CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON FOOD SAFETY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

8–10 May 2017
Manila, Philippines
Consultation on the Draft Regional Framework For Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific
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MEETING REPORT

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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Consultation on the Draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the Consultation on the Draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific in Manila, Philippines from 8 to 10 May 2017.
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KEYWORDS

Food safety / Regional health planning
SUMMARY

The Consultation on the Draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific was held in Manila, Philippines from 8 to 10 May 2017. The objectives of the Consultation were:

- to review emerging issues and the status of food safety in the Western Pacific;
- to review and provide input to the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific; and
- to recommend the next steps to finalizing the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific.

The process of developing the draft Regional Framework for Action was also introduced. The process included a number of consultations with Member States and technical experts, including the Meeting on Strengthening the International Food Safety Authorities Network in Asia and National Food Safety Systems in November 2015; informal consultations with technical experts in Asia and the Pacific in July and September 2016, respectively; and virtual consultations with Member States and key partners from March to May 2017.

The Consultation agreed on the draft strategic direction, guiding principles, and overall structure including vision, goal, objectives, action areas and strategic actions of the draft Framework. It also concluded that food safety systems need to embed a learning culture for continuous improvement and be proactive and flexible to embrace changes in the context of food safety. Considering the different stages of development of national food safety systems in the Region, the consultation agreed that countries should take a stepwise approach to strengthen national food safety systems. For the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Framework for Action, the meeting agreed to use the annual International Health Regulations (IHR) self-reporting tool and the Joint External Evaluation Tool of the IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as the primary instruments. It further recommended to establish a regional cooperation mechanism for monitoring progress, setting common priorities and learning for continuous improvement.

The Consultation recommended Member States:

1) to review the final draft of the Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific and provide feedback by 8 July 2017 through a consultative in-country process; and

2) to brief ministers and other high-level officials who will attend the sixty-eighth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2017 to derive mutual understanding, political commitment and broader consensus on the draft Regional Framework for Action of Food Safety in the Western Pacific.

The consultation recommended WHO:

1) to revise the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific in line with the comments and input provided during the consultation;
2) to conduct a consultation with the WHO Member States in the Pacific with the purpose to review and agree on the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific; and

3) to finalize the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific and present it for endorsement to the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2017.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Meeting organization

The Consultation on the Draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific was held from 8 to 10 May 2017 at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila, Philippines.

During the Consultation, the emerging issues and the status of food safety in the Western Pacific Region were discussed and the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific was reviewed and discussed.

The Consultation also discussed new ways of working to address emerging food safety issues, a stepwise approach for strengthening national food safety systems and implementation, monitoring and coordination in a broader context. It was attended by 30 participants, including six temporary advisors and two observers – from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), respectively. The full list of participants is attached in Annex 1 and the programme of activities in Annex 2.

1.2 Meeting objectives

The objectives of the Consultation were:

- to review emerging issues and the status of food safety in the Western Pacific Region;
- to review and provide input to the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific; and
- to recommend the next steps to finalize the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific.

2. PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Opening session

Dr Takeshi Kasai delivered the opening remarks on behalf of Dr Shin Young-Soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific. Dr Kasai welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation for their commitment to contribute to developing the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific.

Dr Kasai stressed that food safety is a highly complex issue which requires multisectoral coordination and prompt implementation. He also highlighted that over recent years, the context of food safety has changed. The changing context has affected consumers’ trust in the safety of the food supply. Mistrust is a serious barrier for strengthening food safety systems, and it can have serious health, socioeconomic, political and reputational consequences. He added that building trust in food safety systems is multifaceted and requires governments, businesses and
consumers to demonstrate competency, transparency, good ethics and accountability in the management of food safety risks.

Dr Kasai reconfirmed that the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015 has guided food safety work in the Region, and contributed to overall progress in food safety in the Region. However, the changing context of food safety has affected countries’ ability to advance further.

He acknowledged that there is no single overall solution to today’s food safety issues. However, national food safety systems need to be flexible and adopt a learning culture to be able to improve and embrace change. At the same time, the efforts to improve food safety need to be people and country centered, and need to follow a step-by-step process. He emphasized the importance of a bottom–up approach where country-specific needs, priorities and resources are taken into consideration.

Lastly, Dr Kasai noted that the Consultation would be an important opportunity for the Member States to provide inputs and feedback to the draft Framework and to ensure that the Framework becomes as useful and practical as possible for implementation.

Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov gave an overview of the background, objectives and structure of the Consultation. Professor Chen Junshi and Ms Noraini Dato’ Mohd Othman were appointed as co-chairpersons of the Consultation, and Professor Alan Reilly agreed to serve as rapporteur.

2.2 Plenary 1: Emerging issues and the status of food safety in the Western Pacific Region

(1) Food safety in a changing environment

Dr Li Ailan provided an overview of the changing context of food safety in the Western Pacific Region. She highlighted the fact that food safety is a public health priority while the Region is experiencing rapid changes with increased consumer demand and concern. She stressed that population growth, new ways of communicating, globalization and new technologies are impacting food safety in the Region.

Dr Li emphasized that if food safety issues are not well managed and consumers lose trust in the food safety system, the health, socioeconomic and political consequences can be severe. She suggested revisiting and self-assessing the Region’s readiness to take on tomorrow’s food safety challenges.

She stressed that food safety systems need to build on past achievements, forecast future development, and identify the new strategic direction and implementation approaches to address future food safety issues. The development of a new draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific aims to provide a future strategic direction for national food safety systems. Dr Li concluded that the strategic direction and guiding principles will provide the new approaches for advancing food safety systems in the Western Pacific.

(2) Implementation of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015: Experience and lessons learnt

Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov provided an overview of the implementation of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015 and introduced experiences and lessons learnt.
For coordination and funding, multisectoral coordination mechanisms have been established and national food safety strategies, plans and policies have been developed. However, ensuring effectiveness and sustainability of such coordination mechanisms, inconsistent vision across agencies and unclear accountability for implementation proved to be challenging.

