailor the uptake of the Framework to individual economy’s circumstances;
- 5) develop a collective action plan to facilitate the uptake of the Framework in whole or on specific principles, involving relevant international food safety experts;;
- 6) partner with WHO, FAO, Codex and peak food industry organisations such as Food Industry Asia to facilitate the uptake of the Framework; and
- 7) incorporate the Framework principles into the future direction of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) including requesting FSCF to develop a long-term vision on food safety modernisation.

Meeting participants were informed of the remaining steps to finalise the Framework (Table 2).

Table 2: Tasks to finalise the Framework

Date	Tasks
14 November 2018	Revised draft Framework circulated to meeting participants and members of the e-Working Group for a quick round of feedback
23 November 2018	Finalise the Framework text and make the Framework ready for digital design
6 December 2018	Digital version of the Framework circulated to meeting participants and members of the e-Working Group for a quick round of feedback
31 December 2018	Digital version of the Framework finalised

The meeting was closed by Dr Scott Crerar, General Manager on Risk Assessment of Food Standards Australia New Zealand, on behalf of the Australia Co-chair of APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum. He encouraged economies to collaboratively work together to further improve food safety in the APEC region through partnership and linkage, and indicated that the Framework may open up future opportunities of food safety work under the APEC FSCF. He encouraged participants to consider attending FSCF events in May 2019 in Chile and indicated that Australia will consider the discussions on the next steps and how these ideas can be developed for the next phase of food safety modernisation work.

Meeting evaluation

Appendix D is a list of participants at the Shanghai Expert Meeting.

30 out of 45 participants present in the afternoon of day 2 of the Expert Meeting responded to the evaluation. This represents a 67% response rate.

The respondents were generally positive and in particular considered the agenda was relevant and the experts/facilitators were well prepared and knowledgeable about the topics.

Table 3 Participants evaluation of the meeting. (Score 3 = strongly agree, 2 agree, 1 disagree)

Question	Average score	Extent of agreement (%)
The objectives of the meeting were clearly defined	2.77 (out of 3)	92
The meeting achieved its intended objectives	2.63 (out of 3)	88
The agenda items and topics covered were relevant	2.59 (out of 3)	86
The content was well organised and easy to follow	2.80 (out of 3)	93
Gender ¹ balance in participation to this meeting was appropriately addressed	2.67 (out of 3)	89
Speakers/experts or moderators were well prepared and knowledgeable about the topic	2.77 (out of 3)	92
The time allocated to each session was adequate	2.67 (out of 3)	89
Relevance of this meeting to you and your economy*	4.59 (out of 5)	92

* (5 = very high, 4 = high, 3 = medium, 2 = low, 1 = very low)

Evaluation of written responses received

In addition to an evaluation of feedback received as described in Table 3 of this report, written feedback and comments received from workshop participants on the following six questions aimed at improving the effectiveness of future meetings have been evaluated below.

Table 4 Questions for written responses

Number	Questions
1	How relevant was this meeting to you and your economy?
2	In your view what were the meeting's main outcomes?
3	What new skills and knowledge did you gain from this event?
5	Explain the rating you provided about the level of knowledge of and skills in the topic after participating in the event?
6	How will you apply the meeting content and knowledge gained at your workplace? Please provide examples (eg. develop new policy initiatives, organise trainings, develop work plans/strategies, draft regulations, develop new procedures/tools etc.)
7	How could this meeting be improved? If relevant, please provide comments on how to improve the project management.

Question 1: How relevant was this meeting to you and your economy?

Seven written comments were received on this question, noting that the overall rating of relevance of this meeting to the participants and their economies was 92%. The written comments were:

- Public health is an important agenda for the government, hence the need for enhancement and modernisation of food safety regulatory systems;

¹ Female participation at this meeting was 47%.

- This meeting is highly relevant as economies' food trade and internationally competitiveness of food industry depend on food safety;
- Our economy is still in the process of full implementation of food safety Act. This Framework provides additional information to better understand the concept of enhancement or modernisation of food safety regulatory systems;
- This meeting assists my economy and my agency to appreciate the principles for modernising food safety regulatory systems;
- It is relevant because our organisation is handling the risk-analysis and risk-management in food safety regulation; and
- This meeting is more relevant to my economy as we can increase our export.

Question 2: In your view what were the meeting's main outcomes?

Twenty-one written responses were received on this question. There was a general understanding that the meeting reached agreement on the Framework text. Examples of the responses include:

- Agreement to and finalisation of the Framework, as well as to share experience in the enhancement or modernisation of APEC economies' food safety regulatory systems;
- This meeting assisted in establishing the vision of APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum; and
- One of the outcomes of this meeting was an improved understanding on building trust in economies' food safety regulatory systems among consumers and other APEC economies which is important to trade facilitation.

Participants appreciated the experiences shared by speakers on enhancement or modernisation activities for their economies' food safety regulatory systems.

Question 3: What new skills and knowledge did you gain from this event?

Twenty-three written responses were received on this question. Most of the responses found case studies presented at the Shanghai expert meeting provided them with valuable insights and knowledge in modernising economies' food safety regulatory systems. There were specific mentions about the learnings of food fraud prevention and control by China, management of fresh produce safety by the US, management of street food safety by Viet Nam, and management of imported food safety by New Zealand. Others found the discussion on the principles described in the Framework highly informative, for example, food safety regulatory system requires continuous improvement. Examples of written responses included but not limited to:

- Best practises in food safety regulation shared by the regulators of APEC economies;
- Specific strategies to manage different food safety challenges;
- Experience and knowledge in food safety enhancement/modernisation shared by other economies;
- The need for continuous improvement of the food safety regulatory system;
- Made aware of other economies' processes in food safety enhancement or modernisation and the associated challenges; and
- Awareness of ongoing challenges in managing food safety by various APEC economies.

In addition, one response described the value of knowledge gain in how to develop a new document that would be acceptable by various APEC economies. One response described the learning on the risk assessment process useful. One response found the learning on how to develop food safety standards valuable. One response appreciated the learnings in foodborne illnesses and its relationship with food safety control.