In the area of regulatory frameworks, new food safety laws and regulations have been developed and endorsed by the Member States. However, limited enforcement and compliance capacity remained an issue. Other challenges included inconsistency across sectors and lengthy processes of review and endorsement at the country level.

Foodborne disease surveillance capacity has been strengthened, Total Diet Studies have been conducted, and food laboratory assessments took place. However, linkages to generic systems for emerging disease surveillance still need to be strengthened, and the utilization of food safety data to guide policy is an area where further work is required.

For inspection services, an emerging shift towards adoption of risk-based food inspection practices has taken place. A high number of inspectors have been trained, and guidance documents and food inspector curricula have been developed. However, more work is needed with a focus on building systems for risk-based food inspection.

Advocacy activities, mandatory food-handler training programmes and settings-based policies to promote food safety have been developed. However, sustaining the training activities and fostering behaviour change have been challenging.

The WHO Food Safety Cooperation Working Group (FSCWG) was established as a mechanism for information sharing and coordination between partners working in the area of food safety.

In conclusion, achievements and lessons learnt from implementation of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015 form the basis for advancing further, trust is a fundamental enabler and outcome of effective food safety systems, and new approaches are needed to address tomorrow’s food safety issues.

(3) Food safety trust: An enabler and outcome of effective food safety systems

Professor Alan Reilly gave a presentation about trust in food safety as an enabler and outcome of effective food safety systems.

He highlighted that one of the most important factors underpinning global food trade is trust. Over the past two decades, high-profile international food scares have damaged consumer confidence in food safety authorities to effectively regulate and hold the food industry to account – and in the food industry to consistently ensure a safe food supply.

He stressed that food regulatory authorities need to trust food business operators, who in turn must trust their suppliers to provide authentic and safe products. The food business-to-business relationship when built on trust reduces the need for verification and validation of food control measures. Consumers, the final link in the food chain, will only purchase food which they perceive to be safe. Building confidence in brands and reputation is a constant objective of the food industry.

Professor Reilly emphasized that effective national food safety systems contribute to building consumer trust, both domestically and internationally. Such systems demonstrate that public authorities have invested in programmes to ensure that food business operators comply with legal
requirements. These systems also ensure that the food industry establishes and applies risk-based food safety management programmes and those food handlers are fully trained commensurate with working practices. Food surveillance and monitoring programmes ensure that problems are detected early and control and prevention strategies implemented.

He concluded that important outcomes of developing and implementing an effective food safety system are reduced consumer concerns regarding food safety risks and a greater level of consumer confidence in public authorities to control food safety.

(4) Questions and clarification

Following the introductory presentations was a discussion on how social media can be a mechanism for communication of food safety issues but can also spread misinformation and rumours, which may affect consumer perception and trust. Handling the information spread on social media would require a considerable amount of resources.

The discussion also highlighted that an effective national food safety system is crucial in building consumer trust. Food safety communication is an important contributor in building trust. Suggestions to improve food safety communication included:

- shifting from simple food safety risk communication to broader food information communication, which includes communicating efforts by industry and government to improve food safety; and
- having communication strategies in place, and designating people who will conduct communication.

Laboratory capacity is an area that can contribute in building trust as food laboratories can verify foodborne disease outbreaks, monitor the food supply and support the enforcement of food safety policies.

WHO, FAO, OIE, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other international agencies have grouped countries into different geographical regions. As such, taking a country- and people-centred approach to the implementation of the draft Framework was suggested.

2.3 Plenary 2: Development process and structure of the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific

(1) Overview of the draft Regional Framework

Mr Peter Sousa Hoejskov introduced the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific.

He presented the proposed vision of the draft Framework “People in the Western Pacific enjoy safe food” and the proposed goal “Food safety systems protect consumers from unsafe food”. The draft Framework is structured around two interrelated objectives: (i) to strengthen food safety systems to reduce food safety risks, and (ii) to respond to food safety incidents and emergencies.
The proposed overall strategic direction that will guide the Framework and focus the actions needed to achieve the objectives were the following:

- A shift from aiming at focusing on the safety of food to a broader focus that also encompasses trust and confidence in food safety systems
- Implementation of strategic actions that create the enabling factors of leadership, partnership, competency and resources, for improved food safety systems
- Adoption of risk-based approaches
- Alignment with international recommendations and requirements for food safety.

Mr Hoejskov added that the vision, goal and objectives are supported by five interrelated action areas for which strategic actions are defined. These are: food safety policy and legal frameworks; risk-based food inspection and enforcement; food safety information and evidence; food safety incident and emergency response; and food safety risk communication and education.

Implementation of the Framework is guided by the following principles:

- People-centred and country focused: Consider the country context and strive for equity.
- Step-by-step approach: Advance food safety systems through a stage-wise implementation.
- Safe food for all: Position food safety in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (“leaving no one behind”).
- Learning culture for continuous improvement: Be flexible and adaptive to change.
- Foster partnerships.

The Framework is designed to have an implementation time frame from 2018 to 2025. The time frame for implementation reflects the strategic nature of the Framework and the need for long-term planning and strategic action to improve food safety. It may be updated in line with the stepwise approach and linked with other food safety initiatives and strategies while considering new developments in food safety in Member States.

(2) Process of developing the draft Regional Framework

Mr Jang Hwan Bae provided an overall review of the process of developing the draft Regional Framework.

The 18-month process included a review of Member States’ implementation of the IHR core capacities for food safety as well as other progress at country and regional levels to support the implementation of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015.

The review also included country visits and informal interactions with Member States and technical experts on achievements and lessons learnt in food safety. The Progress Report on Implementing the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015 served as a key information source and highlighted the achievements and challenges encountered in the
implementation of the Strategy for the duration covering the period from September 2011 to early 2014.