The above indicate that participants gained a wide range of valuable knowledge and skills in food safety enhancement or modernisation from this meeting.

Question 5: Explain the rating you provided about the level of knowledge of and skills in the topic after participating in the event?

The average rating on skill and knowledge in the topic prior to the meeting was 72%, and after the meeting was 81%. Three written responses were received with this question. The responses referred to new knowledge gained from this meeting, particularly those from the case studies presented at the meeting.

Question 6: How will you apply the meeting content and knowledge gained at your workplace? Please provide examples (eg. develop new policy initiatives, organise trainings, develop work plans/strategies, draft regulations, develop new procedures/tools etc.)

This question received 23 written responses from meeting participants. The responses can be grouped into the following three categories.

- Taking steps to implement the Framework, for example:
 - Assist in the development of new programs, work streams, or work plans to enhance or modernise economies' food safety regulatory systems;
 - Review economy's food safety law and regulation, and develop action plan on food safety enhancement or modernisation;
 - Apply the meeting content in drafting food safety regulations, and consider the Framework as a reference and apply it to food safety modernisation;
 - Look for ways to implement the Framework; and
 - Will support the development of draft food safety regulations.
- Share knowledge and experience gained from this expert meeting with colleagues, for example:
 - Sharing the learnings with relevant ministries, and stakeholders;
 - Share the information gained from this meeting with others and use the Framework as a reference document;
 - Call for a workshop to further explain the framework and its importance;
 - Draft food safety regulations in line with the recommendations of the Framework; and
 - Will assist to finalise and disseminate the Framework.
- Implement specific learnings from this expert meeting such as:
 - Improving own economy's food safety of street food vendors;
 - Develop a strategy to improve fresh produce safety on farm;
 - Share practises learned from this meeting to improve stakeholder engagement ;
 - Summarise the procedure learned from this meeting to create a document that requires consensus from stakeholders;
 - Will use this meeting as reference for bilateral discussions and cooperation; and
 - Develop strategies to assist economies to further improve their food safety regulatory systems through international mechanisms.

Question 7: How could this meeting be improved? If relevant, please provide comments on how to improve the project management.

This question asks what improvements can be made to make this meeting more informative. Thirteen written responses were received on this question.

Participants found this meeting well organised and well executed. Others suggested improvements to be made for future meeting like this. For example, more effort should be given to the expectations of participants such as seeking indication of areas of interest prior to the meeting; making the slides and attendees list available during or prior to the meeting. Others found the presentations were compressed and suggested to run some of the case studies as group exercises to enhance learning.

Another response recommended more logistical support for the meeting. One recommended the inclusion of more case studies in future meetings such as this.

Two responses recommended that a greater participation from APEC economies for this meeting would have been valuable. It is noted that eight APEC economies were not represent at this meeting despite considerable effort by the Australian project team in engaging these economies. Eight nominees from Indonesia, Mexico and Papua New Guinea were unable to attend this meeting due to logistic reasons. The Australian project team found that the biggest challenge was to deal with no response from economies APEC contact points during the call for nomination process, and intends to bring this challenge to the attention of APEC Secretariats and the 2019 APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum's biennial Conference.

For project management, one comment recommended that commitments are needed from member economies on the next steps of APEC food safety modernisation.

Appendix A

Agenda of the THIRD Expert Meeting of “Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation

TRADE FACILITATION THROUGH AN APEC FRAMEWORK ON FOOD SAFETY MODERNISATION

THIRD EXPERT MEETING

5 - 6 November 2018

Shanghai Marriott City Centre, Shanghai, China

Agenda



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

THIRD EXPERT MEETING

Shanghai Marriott City Centre, Shanghai, China

5 – 6 November 2018



Trade Facilitation through
an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



FOOD STANDARDS
Australia New Zealand
Te Māta Raukawa Aotū - Arahorua Whi Rangiora



中华人民共和国海关总署
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS OF CHINA

Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation

THIRD EXPERT MEETING

Agenda (DAY 1), 5 November 2018

OBJECTIVES:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the process taken to develop the APEC Food Safety Modernisation Framework that Facilitates Trade (the Framework) • Introduce the key features of the Framework • Consider and finalise the Framework 	
Chair: Mr Steve Crossley (Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia)	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
SESSION 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
9:00 – 9:20	Opening Speech Mr Kexin Bi, Director General, General Administration of Customs, China
9:20 – 9:40	Welcome and Introduction Chair
SESSION 2: CURRENT STATUS OF THE FRAMEWORK	
09:40 – 10:30	Process Taken to Develop the Framework Dr Hong Jin, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia Key Features of the Framework Dr Scott Crerar, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia
MORNING TEA	
SESSION 3: FINALISING THE FRAMEWORK	
11:00 – 12:30	Discussion and Finalisation of the Framework Components of <u>Introduction; Food Safety Regulatory System and Drivers for Food Safety Modernisation; the Framework; and the Principles</u> Led by Dr Scott Crerar, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia Assisted by Ms Kate Slater, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia
LUNCH	
SESSION 3: FINALISING THE FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)	
13:30 – 15:00	Discussion and Finalisation of the Framework Components of <u>Creating an enabling environment; Assessing the Needs of an Economy's Food Safety Regulatory System; Approaches to Modernising Food Safety Regulatory Systems and Adherence to Good Regulatory Practices; Implementing Enhancement or Modernisation of Economies' Food Safety Regulatory Systems; and Monitoring Progress of Enhancement or Modernisation of Food Safety Regulatory Systems</u> Led Mr Steve Crossley, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia Assisted by Ms Kate Slater, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia
AFTERNOON TEA	
SESSION 4: PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE FRAMEWORK	
15:30 – 16:45	A Panel Discussion Moderated by Dr Duncan Craig, Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Panel members: Ms Camille Brewer, Mr Bruce Burdon, Dr Scott Crerar, Ms Jarunee Intrasook, Dr Nguyen Hung Long, and Mr Ning Wang
16:45 – 17:00	Summary Chair

Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation

THIRD EXPERT MEETING

Agenda (DAY 2), 6 November 2018

OBJECTIVES:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive case studies of food safety enhancement or modernisation that have facilitated trade • Making the Framework an interactive online tool • Identifying practical steps that can be taken to facilitate the uptake of the Framework to improve public health and assist trade 	
Chair: Mr Ning Wang (General Administration of Customs, China)	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of Day 1 Activities Chair
SESSION 1: CASE STUDIES OF FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT OR MODERNISATION THAT HAVE FACILITATED TRADE	
9:15 – 10:45	Australia’s Transparency in Developing Food Safety Standards Mr Steve Crossley , Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia China’s Risk-based Approach in Developing and Implementing Regulatory Measures to Prevent Food Fraudulence that Impacts on Food Safety Dr Jinjing Zhang , State Administration of Market Regulation, China New Zealand’s Evidence-based Decision Making in Developing and Implementing Imported Food Regulatory Controls Mr Bruce Burdon , Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand
MORNING TEA	
SESSION 1: CASE STUDIES OF FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT OR MODERNISATION THAT HAVE FACILITATED TRADE (CONTINUED)	
11:15 – 12:30	Chile’s Experience in Food Safety Risk Assessment: Embracing the Values of Transparency and Evidence-based Decision Making Ms Nuri Gras , Food Safety & Quality Agency, Chile Preventative Steps Taken by the U.S. in Protecting Fresh Produce Safety Ms Camille Brewer , Food and Drug Administration, the United States of America Food Safety is a Shared Responsibility – Vietnam’s Experience in Ensuring Street Food Safety Dr Nguyen Hung Long , Vietnamese Food Administration, Vietnam
LUNCH	
SESSION 2: MAKING THE FRAMEWORK AN INTERACTIVE ONLINE TOOL	
13:30 – 14:30	Demonstration of Proposed Digital Design of the Framework Dr Hong Jin , Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia Discussion on the Digital Features of the Framework Moderated by Mr Ning Wang , General Administration of Customs, China Assisted by Mr Chris Williams , Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
AFTERNOON TEA	
SESSION 3: PRACTICAL STEPS TO FACILITATE THE UPTAKE OF THE FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ASSIST TRADE	
15:00 – 16:30	A Panel Discussion Moderated by the Chair Panel members: Mr Steve Crossley , Mr Matt Kovac , Ms Lori Tortora , Dr Jinjing Zhang , Mr Marcelo Valverde
SESSION 4: CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY REMARKS	

16:30 – 16:45	Summary and Next Step Chair and Dr Hong Jin
16:45 - 17:00	Concluding Remarks Dr Scott Crerar , General Manager, Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Australia

APEC FOOD SAFETY MODERNISATION FRAMEWORK THAT FACILITATES TRADE

October 2018

INTRODUCTION

Foodborne disease incidents result in significant health and economic burden for the world economy (Textbox 1). Serious transboundary food safety incidents are increasingly reported. In addition to the domestic human health and economic consequences, they can result in disputes between trading partners over food safety requirements and or cause reputational and economical damage for the food industry including loss of market access.

Textbox 1

WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne illnesses for 31 foodborne hazards for the year of 2010

- about 600 million foodborne illness cases
- 420,000 deaths
- Loss of 33 million disability adjusted life years

[Data published by FAO](#) indicates that global trade in food and agricultural products has grown almost three-fold in value terms over the past decade and is projected to continue rising. Between 2000 and 2013, [the number of Regional Trade Agreements in force has more than doubled](#). Greater participation in global trade is an inevitable part of APEC economies' strategies in securing a safe food supply and economic development. The success in food export depends largely on the economy's ability to provide safe food consistently and the capacity to meet the importing economy's food safety regulatory requirements. Throughout the world, a high-level of focus has been given to specific interventions in enhancing or modernising economies' food safety regulatory

Textbox 2

Food safety incidents prompting global modernisation of food safety regulatory systems

- ❖ Mad cow disease incidents prompted the European Union to modernise their food safety regulatory system and to take the whole of food supply chain approach in managing food safety since 2002
- ❖ Large outbreaks attributed to fresh produce prompted a number of economies to improve their food safety regulatory systems since 2006
- ❖ Food safety incidents resulting from consumption of melamine contaminated dairy products prompted a number of APEC economies to tighten their food safety regulatory systems since 2008

systems (Textbox 2). APEC economies took appropriate steps to deal with the increasing complexity in ensuring food safety in the region as well as the potential impact of new food safety regulatory measures on trade in the early 2000s (Textbox 3). In 2007, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) was established to address the need among APEC economies to develop a more robust approach to strengthening food safety standards and practices without creating unnecessary

impediments to trade. In 2017, members of the FSCF agreed for APEC economies to work together to further strengthen food safety regulatory systems, including the harmonisation of food safety standards with international standards based on best available science, and ensuring economies' food safety regulatory measures and their implementation are consistent with WTO obligations.

The **purpose** of this food safety modernisation framework (the Framework) is to progress the APEC FSCF mandate to assist APEC economies in enhancing or modernising their food safety regulatory systems where

food safety regulatory measures and their implementation should be based on internationally recognised principles. Harmonising food safety standards and ensuring consistency whenever possible with the principles described in the WTO's Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) based on best available science without compromising appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection, will secure a safer food supply and reduce impediments to food trade in the APEC region.

The **scope** of this Framework is to ensure the safety of food for sale in the domestic market of APEC economies regardless of whether it is produced domestically or imported. The focus of this Framework is on food safety including fraudulent and deceptive practices impacting on food safety. The Framework recognises that fraudulent and deceptive conducts of a non-food safety nature can impact negatively on consumer confidence on the economy's food safety regulatory system and food trade.