In addition, during the Meeting on Strengthening the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) in Asia and National Food Safety Systems which was held in Hong Kong SAR (China) in November 2015, current and future priorities for strengthening national food safety systems were identified and discussed. These priorities were further refined through the preparation of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees for Asia (20th Session of CCASIA) as well as for North America and the South West Pacific (14th Session of CCNASWP).

Informal consultations with technical experts were held in Asia and the Pacific in July and September 2016 respectively. The consultations reviewed emerging food safety issues and their impact on food safety systems in the Western Pacific and recommended a strategic direction and approaches for implementation of priority actions to strengthen national food safety systems.

Virtual consultations with the Member States were conducted from March to May 2017. The virtual consultations were carried out via tele- and videoconferences aimed at collecting comments on the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific and discussing possible approaches for implementation at the country level.

The virtual consultations confirmed the scope and structure of the draft Framework and helped shape the approaches for implementation to be conducive to Member States at various stages of development.

(3) Questions and clarification

The relationship between the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015 and the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific was discussed. It was highlighted that the Regional Food Safety Strategy guided Member States in strengthening the core components of national food safety systems; the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific builds on the achievements of the Strategy by strengthening national food safety systems using a new approach. This is the broader system-based approach, which aims at strengthening the linkages between components and stakeholders of food safety systems. The new approach takes into account the changing contexts of food safety and emerging food safety issues.

An inquiry was made about how to link the stepwise approach to the strategic actions of the draft Framework. It was clarified that the stepwise approach aims to build holistic systems at different stages of development considering country context and priorities. The strategic actions are formulated in a way to support the holistic and homogeneous aspects of food safety systems.

(4) Plenary discussion: Vision, goal, objectives and action areas of the draft Regional Framework

The proposed scope and structure of the draft Regional Framework, including vision, goal, objectives and action areas

The scope and structure of the draft Framework was agreed and accepted by the participants. It was suggested to consider chaining one of the proposed objectives from “reducing food safety risks” to “managing food safety risks”.

8
The proposed time frame for the draft Framework (2018–2025)

Additional clarification was given that the stepwise approach in the draft Framework is not related to the implementation time-frame. The Framework highlights the need for food safety systems to embed a learning culture for continuous improvement, which is flexible and adaptive to change. It was agreed that the time frame of the draft framework is reasonable and practical while reflecting the urgency for action as well.

The guiding principles of the draft Framework

One participant suggested that good nutrition should be included in one of the guiding principles of the draft Framework. It was clarified that nutrition is already broadly embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals along with food safety. However, it was agreed not to accommodate the suggestion as the work of food safety authorities, as the name implies, should focus on the safety side and other regional frameworks and action plans address nutrition-related issues.

The issue of international/global/regional cooperation was discussed. It was agreed that it should be embedded in all of the five action areas.

The strategic direction of the draft Framework and tomorrow’s food safety issues

Trust and confidence issues, as well as enabling factors including leadership, partnership, competency and resources were discussed. A participant pointed out that the current five components identified in the draft Framework only concern governments and the linkages to businesses and consumers are missing. In response, it was clarified that food safety systems involve various stakeholders including businesses and consumers. However, since the draft Framework will be endorsed by governments, it needs to guide the work of governments in collaboration with other stakeholders such as businesses and consumers.

2.4 Plenary 3: New ways of working to address emerging food safety issues

(1) Characteristics of effective food safety systems and how to get there

Dr Maged Younes delivered a presentation on the characteristics of effective food safety systems and how to get there.

Dr Younes highlighted that effective food safety systems are of central importance to protect people’s health, prevent foodborne illnesses and disease outbreaks, and facilitate trade in food and agricultural products. Given the complex nature of food safety, it requires concerted actions among relevant sectors and between stakeholders (government, businesses and consumers) that are anchored in national food safety systems and interlinked at regional and international levels.

In building food safety systems, the main prerequisite is political will, commitment and engagement. Food safety systems need to build upon cooperation, trust, transparency, accountability and ethical values.

Dr Younes stressed that the development of food safety systems should follow a stage-based approach keeping in mind that the system as a whole needs to develop and that the interconnections between all components need to be maintained. Not all components need to develop at the same pace, but the vision should be to aim at holistic and homogeneous systems.
New approaches for addressing tomorrow’s food safety issues (panel discussion)

The session’s aim was to discuss new approaches to address tomorrow’s food safety issues and use of country examples to highlight some experiences and lessons learnt. A plenary discussion was conducted after brief presentations by four panellists.

Panel presentations

Australia

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is working on strengthening partnerships and improving food safety culture in food businesses. Mr Peter May highlighted the food safety culture initiatives in Australia.

Mr May highlighted that a strong food safety culture comes from people understanding the importance of making safe food and committing to doing whatever it takes, every time. It starts at the top but needs everyone’s support across the business.

A good food safety culture can protect:

- consumers from foodborne illnesses;
- the brand’s reputation; and
- the business from financial loss.

In this context, food safety regulators in Australia have engaged with the industry for more actions over the last few years while building a food safety culture through partnerships. A dialogue was established at the beginning, and this mechanism has been handling recalls and the management of incidents. Since then the scope of discussions has been further expanded. The aim of this approach is to ensure that the industry takes more responsibility for the quality of the products they are putting into the market as well as preventing incidents and being proactive rather than reactive and corrective.

Through this process, food regulators in Australia have learnt that food safety cannot be guaranteed by the simple standard base approach. Also, end-point testing cannot be an answer to food safety problems as the issue related to the manufacturing of the products is not the regulator’s problem but the producers’. Food safety regulators have recognized the importance of food safety culture and behaviour-based models to drive improved compliance with food safety requirements.

Nationally, a range of approaches have been tried, including a national forum specifically about food safety culture in Australia. Various industry associations are involved, and the involvement is growing. The forum also focuses on the harmonization and participation at the local, state and national government levels.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam is going through an important process for strengthening food safety, and the establishment of the interministerial Food Safety Working Group (FSWG) is an example of a high-level mechanism to provide leadership, multisectoral collaboration and direction for priority
setting and future work. Dr Nguyen Hung Long introduced the background of creating the FSWG, experiences with the group so far and lessons learnt.

In 2010, Viet Nam enacted an act on food hygiene and safety, which serves as the basic legislation for food safety control in the country. The Ministry of Health has been assigned as the main authority, and nine other ministries have been cooperating in the implementation of the law.

The law assigns roles and responsibilities to different ministries and agencies under a unified system. Each ministry has established their own food safety control system from farm to table, and this issue is even more complex when it comes to food safety control at provincial and district levels.

In 2011, the Government decided to renew the National Steering Board to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The Minister of Health takes the role of permanent vice-chair, and nine other vice-ministers (including agriculture and industry) comprise the board members. The Board provides direction and guidance in the food safety policies of the Government to the concerned ministries and local provinces. Also, the Board handles emerging or emergency issues in food safety in the country.

Dr Long concluded his presentation by introducing the lessons learnt from the activities conducted by the National Steering Board as follows:

- The importance of food safety is widely acknowledged in Viet Nam.
- The coordination body should be higher than the ministerial level, or it would be difficult to coordinate among ministries.
- In addition to the three main ministries responsible for food safety, other agencies and representing bodies of stakeholders such as broadcasting agencies, women’s unions, youth unions and social associations should be engaged and involved for extended cooperation of the National Steering Board.
- The meeting should be officially and periodically organized and commenced.
- The commitment and engagement of the governors at the provincial level are essential for effective implementation of food safety policies at the local level.

Singapore

Singapore has put a strong emphasis on strengthening the knowledge, attitude and behaviour of government officials, food businesses and consumers to manage food safety risk. Associate Professor Joanne Chan briefly talked about Singapore’s approaches and experiences in changing behaviour and attitude towards food safety risk management and building trust in the safety of the Singaporean food supply.

Singapore imports most of its food materials from more than 160 countries. In general, the Singapore food safety system is built upon sound legislation to protect the consumers. The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) is the national food authority, and it regulates the safety of food from production to just before retail while the National Environment Agency governs the safety of food at the retail end to ensure proper food handling and preparation at restaurants, food courts, as well as the hawker and market stalls.
AVA’s integrated food safety system comprises horizon scanning efforts; accreditation of overseas sources for higher-risk food types such as meat and eggs; import requirements for the food imports; inspection and testing; and regulation of local farms, slaughterhouses and food establishments.

Food safety is a shared responsibility between the regulators, industry and consumers with AVA constantly engaging both industry and consumers to ensure food safety. Besides this, AVA also collaborates with several other government agencies, namely the Ministry of Health and the National Environment Agency via the One Health Platform, through which joint investigations into food safety outbreaks and other issues related to human health are conducted. In the past two years, a number of food incidents have been handled by tripartite approaches. The concerned agencies have conducted joint investigations and collected data together.

The food safety system of Singapore also recognizes the responsibility of other stakeholders including industry and consumers. Industry has been engaged mainly via meetings and dialogues. The seminars and events conducted during World Health Day are an example.

Moreover, the Government has launched recognition programmes including annual food safety awards. This is to acknowledge the good practices in food businesses. Another initiative is the Food Safety Partnership Scheme, which embraces food manufacturers, importers and retailers. They do not just sell but also conduct consumer education.

Recently, the Government has been paying particular attention to public education to address the adverse impacts of social media through which a lot of products including food are traded among individuals and business operators.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic

In recent years, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has been strengthening its food safety regulatory framework through the adoption of ASEAN harmonized measures. Mr Sivong Sengaloundeth explained how ASEAN member states have enhanced cooperation in moving towards regional integration in food safety.

One of the initiatives is the ASEAN Food Safety Policy, which comprises 10 core principles. These principles provide a guide and direction for the development and implementation of the initiatives of ASEAN bodies that are responsible for all aspects of food safety and food safety regulatory systems in the ASEAN member states.

The objective of the ASEAN Food Safety Policy is to provide direction to relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and the ASEAN member states with the goal of protecting the health of ASEAN consumers, ensuring fair practices in food trade and facilitating the free movement of safe food products within the region.

He also introduced other relevant initiatives in food safety conducted by ASEAN including the ASEAN Food Safety Network, ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework, ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed and ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre.

Panel discussion

A panel discussion followed the panel presentations.
The food safety culture as a new way of managing food safety was discussed. It was emphasized that the food safety culture is about the culture of the stakeholders’ attitude to ensure food safety, especially the businesses.

A whole-of-government approach is required in managing food safety incidents involving different stakeholders. The One Health operations in Singapore highlight the issue of building relationships, confidence and trust among ministries. Also, the action is in one sector, but a joint decision among stakeholders has to be made.

The discussion continued to the issue of sustainability of a system. It was emphasized that resources are part of sustainability but also a commitment. The system should be based on regulation and should also work together with other agencies involved in food safety. A coordination mechanism across sectors is essential for stakeholders to work in a unified manner. Further, a senior political person could also help deliver the messages. Demonstrating success in food safety is a way of ensuring sustainability, along with getting partners and consumers to understand the benefits of food safety regulations.

Food safety and the impacts on trade were discussed. To enhance food trade, bilateral agreements can be considered in the Region. Leadership and political commitment will be critical in creating such an environment at national and international levels. A well-functioning national food safety control system should be in place to support this change, and this would eventually protect public health and facilitate international food trade.

2.5 Plenary 4: Stepwise approach for strengthening national food safety systems

(1) Stages of development of national food safety systems

Mr Peter Hoejskov delivered a presentation on the stages of development of national food safety systems. The stepwise approach for implementation of the draft Framework guides food safety systems to develop as holistic and homogeneous entities. It was also emphasized that a need for food safety systems to embed a learning culture for continuous improvement is essential.