Textbox 3

Food safety modernisation across APEC

- ✧ In 2002, Australia initiated Primary Production and Processing Standards for foods
- ✧ In 2005, Chile established the National Food Safety and Food Quality Agency (ACHIPIA) to coordinate food safety enhancement activities
- ✧ In 2008, Peru enacted the new Food Safety Law
- ✧ In 2009, China passed the first Food Safety Law (revised in 2015)

FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEMS AND DRIVES FOR FOOD SAFETY MODERNISATION

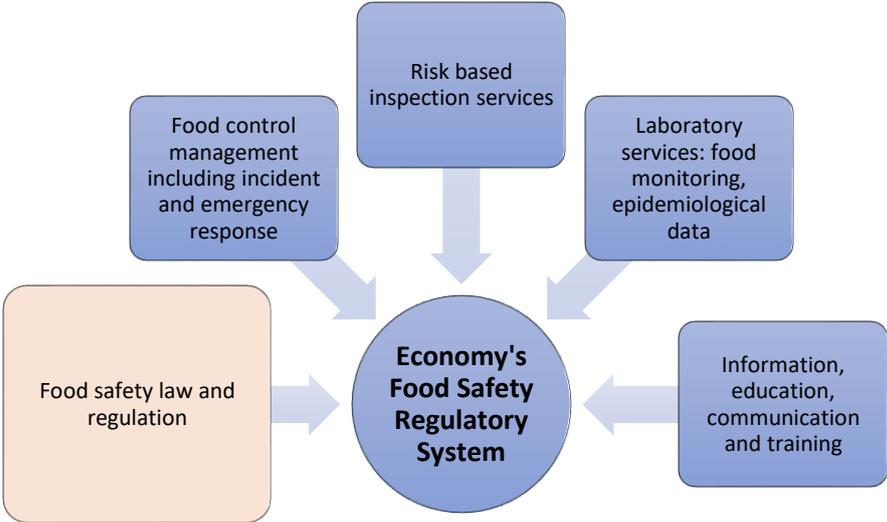


Figure 1 Building blocks that can support economy's food safety regulatory system (FAO and WHO, 2003)

An economy's food safety regulatory system² is usually made up of food safety laws and regulations, inspections, monitoring, enforcement, laboratory services, information, education, communications and emergency response (Figure 1) to ensure food is safe for human consumption while not restricting food trade. The various components illustrated in Figure 1 are interdependent.

In the last decade, more than half of the APEC economies have been enhancing or modernising their food safety regulatory systems to improve food safety. APEC member economies at different stages of economic development have different needs in the modernisation or enhancement of their food safety regulatory systems. For example, in recent years some APEC member economies have focused their food safety enhancement or modernisation efforts on the control of specific microbiological pathogens associated with food, such as non-typhoidal *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in poultry meat and Shigatoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in meat and dairy products.

On the other hand, a number of APEC member economies have focused their food safety enhancement or modernisation efforts on the prevention of food fraud that impact on food safety, such as unlicensed production of food, false labelling and claims, fraudulence in food sales and false advertising³. Specific food safety regulatory measures resulting from these food safety enhancement or modernisation activities have produced tangible food safety benefits for consumers in these economies. For example, New Zealand has reduced foodborne *Campylobacter* illness by over 50% since the introduction of risk management strategies in 2006 to combat foodborne campylobacteriosis⁴.

In the past, food safety laws and regulations have tended to be reactive and enforcement driven. This approach has provided limited potential for longer term prevention of food safety problems and for building trust in an economy's food safety regulatory system. Modernised food safety regulatory systems have enabled food producers and food safety regulators to employ proactive and preventive measures to ensure safe food throughout the food supply chain.

An economy's capacity to effectively modernise its food safety system is influenced by a range of factors. This includes but is not limited to: globalisation of the food supply, obligations to the WTO's SPS and TBT Agreements, and consistency with international food standards and guidelines developed by Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Modernisation or enhancement of food safety regulatory systems in APEC economies by applying risk analysis based on scientific evidence, and internationally agreed principles with transparent

Textbox 4

Benefits of food safety modernisation to stakeholders

- ✓ Prevent foodborne illnesses, ensure consumer confidence
- ✓ Contribute to the economy's health targets/objectives
- ✓ Reduce risks of economic loss including the loss of market access
- ✓ Target most effective intervention measures, and combine them with monitoring and enforcement actions to reduce health risk resulting from food consumption
- ✓ Reduced compliance and enforcement burdens for industry and government
- ✓ Improve the competitiveness of the economy's food industry
- ✓ economies' food safety standards are harmonised with internationally recognised standards
- ✓ Simplified process for recognising equivalence

² An economy's food safety regulatory system is made up of the relevant laws, policies, standards and processes that are employed by competent authorities to ensure food available for sale in the domestic market is safe to eat.

³³ <http://bj.people.com.cn/n2/2018/0718/c82840-31827149.html>

⁴⁴ <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety/food-safety-and-suitability-research/managing-the-risk-of-campylobacter/>

communication and harmonised with international standards is expected to provide benefits for consumers, government, and stakeholders either directly or indirectly involved in food production, transportation, sales and handling ([FAO, 1997](#) and **Error! Reference source not found.**). Modernisation or enhancement of APEC economies’ food safety regulatory systems in alignment with internationally recognised guiding principles, stipulated in WTO’s SPS Agreement and TBT Agreement, will result in more efficient cross border movement of food trade goods and services by reducing operational burden and minimising trade disputes. Modernisation or enhancement of food safety regulatory systems is expected to improve recognition of food safety systems amongst APEC economies, recognising that while food safety regulatory systems may be different among economies, they can achieve the same objectives of consumer health protection by ensuring safer food supply while facilitating trade (Textbox 5).



THE FRAMEWORK

Guides which can assist APEC member economies to develop their food safety regulatory systems are described by FAO ([1997](#), [2006](#), [2007](#),) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission ([2013](#), [2017](#)). In addition, learning from the experiences of other economies with similar levels of economic development is highly valuable.

This Framework does not seek to duplicate the work that has already been published by FAO and Codex, but aims to provide specific guidance for APEC member economies to enhance or modernise their food safety regulatory systems. This Framework is ideally underpinned by the application of the following internationally accepted principles (Textbox 6) described by [Codex](#) and WTO’s SPS and TBT Agreements.