The core components of food safety systems remain the same regardless of the levels of development (policy and legislation; inspection and enforcement; information and evidence; incident and emergency response; and information, communication and education). These core components are also the five action areas of the Framework. However, the effectiveness of the system depends on how well the core components are developed and how well they function together.

The basic food safety system is a system where the roles and responsibilities of food safety regulatory agencies and the basic requirements for food production and control are set by administrative arrangements or law; food inspectors are in place in charge of the enforcement with basic understanding of food safety risk factors; presence of indicator- and event-based surveillance systems (foodborne syndromes/diseases), generic systems for risk assessment and response that capture food safety-related events; formally designated INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point and food safety authorities with the legal power to enforce and conduct recalls and temporarily close businesses; food safety regulatory authorities have appointed risk communication officer(s) and spokespersons, standard operating procedures and food safety risk communication available; food safety risk communication material also available; and food handlers have access to basic food safety training.
The stepwise approach guides the process on how to develop from basic food safety systems with a strong focus on establishing the minimum requirements to an intermediate level with a multisectoral national food safety plan and coordination mechanism in place to guide food control activities among others. To further advance into an advanced system, risk analysis principles and a comprehensive multisectoral food safety plan with a strong focus on prevention are essential among others.

The step-by-step approach does not aim at defining a sequential order of activities to strengthen certain components, but rather the necessary minimum requirements that are needed and the strategic actions that can help build the necessary capacity. Further, it is looking at a system as holistic and homogeneous entities consisting of various components.

(2) Introduction to the five action areas of the framework

Food safety policy and legal frameworks (Action area 1): Ms Noraini Othman

Ms Othman stressed that food safety policy and food legislation are essential components of food safety control systems that are needed to create an enabling and predictable environment for ensuring food safety and facilitating food trade.

Food safety policy provides the direction and general principles for countries in developing food legislation and control measures. Food legislation should provide the clear mandate and legal power that define the role and responsibility of the relevant authorities to manage food safety. Food legislation should also prescribe adequate legal requirements for food business operators along the food chain, preventive in nature and enforceable to ensure the effectiveness of food control. These policies and legislations are then translated into implementation strategies or action plans with prioritized activities. Examples of translating policy into legislation and implementation strategies were also illustrated.

Ms Othman emphasized that legislation requires continuous improvement taking into consideration assessment of information from surveillance data, changing hazards, development in technology, international and regional obligations, as well as implementation issues. The many initiatives undertaken to enhance the cohesiveness of food safety in ASEAN were highlighted. Particular emphasis was given to the recently endorsed ASEAN Food Safety Policy that provides 10 guiding principles and direction which paved the way for the ongoing work to develop an ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework to consolidate all food safety initiatives that will help ASEAN move towards its vision of establishing a single market and production base.

Risk-based inspection and enforcement (Action area 2): Dr Maged Younes

Food inspection is an important component of a national food safety system. It ensures that food businesses comply with applicable laws and regulations and assesses measures in place to reduce food safety risks.

Traditionally, food inspection has been product based and centred around the examination of food products’ compliance with prescribed norms and standards. The approach is corrective: violations are identified, and product recalls and fines are used as corrective measures.

In contrast, risk-based inspection focuses on foodborne disease risk factors. It requires determination of critical points during the workflow that could constitute a risk to public health if left uncontrolled, and the efficacy of such controls. Inspection frequency is determined according to a prioritization scheme combining a series of risk categorization criteria. The inspection is
carried out cooperatively with the enterprise and identifies the source of any product failure so that corrective actions can be promptly taken.

Risk-based food inspection requires coordination at various government levels (local, regional, national) and between different ministries and agencies responsible for food safety.

**Data and evidence (action area 3): Mr Andrew Pavitt**

Accurate and consistent information underpinning evidence is critical for food safety decision-making. Precise and consistent information leads to evidence-based decision-making, sound scientific risk assessment and identification of effective risk management measures.

Relevant data and information may include burden of foodborne disease data, food safety risk assessments, food consumption data, compliance records and laboratory test results.

Systems to monitor food consumption patterns and food safety hazards of public health concern should also be developed to know what people are eating and food safety risks (i.e. consumption surveys) and quantities of contaminants and residues in food (i.e. exposure assessments). Determination of the toxicity of residues and pathogenicity of contaminants is also a comprehensive risk assessment. Further, appropriate consumption surveys also address the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Appropriate food testing and analysis capacity are critical and a good source of data that can support policy-making decisions. Advancing technologies in testing should also be considered such as genome sequencing.

Partnering is essential in getting data and information related to food safety. Existing databases, risk assessments and outbreak information are already widely available to help develop food safety systems.

**Food safety incident and emergency response (Action area 4): Dr Ym-Shik Lee**

Food safety incidents and emergencies are the results of failed implementation of preventative measures. For the food safety issues of international concerns, WHO and FAO established INFOSAN in 2004. INFOSAN provides a platform for rapid communication of food safety issues during food safety incidents and emergencies as well as during normal times.

Dr Lee informed participants that in the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) operates the Division of Risk Information and the National Food Safety Information Service. The two divisions monitor 189 websites of major food safety control authorities and concerned agencies including the media and press of 32 countries in the world in real time. The activities contribute to early detection, monitoring and risk analysis in food safety incidents at national, regional and international levels.

Dr Lee explained that the management of food risk information is getting more critical as the scale and range of trade has widened due to free trade agreements (FTAs), the Internet, mobile communication and rapid development of food science. He concluded that timely information sharing at the regional and international levels is essential to manage food safety incidents and emergencies.
The need for effective communication is becoming increasingly important as a way to disseminate information about food safety risks and address consumer concerns about food safety. Risk communication, a subset of food information communication, is essential to relay information on hazards in the food supply chain and on risks resulting from such hazards. Crisis communication comes into play during urgent food safety incidents.