- Textbox 6*
- Food safety modernisation based on internationally accepted principles**
1. Protection of consumers
 2. Trade facilitation
 3. Whole of food chain approach
 4. Transparency
 5. Preventive measures
 6. Evidence and risk-based decision making
 7. Shared responsibility: primarily rests with food business operators
 8. Equivalence
 9. Consistency and impartiality

PRINCIPLES

Codex text of “Principles and guidelines for national food control systems ([CAC/GL 82-2013](#))” provides comprehensive guidance to APEC economies to develop their food safety regulatory systems. The principles described below have been tailored to this Framework.

PRINCIPLE 1 PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS

APEC member economies’ food safety regulatory systems should be designed, implemented and maintained with the primary goal to ensure safe food for consumers. In the event of a conflict with other interests such as trade, the priority should always be given to the protection of consumers from unsafe food.

PRINCIPLE 2 TRADE FACILITATION

APEC member economies’ food safety regulatory systems should ensure adequate consumer health protection in a way that is least restrictive to trade.

PRINCIPLE 3 THE WHOLE OF THE FOOD CHAIN APPROACH

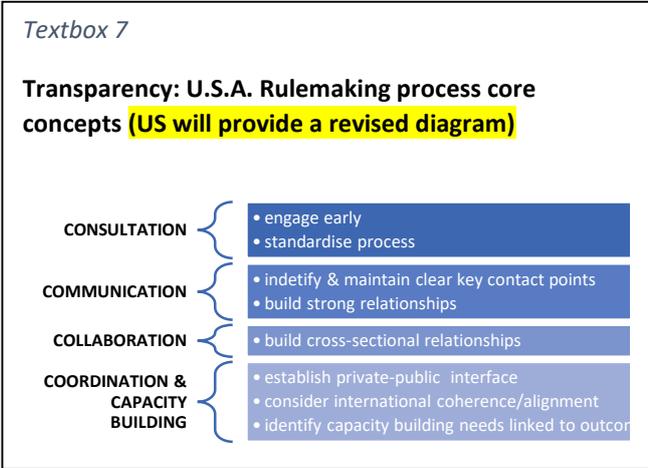
APEC member economies’ food safety regulatory systems should encompass the entire food chain. Food safety regulatory measures need to be established, applied in a coordinated manner and reviewed for all stages of food production and supply including primary production of food, food processing, packaging, storage, transport, and handling as well as sale of foods to the consumers.

PRINCIPLE 4 TRANSPARENCY

All aspects of APEC member economies’ food safety regulatory systems should be transparent and open to scrutiny by stakeholders, both domestic and internationally, while respecting legal requirements to protect confidential information as appropriate. Transparency⁵ considerations should apply to all participants in the food chain including trading partners and this can be achieved through clear documentation and timely communication, and exchange of information between trading partners to facilitate the conduct of corrective and preventive actions (Example Textbox 7).

PRINCIPLE 5 PREVENTIVE MEASURES

APEC member economies’ food safety regulatory systems should have preventive measures such as Good Agricultural Practice, Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Hygiene Practices, and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles among others. Robust policy and practical preventive measures should underpin an APEC member economy’s food safety regulatory system. APEC member economies’ food safety regulatory systems should include a reliable traceability system that enables targeted and swift withdrawals of unsafe food products.



PRINCIPLE 6 EVIDENCE AND RISK BASED DECISION MAKING

The application of specific food safety regulatory measures under an APEC member economy’s food safety regulatory system, to businesses responsible for specific food in a specific sector of the food production or supply chain should be based on the outcome of a risk analysis that considers the available scientific evidence and relevant information regarding risk management.

⁵ Transparency refers to operating in such a way that it is easy for others to see what actions are performed. Transparency considerations apply to all participants in the food chain and this can be achieved through clear documentation and communication. Transparency is also about providing open access to information about how food is produced, its origin and measures that have been taken to reduce food safety risks.

The level of food safety regulatory requirements should be proportionate to the level of risk associated with the food or food ingredient.

PRINCIPLE 7 FOOD SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY BUT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS

All participants in an APEC member economy's food safety regulatory system should have their specific roles and responsibilities clearly defined.

Food business operators have the primary role and responsibility for ensuring the safety of their food products which will not cause harm to the health of the consumer if it is prepared and/or consumed according to its intended use.

APEC member economies' governments are responsible for establishing and maintaining up-to-date legal requirements of their food safety regulatory systems which enable effective enforcement, education and communication, and supported by adequate food safety controls and surveillance. The relevant competent authority has the responsibility to verify that food business operators comply with applicable food safety rules and regulations.

Consumers also have a role in managing food safety risks under their control by adhering to good food hygiene practices and by preventing food contamination in their homes. Where relevant, consumers should be provided with information on how to achieve this.

Academics and scientific institutions are a source of expertise to support risk based and scientific foundation of the economies' food safety regulatory systems.

PRINCIPLE 8 EQUIVALENCE AND RECOGNITION OF TRADING PARTNER'S SYSTEMS

After an appropriate equivalence evaluation, APEC member economies' competent authorities should consider recognising food safety regulatory systems or components of the food safety regulatory systems of their counterpart economies should they be deemed to provide the same level of consumer protection. The concept of recognition of food safety regulatory systems, i.e. the ability to recognise equivalence, should be clearly provided for in APEC member economy's food safety regulatory system in case of multiple jurisdictions.

APEC member economies' food safety regulatory systems should promote consistency, where possible, between APEC member economies' food safety regulatory requirements and the relevant international food standards while ensuring that the appropriate level of protection for consumer health within the economy is not compromised.

PRINCIPLE 9 CONSISTENCY AND IMPARTIALITY

All aspects of APEC member economies' food safety regulatory systems should be applied consistently and impartially. The competent authority and all officials acting in official functions should be free of improper or undue influence or conflict of interests.