A fully documented risk communication strategy is required to effectively provide information that enables people to make informed choices to reduce food safety risks. Food safety risk communication must be provided in an open, transparent, timely and proactive manner. The most appropriate channels of communication, such as social media platforms, need to be identified in the strategy, in addition to targeting communications to specific audiences.

Ensuring that all staff working in the food sector are trained and that they develop competencies commensurate with their work activities is key to implementing an effective food safety system. Educating food inspectors and food handlers is a continuous activity, and the process needs to be constantly reviewed and updated by new developments.

The effectiveness of education activities needs to be evaluated regularly, and innovative ways of delivery, such as online training and learning, and social media, should be considered. The development of food safety awareness programmes for the public is also essential for informing consumers about safe food handling and preparation practices. Consideration should be given to the development of a comprehensive national training strategy involving government agencies, the food sector and academia.

Group discussions: Components and characteristics of food safety systems at different levels of development

The participants were divided into two groups and discussed the key features, including subcomponents of national food safety systems at the different stages of development, as well as key strategic actions needed to strengthen food safety systems.

The discussions were guided by the following key questions:

- Do you have any additional comments to the key features of basic food safety systems that were discussed in the plenary?

- Within the five core components of national food safety systems, what do you believe are the key subcomponents needed for a basic food safety system? (What are the minimum requirements a country should have to reduce food safety risks and improve response to food safety incidents and emergencies?)

- What strategic actions are needed to build the necessary capacity of a basic food safety system and how can they be implemented? (Keep in mind leadership, partnership and coordination; competency; and resources as enablers to be created through strategic actions.)

The comments from the group discussions were presented during the following plenary discussion.
(4) Plenary discussion: Finalize the stepwise approach for strengthening national food safety systems

The step-by-step approach was developed not as a diagnostic or assessment tool but as a strategic planning tool that will determine how the five components work together as a system.

Based on past experiences regarding systems development, it is also important to characterize the different stages when different components come together. There was agreement among the participants regarding the use of the step-by-step approach and the interlinkages among the five action areas.

The overall function of food safety systems remains the same, namely protecting people’s health and facilitating trade regardless of their stages of development. The characteristics of the different stages of development of food safety systems were discussed and agreed to include:

- establishing the minimum requirements for the basic food safety system;
- integrating risk-based approaches for the intermediate system; and
- linking components and coordinating throughout the food chain for advanced systems.

The characteristics of the basic food system are establishing the minimum requirements including:

- defined roles;
- basic legal requirements;
- developing selected tools and guidelines;
- reactive response;
- sector-specific planning and implementation; and
- information sharing.

Moving into the intermediate system is about integrating risk-based approaches covering:

- adoption of risk-based approaches;
- development of comprehensive monitoring;
- food testing analysis for verification rather than as a control measure;
- sector-specific guidance;
- response procedures; and
- communication platforms and plans.
The advanced system is about linking components and coordinating throughout the food chain encompassing:

- well-coordinated system;
- adequate resources;
- fully documented throughout;
- evidence-based coherent policy and legal framework;
- integrated monitoring;
- open, timely and transparent food information communication;
- science-based education; and
- spirit of reviewing, revising and improving.

Mr Hoejskov summarized the discussions and agreements on the characteristics and subcomponents of food safety systems at basic, intermediate and advanced levels of development:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subcomponents</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy and legislation</td>
<td>● Develop risk categorization model</td>
<td>● Develop national food safety plan with multisectoral involvement</td>
<td>● Develop guidelines for conducting regulatory impact assessment and food safety system auditing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Establish multisectoral coordination mechanism</td>
<td>● Review regulations and standards to ensure alignment with Codex Alimentarius and international requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk-based inspection and enforcement</td>
<td>● Establish linkages between food inspection services and food laboratories</td>
<td>● Strengthen food laboratory capacity including networking across sectors</td>
<td>● Establish food establishment hygiene grading system including guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Establish food business registries</td>
<td>● Develop guidelines and training material including attitude, knowledge and behaviour (replace attitude with food safety cultures)</td>
<td>● Develop procedures for risk-based food inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcomponents</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and evidence</td>
<td>● Strengthen linkages between food safety authorities and infectious disease surveillance</td>
<td>● Coordinate the availability and analysis of existing data</td>
<td>● Strengthen food monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Develop capacity to conduct food consumption surveys and Total Diet Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Establish systems for information sharing across agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident and emergency response</td>
<td>● Strengthen linkages between INFOSAN and IHR</td>
<td>● Conduct ad hoc studies</td>
<td>● Develop guidelines for food recall and traceability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Actively participate in INFOSAN</td>
<td>● Develop food safety risk communication strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, communication and education</td>
<td>● Strengthen operational food safety risk communication</td>
<td>● Develop risk communication and food safety education plans</td>
<td>● Develop documented outcome-based food safety training strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Develop training packages for food inspectors, handlers and laboratory staff</td>
<td>● Review, revise and develop school food programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Conduct training of trainers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.6 Plenary 5: Implementation, monitoring and coordination in a broader context

(1) Food safety in the context of UHC and SDGs

Ms Britta Baer delivered a presentation on food safety in the context of universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Food safety plays a vital role in attaining the right to the highest standard of health for all. Health and food safety are intrinsically related and must be recognized as both preconditions for and outcomes of sustainable development.

The SDGs chart a path towards meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The 17 SDGs are interrelated and interdependent: Food safety directly contributes to SDG 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and SDG 3 to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. Food safety also contributes to other SDGs including the goals for ending poverty, gender equality, water and sanitation, sustainable production and consumption, and climate change, and is in turn influenced by progress in these areas.