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Food safety regulatory systems play a leading role in ensuring the supply of safe food for consumers in APEC member economies and are underpinned by an enabling environment. In common with the overall government systems, they rely on the input from and collaboration with various sectors and stakeholders involved in the domestic and importing food supply chains including government and consumers.

An enabling environment is a pre-requisite to progressing modernisation or enhancement of APEC economies’ food safety regulatory systems. The common enabling factors include:

- A **leadership** that will create, champion and lead a common vision of enhancement or modernisation of economy’s food safety regulatory system and take into consideration the triggers, drivers and needs inclusive of the overall health policy and priorities of the government for enhancement or modernisation of food safety regulatory system from largely the domestic market;
- A **partnership** that has a broad basis of participation and consultation and delivers trust and confidence to stakeholders within and outside of the border;
- A provision of adequate **resources** in both human and financial aspects for enhancement or modernisation of economy’s food safety regulatory system; and
- The development of appropriate **competencies** for the enhancement or modernisation of food safety regulatory system through education, skill development and alignment of attitudes.

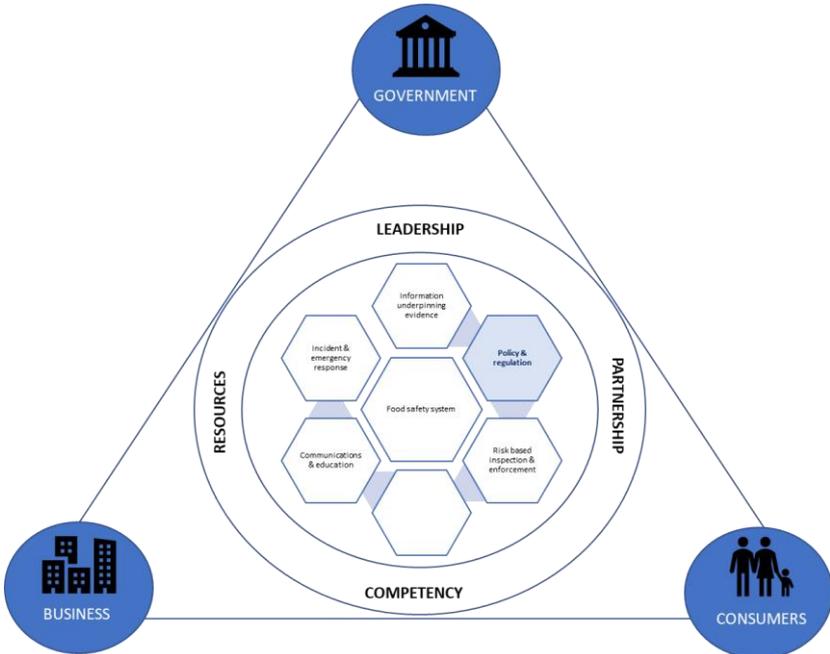


Figure 2 A dynamic food safety regulatory system that combines government food safety policy and leadership, technology innovation pushed by food businesses and demand from consumers. Together it creates an enabling environment and involves the appropriate stakeholders (Modified from [WPR/RC68](#))

Figure 2 illustrates how regulatory authorities, food businesses and stakeholders interact in an enabling environment.

An integrated government food safety administration⁶ at the economy’s highest level of government administration, if established, would aid to the success of the development and implementation of the economy’s food safety regulatory system.

⁶ An integrated Government Food Safety Administration should address the entire food chain from farm-to-table and have the mandate to move resources to high priority areas, but should not be involved in day-to-day food inspection responsibilities (modified from [FAO, 1997](#))

Organisational structures for an integrated government food safety administration differ among APEC economies and can depend on the stage of economic development or the underpinning status of the authorising jurisdiction of the economy's food safety regulatory system. (See examples in Textbox 8 and Textbox 9).

Whatever the structure may be, the functional components of the system such as policy initiatives, standards development, enforcement, and import controls will be optimal when the various government agencies involved in ensuring food safety work together seamlessly to deliver the outcome required. A policy body made of competent authorities of the government with input from all relevant stakeholders can help periodically to provide guidance on assessments, progress and reviews on the design and performance of an economy's food safety regulatory system.

ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF AN ECONOMY'S FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEM

The capacity needs for APEC economies to reach the desired future status of their food safety regulatory systems vary due to economies who are at different stages of their

economic development. Examples include, but not limited to, are that some APEC economies have experienced significant food safety incidents in specific food sectors. Others found it necessary to combat fraudulent conduct in food manufacturing and supply. These different challenges demand different focuses in the economies' modernisation or enhancement of their food safety regulatory systems and impart different capacity building priorities. FAO (2007) recommends a systematic approach to prioritise and identify the needs in enhancing and modernising food safety regulatory systems and provides detailed guidance (FAO, 2006 and 2007, Error! Reference source not found.).

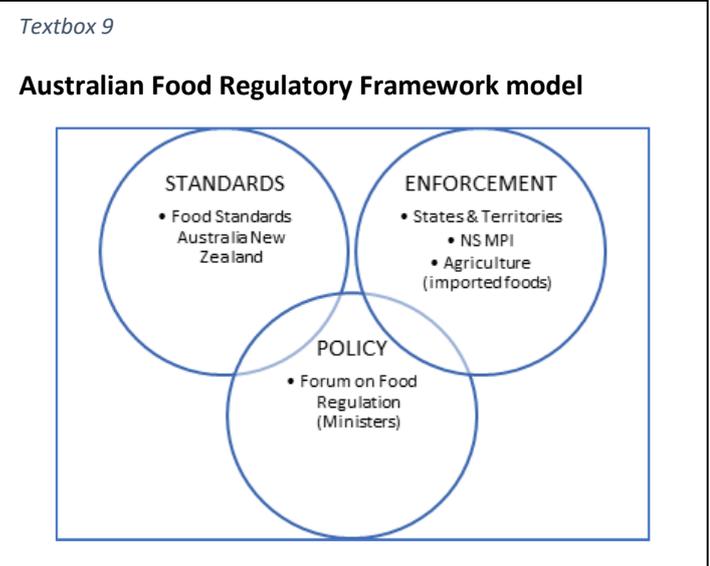




Figure 3 Key steps in identifying capacity building needs for food regulation (modified from [FAO, 2006](#))

The support of relevant stakeholders is essential in the enhancement or modernisation of an economy's food safety regulatory system. Transparency, coordination, collaboration and consultation together with flexibility in approach are paramount in achieving consensus and the level of stakeholder input and support required for reaching the desired future status of the economy's food safety regulatory system.