The SDGs aim to capture the many ways in which equitable and robust progress on health and development is influenced by a myriad of interconnected cultural, economic, political and social factors. This places greater emphasis on the social determinants of health, including for example...
linkages between food and health. Food safety is a multisectoral issue, and food safety risks need to be managed along the entire food chain from farm to plate.

The SDGs apply to all countries at all stages of development. This acknowledges that many of today’s trends, such as international trade and climate change, go beyond traditional borders and shape health development in all countries. For example, international trade in food can facilitate access to safe and healthy food for communities but may also result in a new global threat from foodborne disease outbreaks and food contamination events.

Core to the SDGs is the principle of leaving no one behind, recognizing that inequities continue to pose challenges to health and development. Achieving the SDGs so that no one is left behind requires whole-of-system, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, bringing together various government sectors, civil society, academia, development partners and communities.

Achieving the SDGs requires a health sector that can engage, advocate and lead effective action on health equity and the social determinants of health. UHC means that all people and communities have access to quality health services, without suffering financial hardship associated with paying for care. UHC is a specific target under SDG3 and serves as a pathway to equitable and sustainable health outcomes and resilient health systems. UHC provides a platform that can bring together diverse programmes and actions for health and development. The regional action framework on *Universal Health Coverage: Moving Towards Better Health* provides a broad foundation for action in the Western Pacific Region.

(2) Programs and strategies related to the Regional Framework

Mr Peter Hoejskov delivered a presentation on the programmes and strategies related to the draft Framework.

The draft *Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific* will directly contribute to the SDGs, especially to SDG target 2.1 to “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”. The food safety programme promotes coordination and coherence of food control measures across the food chain, and food safety management promotes public, private and nongovernmental stakeholder collaboration in line with the SDGs.

Mr Hoejskov also introduced how the Regional Framework links with other regional programmes including the *Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies* (APSED), antimicrobial resistance, neglected tropical diseases, noncommunicable diseases, nutrition, and health and the environment.

(3) Plenary discussion: How to strengthen linkages with other programme and regional framework

At the country level, the participants discussed how to practically benefit from and utilize the linkages between food safety and related programmes and regional frameworks. At the regional level, the discussion focused on how to benefit from utilizing the linkages to partner programmes and regional strategies to support the implementation of the Regional Framework.

Increasingly developed countries are more concerned about obesity issues rather than malnutrition. As food safety systems develop, supportive roles to public health initiatives should
be undertaken. Moreover, these strategies have relevance to all countries. Other regional strategies with close links and synergies to food safety should be highlighted in the draft framework. Linkages should also be established at the country level.

In Malaysia, food safety linkages to other areas are already in place through multisectoral collaboration at the national level such as providing the regulatory environment and nutrition labelling as well as mandatory iodization requirements in the area of noncommunicable diseases.

In the Philippines, there is ongoing collaboration with the infectious disease office for the food and waterborne disease prevention and control programme to promote food safety and sanitation. Regarding linkages, regular consultation meetings are being held and developed with other food safety agencies as mandated by the Food Safety Act such as the development of harmonized food safety training courses. Moreover, strengthened coordination with local governments is being developed to address food safety implementation gaps. At the regional level, the Philippines participated in the development of the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework. Regional linkages can help improve the national food safety system of different countries.

In Cambodia, the Ministry of Health is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture for the Zoonosis Technical Working Group and with other concerned ministries for the IHR joint external evaluation (JEE).

In Mongolia, development partners (UN agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank) are supporting the Government to attain the SDGs and health systems development. The Ministry of Health is not the food safety lead agency, and a link with other ministries is important to address food safety issues.

(4) Introduction to monitoring and regional coordination

Mr Hoejskov provided a short outline of the proposed monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the draft Framework. The proposed monitoring mechanism for the Framework implementation consists of two of the IHR monitoring and evaluation frameworks (IHR annual reporting and JEE) components and the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism for sharing of information, lessons learnt and setting common priorities.


Ms Sarah Hamid delivered a presentation on the IHR capacities concerning food safety in the *IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*.

She introduced the revised IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with particular emphasis on annual reporting and JEE. The annual reporting refers to mandatory national reporting on IHR implementation to the World Health Assembly via a standard IHR Monitoring Questionnaire. JEE is a process in which domestic and international experts jointly assess national capacities related to health security using the WHO JEE Tool.

The IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is aligned with monitoring and evaluation under the *Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases*, which fosters learning for continuous improvement of IHR capacities. Food safety is a technical area of both the JEE and the revised IHR annual reporting tool. JEEs have been implemented in all WHO regions; to date, three have been completed in the Western Pacific Region. Food safety under the JEE is focused on surveillance and response capacities, including the necessary communication and collaboration mechanisms among sectors responsible for food safety, to ensure timely detection and effective
response to potential foodborne events. The annual reporting tool is currently under development, but indicators are likely to address food safety legislation, coordination mechanisms between relevant authorities, and the development and implementation of risk-based control programmes.

(6) Questions and clarification

It was highlighted that the IHR annual reporting tool is useful in collecting information on issues related to food safety core capacities as defined under the IHR. However, additional indicators for monitoring implementation of the draft Regional Food Safety Framework may be needed.

A participant asked about how to measure and demonstrate success in implementation of the draft Framework. The participant from New Zealand explained that various indicators are being used to monitor progress on food safety in New Zealand. These include the burden of foodborne illnesses. However, it was highlighted that the use of such a measure may be problematic as it is affected by the sensitivity of foodborne disease surveillance systems.

One participant suggested that the components and subcomponents of the draft Framework can be used as indicators for measurement, such as improvement in food safety systems. It was also suggested that detailed guidelines on how to measure the subcomponents should be provided for countries with lower capacities. The burden of foodborne diseases studies can also be used to measure overall success.

Another participant further suggested using commercial polling as a tool to measure the confidence of consumers in the food safety system and compare the trend after three years. The monitoring tool for consumer confidence used in the European Union was mentioned as a potential model to develop a similar tool in the Western Pacific Region. However, it was also pointed out that consumer confidence is vast and dependent on other factors such as communication by food businesses and the overall food safety literacy of consumers.