Some guiding questions that can be considered in achieving coherence and consensus in modernising or enhancing an economy's food safety regulatory system include:

- What is the scope and objective of the existing food safety regulatory system?
- What additional benefits will an enhanced or modernised food safety regulatory system provide for consumer health and food trade?
- What are the major gaps in the current food safety regulatory system that would inhibit the economy's harmonisation with internationally recognised principles in consumer protection and trade facilitation?
- What are the requirements to create a coherent and modern food safety regulatory system that improve public health and discourages unfair and fraudulent practices in food trade?

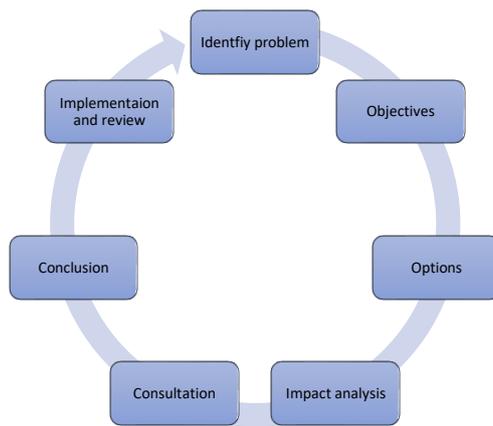
APPROACHES TO MODERNISING FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEMS AND ADHERENCE TO GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICES

The approaches for modernising or enhancing an APEC member economy's food safety regulatory system can take various forms. For example:

- developing a new food safety policy and/or formulating a new food safety law or regulation;
- harmonising and enhancing existing food safety laws, regulations and standards with international accepted benchmarks and principles;
- shifting to a risk and evidence-based approach in the development and implementation of food safety regulatory measures;
- encouraging industry self-regulation and consumer education;
- making changes to enforcement approaches; and,

- developing a new strategy to better engage stakeholders in decision making for the development of food safety regulatory measures.

These approaches will have different costs and benefits for the government and stakeholders involved. There are tools that can be used to assist in determining priorities and in adjusting and revising regulations to improve the outcome and effectiveness of enhancement or modernisation of an economy’s food safety regulatory system. Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) is one such tool. RIA should be carried out before the modernisation or enhancement of an economy’s food safety regulatory system is introduced. RIA is used to assess whether the intended enhancement or modernisation of the food safety regulatory system is likely to work in practice and achieve the desired objectives. RIA considers alternate options, assess the costs versus the benefits, and address



improvements or modifications that can be made in the proposed enhancement or modernisation of the economy’s food safety regulatory system. Wide consultation with all stakeholders including trade partners of the RIA will add depth and rigor to the RIA and provide transparency in the enhancement or modernisation of the economy’s food safety regulatory system.

Figure 4 Key steps in a regulatory impact analysis

RIA is an important element of the Good Regulatory Practices⁷ (GRPs). The GRPs provide systems, tools and methods that competent authorities can employ to improve the quality of government regulations and ensure that regulatory measures are effective, transparent, inclusive and sustained. Three categories of GRPs identified in the [2011 APEC Leaders’ Declaration](#) and elaborated in [2016 final report on good regulatory practices in APEC economies](#) are:

- **Internal government coordination** of rulemaking activity, particularly the ability to manage regulatory reform, carry out regulatory reviews, and coordinate with trade and competition officials;
- **RIA**, particularly the capacity to ensure that better policy options are chosen by establishing a systematic and consistent framework for assessing the potential impacts of government action, including impacts on trade; and
- **Public consultation mechanisms**, particularly “publication for comment”, use of central web portals for consultation, and other practices that allow wide access, and the quality of consultation mechanisms.

Application of GRPs together with systematically developed and implemented stakeholder engagement will ensure proposed enhancement or modernisation of the economy’s food safety regulatory system is fit for purpose, will deliver what it is set out to achieve, and reduce unnecessary burdens to food businesses.

⁷ Good Regulatory Practices refer to internationally recognized processes, systems, tools and methods to improve the quality of regulations and ensure that regulatory outcomes are effective, transparent, inclusive and sustained ([World Bank, 2015](#)).

IMPLEMENTING ENHANCEMENT OR MODERNISATION OF ECONOMY'S FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEM

Enhancing or modernising an economy's food safety regulatory system can be a major undertaking for an APEC economy depending on the status of their existing food safety regulatory system, and the objectives of the enhancement or modernisation. Individual economies will want to customise the process to meet their identified needs. They will also need to consider the suitability and appropriateness for the change given the prevailing political, social and economic environment, stakeholder input and cost-benefit analyses.

A step wise approach is applicable in many case to modernising a food safety regulatory system within an APEC economy. So is building on the experience and support of other APEC economies which have enhanced or modernised their food safety regulatory systems. These steps and outcomes could include the following:

Step 1. Strengthening the minimal food safety regulatory requirements taking into consideration harmonising food safety regulatory measures with those described in relevant standards and guidelines published by Codex.

Step 2. Adoption of a risk analysis approach in food safety regulation, which is informed by evidence and scientific information. This may depend on the development of the required competencies through education and training, and the support systems, e.g. analytical laboratory services and food and foodborne disease surveillance.

Step 3. Fully document and implement the measures enacted under the food safety regulatory system incorporating periodical review and striving for continuous improvement.

MONITORING PROGRESS OF ENHANCEMENT OR MODERNISATION OF FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEMS

APEC economies' food safety regulatory systems should be subject to regular monitoring and review, and ongoing improvement. This process should include review and evaluation of the overall strategy, the implementation plan as well as the specific regulatory measures to ensure that the system meets its objectives of protecting the health of consumers and is least restrictive to trade. [Codex](#) provides principles and guidelines for performance monitoring for economies' food safety regulatory systems; the review can be phased, or targeted. Regardless of the approach, the monitoring and review should be guided by relevancy, transparency, efficiency and responsiveness.