The proposed regional cooperation mechanism was highlighted as appropriate for monitoring progress on implementation of the draft Framework, setting common priorities and learning for continuous improvement. Through the regional cooperation mechanism biennial meetings may be organized to review progress and agree on common priorities.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusions

Professor Alan Reilly summarized and presented the overall conclusion of the meeting. The strategic direction, guiding principles, overall structure, vision, goal, objectives, action areas and strategic action were reviewed, discussed and agreed during the Consultation.

The participants emphasized the need for food safety systems to embed a learning culture for continuous improvement and for food safety systems to be proactive and flexible to embrace change.
The Consultation recognized that food safety systems in the Western Pacific Region are at different levels of development and it was agreed that countries should take a stepwise approach to strengthen national food safety systems as holistic and homogeneous entities.

For the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Framework, the participants agreed to use the annual IHR self-reporting tool and the JEE Tool of the *IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework* as the primary instruments. It was also recommended to establish a regional cooperation mechanism for monitoring progress, setting common priorities and learning for continuous improvement.

### 3.2 Recommendations

Mr Peter Hoejskov presented and introduced the next steps for the Member States and WHO.

#### 3.2.1 Recommendations for the Member States

Member States are encouraged to do the following:

1) to review the final draft of the Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific and provide final feedback by 8 July 2017 through a consultative in-country process; and

2) to brief ministers and other high-level officials who will attend the sixty-eighth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2017 to derive mutual understanding, political commitment and broader consensus on the draft Framework.

#### 3.2.2 Recommendations for WHO

WHO is requested to do the following:

1) to revise the draft Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific in line with the comments and input provided during the Consultation;

2) to conduct a consultation with the WHO Member States in the Pacific with the purpose of reviewing and agreeing on the draft Framework; and

3) to finalize the draft Framework and present it for endorsement to the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2017.
ANNEXES

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ANNEX 2: PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Day 1 – Monday, 8 May 2017

08:30  Registration

09:00  Opening session

  Welcome and opening remarks

  - Dr Takeshi Kasai, Director, Programme Management
    WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO/WPRO)

  Introductions

  Background and objectives

  Nomination of Chair, Co-chair and Rapporteur

  Administrative announcements

  Group photo

10:00  Coffee break

10:30 – 12:00  Plenary 1: Emerging issues and the status of food safety in the Western Pacific

  10:30  Food safety in a changing environment
         - Dr Li Ailan, WHO/WPRO

  10:45  Implementation of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011-2015:
         Experiences and lessons learned
         - Mr Peter Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

  11:00  Food safety trust: An enabler and outcome of effective food safety systems
         - Prof Alan Reilly, University College Dublin

  11:15  Questions and clarification

12:00  Lunch break

13:00 – 15:00  Plenary 2: Development process and structure of the draft Regional Framework

  13:00  Overview of the draft regional framework
         - Mr Peter Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

  13:15  Process of developing the draft regional framework
         - Mr Jang Hwan Bae, Consultant, WHO/WPRO

  13:30  Questions and clarification
13:45  Plenary discussion: Vision, goal, objectives and action areas of the draft regional framework  
(facilitated by Mr Peter Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO)

15:00  Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30  Plenary 3: New ways of working to address emerging food safety issues

15:30  Characteristics of effective food safety systems and how to get there  
   - Mr Maged Younes, Global Public Health

15:45  Panel discussion: New approaches for addressing tomorrow’s food safety issues

17:45  Welcome reception

Day 2 – Tuesday, 9 May 2017

08:30  Summary from Day 1

08:45 – 17:30  Plenary 4: Stepwise approach for strengthening national food safety systems

08:45  Stages of development of national food safety systems  
   - Mr Peter Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

09:30  Introduction to the five action areas of the framework

   Policy and legislation  
   - Ms Noraini Othman, Ministry of Health Malaysia

   Risk-based inspection and enforcement  
   - Dr Maged Younes, Global Public Health

   Data and evidence  
   - Mr Andrew Pavitt, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

10:00  Coffee break

10:30  Introduction to the five action areas of the framework (continued)

   Food safety incident and emergency response  
   - Dr YmShik Lee, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Korea

   Risk communication and education  
   - Prof Alan Reilly, University College Dublin

11:00  Questions and clarification

11:30  Group discussion 1: Components and characteristics of food safety systems at basic level of development
12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Feedback from Group discussion: Basic food safety systems

14:00 Group discussion 2: Components and characteristics of food safety systems at intermediate level of development

15:00 Feedback from Group discussion: Intermediate food safety system

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Group discussion 3: Components and characteristics of food safety systems at advanced level of development

17:00 Feedback from Group discussion: Advanced food safety system

Day 3 – Wednesday, 10 May 2017

08:30 – 10:00 Plenary 4: Stepwise approach for strengthening national food safety systems (continued)

08:30 Plenary discussion: Finalize the stepwise approach for strengthening national food safety systems

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 – 15:00 Plenary 5: Implementation, monitoring and coordination in a broader context

10:30 Food safety in the context of UHC and SDGs - Ms Britta Baer, WHO/WPRO

10:40 Programmes and strategies related to the regional framework - Mr Peter Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO

10:50 Plenary discussion: How to strengthen linkages with other programmes and regional frameworks?

11:30 Introduction to monitoring and regional coordination - Mr Peter Hoejskov, WHO/WPRO


11:50 Questions and clarification

12:00 Lunch
13:00  Group discussion: How to establish a sustainable regional coordination mechanism for monitoring, priority setting and continuous learning?

What should be the TOR and funding mechanism?

14:30  Feedback from group discussion

15:00  Coffee break

15:30 – 16:00  Plenary 6: Next steps

15:30  Next steps in finalizing the draft regional framework

16:00  Closing session