Monitoring of indicators established in the design phase provide evidence and data for the purpose of monitoring and review.

A variety of data relating to the achievement of the food safety regulatory system's objectives and feedback from stakeholders in the domestic food supply chain and among trading partners can be used in monitoring the progress of enhancement or modernisation of economies food safety regulatory systems. Data sources may include records of knowledge of, uptake of and compliance with regulatory requirements by industry, public health surveillance, monitoring of food safety

hazards, the number and efficiency of emergency responses and food recalls, and rejections of imported foods at borders.

Monitoring reports and actions taken to improve economies' food safety regulatory systems should be communicated effectively and efficiently to stakeholders.

APEC Food Safety Modernisation Roadmap

Introduction:

In May 2017, the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum acknowledged the food safety modernisation workshop conducted in Hanoi. Soon after that, Australia initiated a project on Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernisation. This project was well received by APEC member economies with co-sponsorships received from Chile, China, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, and the United States. As highlighted in the APEC FSCS's Hanoi Statement in 2017,

- while facing new challenges, member economies are working to modernise food safety control systems;
- the complexity of the global trading system requires many forms of partnership and collaboration;
- government, industry, consumers and other stakeholders have shared responsibilities to ensure food safety while limiting trade restrictive measures; and
- in the APEC region, a more energised and fully utilised FSCF will contribute to better food safety outcomes.

Members of the APEC FSCF in May 2017 reaffirmed their commitment to work collaboratively to strengthen food safety systems and enhance the harmonisation of food standards with international standards across the APEC region. Members of the APEC FSCF also agreed to foster further communication and collaboration on the modernisation of food safety control systems.

This paper focuses on the roadmap for Food Safety Modernisation with an emphasis on trade facilitation. To deliver safer food to consumers, a number of member economies have embarked on food safety enhancement or food safety modernisation in recent years. While the extent of food safety enhancement or modernisation varies between economies, a common feature of these activities is to improve food safety throughout the food supply chain that is from the primary production of food including food animals to food processing/preparation, transportation, and retail. This APEC roadmap on food safety modernisation aims to establish appropriate principles and guidelines that are consistent with those recommended by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) to facilitate regulatory convergence and trade.

The roadmap on food safety modernisation will build on prior activities conducted by various member economies. This roadmap outlines activities for moving forward regulatory cooperation on food safety modernisation by using the outcomes and recommendations that were developed by WTO, FAO, Codex and member economies in the economies' food safety control systems and food import/export control systems.

Background:

In 2003, Australia initiated food safety enhancement by establishing primary production food safety standards across a wide range of agricultural food production sectors. In 2009, the United States embarked its food safety enhancement as a policy approach to a number of large outbreaks resulting from consumption of fresh produce. In 2011, this was revised and enhanced as food safety modernisation. In response to a number of food safety incidents, particularly the melamine tainted infant formula, the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress revised the 2009 Food Safety Law, imposing more stringent controls on food safety risks and ensuring greater government accountability towards consumers. China's new Food Safety Law came into effect on 1 October 2015. Similar food safety enhancement or modernisation activities have occurred in other member economies. In May 2017, China, Australia and the United States conducted a workshop on food safety modernisation in Hanoi that brought together representatives and experts from industry, government and academics to explore the successive path to food safety modernisation. The workshop also reviewed issues confronted by APEC member economies in modernising their food safety systems.

The development of a roadmap to food safety modernisation will allow member economies to track our efforts and ensure that the consistent principles will underpin the current and future food safety modernisation. This will facilitate to create a platform for not only securing a safer food supply from farm to table, but also enable efficient movement of goods, services and people in relation to food trade across borders.

Objective:

Development of a two year plan that will contribute to trade facilitation among APEC member economies through an APEC framework on food safety modernisation which is aligned to relevant international principles and standards recommended by Codex, FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to ensure consistency with existing WTO obligations.

Strive for clarification, consistency, efficiencies and provide a common understanding/level playing field in the APEC region with regard to the development of an APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will also facilitate trade, and with appropriate consideration about its implementation.

Key Milestones and Dates:

- Create a common understanding on food safety modernisation (by December 2017)
 - Development of and reach consensus on the purpose, scope, principles and key content for an APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will also facilitate trade.
- Develop a draft framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade (by February 2018)
- Finalise the consultation with member economies on the final draft of the framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade (by December 2018)
- Secure the FSCF and SCSC endorsement for the framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade (by June 2019)

- Publish the framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade on APEC website (July 2019)

Process:

In order to achieve the stated objective, an electronic Working group (eWG) will be the mechanism used to guide the completion of the following milestones and benchmarks.

- Convene an overarching eWG on food safety modernisation
 - Establishing the APEC Food Safety Modernisation eWG
 - Determine if sub-working groups will be needed to address topics of interest
 - Prioritize issues to be covered by the working group
 - Identify leaders for specific topics/sub-working groups
 - include relevant elements from Codex, FAO, WTO, OIE, and IPPC as appropriate

November 2017	FIRST Expert Meeting to establish the purpose, scope, principles and key content of an APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade
December 2017	Establish the APEC Food Safety Modernisation electronic working group
February 2018	Completion of a draft APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade
March – April 2018	First round of electronic consultation with APEC member economies on the draft APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade
May 2018	SECOND Expert Meeting to consult economies and revised the draft APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade
July – August 2018	Second round of electronic consultation with APEC member economies on the draft APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade
November 2018	THIRD Expert Meeting to finalise and demonstrate the utility and benefit of the APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade
May 2019	A summary workshop to present the final APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade to APEC FSCF and APEC SCSC for endorsement
June - July 2019	Publication of the APEC framework on food safety modernisation that will facilitate trade

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