

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 7

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA**

Sixteenth Session

Denpasar, Indonesia, 17-21 November 2008

**NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD
STANDARD SETTING (CL 2008/15-ASIA, Part A)**

1. STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

**(i) Structure and Organization of Official Services Responsible for Food Control (update
information since the 15th CCASIA)**

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Paying a great importance to ensuring food safety to protect people's health, the government of the DPR Korea has established relative institutions in a regular manner and encourages their activities. Under a uniform guidance of the Ministry of Public Health (the National Hygiene Inspection Bureau) there are the Central agency for hygienic prevention of epidemics and every provincial, municipal and county agencies for hygienic prevention of epidemics, which are in charge of food inspection in their regions.

The Academy of Health & Food Science (Codex Contact Point) plays a key role not only as the consultative institution, but as a food analysis serving agency for food control because of its superiority of human resources and material foundation including equipments and scientific and technical staffs. And there also exist the Central Institute for Analytical Service under the State Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Hygiene under the Academy of Medical Sciences as the organizations of the official services responsible for food control in the country.

Japan

No update

Mongolia

The Government decided in 2002 (Resolution No 58) that all different activities of national agencies related to food inspection and analysis should be consolidated in the one State Specialized Inspection Agency (SSIA), which was established in January 2003 (resolution No 20) in order to carry out all activities related to food inspection, laboratory testing, certification. As well, veterinary services and plant quarantine inspection are concentrated in the SSIA, which is the only agency responsible for enforcing food law, regulations and food standards for food quality and safety. The SSIA is a leading organization for food safety control and surveillance at the national level. The total number of inspectors in the agency round 700, which are divided in four categories covering: Standard and Quality; Health; Hygiene and Epidemiology; Plant Quarantine and Veterinary. 80 inspectors are dealing with food inspection and quality control, 23 inspectors work in the border points.

Currently, the following institutions are working on food hygiene control: SSIA, SIAC, 21 Aimag Specialized Inspection Agencies, and three inspection departments from specific institutions and Specialized Border Inspection Departments. However, fourteen inspection bureaus for food hygiene control work in 22 regular or seasonal border points, the border control system for monitoring and controlling the quality and safety of imported and exported food products.

Responsibilities of key institutions in the sector include:

- The MOFA has overall responsibility for the introduction of policies to support Government objectives, coordination of their implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their impact, and the coordination of donor and NGO assistance towards their realization.
- The Ministry of Health (MOH) has overall responsibility for the introduction of nutrition policies to support Government objectives, coordination of their implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their impact, and education on food safety, nutrition programmes, Therebefore, foodborne diseases surveillance and outbreak investigation activities. At level Public Health Institute a Nutrition Research Centre responsibilities for nutrition, food safety postgraduate training and community level education programmes, and scientific study on food safety and nutrition issues. Nutrition Research Centre (NRC) responsibilities for organizing activities of the National Codex Team. NRC carrying out food safety investigations, conducting postgraduate trainings on food safety, registering and informing on biologically active preparation, developing and implementing the HACCP, GMP and GHP systems in food industries, But, currently lack of personal and laboratory capacity.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry has responsibilities for harmonization with the World Trade Organization and other international trade arrangements export promotion and support, and the development of the processing and manufacture of non food agriculture based products.
- The National Standards Metrology Centre has responsibilities for establishing product and process quality and safety standards, usually harmonized with international market requirements and norms.
- The Ministry of Nature and Environment (MNE) has responsibilities for overall policy for conservation and rehabilitation of the Environment and production of biodiversity including policies for land, water and forestry resources.

Pakistan

Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) under Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) is the National Standard Body given the task of formulation of Pakistan Standards and their promulgation thereof. The, PSQCA frames standards of processed & manufactured items including food & food products. Whereas, the Agricultural & Livestock Products Marketing & Grading Department (DALPMG) under Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Livestock lays down grades and standards of quality of primary agricultural produce. The organization chart of (i) ----- & (ii) is attached herewith as App – I & App – II respectively. The food control system in the provinces is administered by respective provinces under the Pure Food Laws. The Pure Food Laws have also been adopted by the Cantonment areas, under their respective jurisdiction.

Philippines

1. Unprocessed food (raw): Department of Agriculture (DA)
2. Processed foods: Bureau of Food & Drugs (BFAD) of the Department of Health (DOH)
Bureau of Quarantine & International Service Airports and Seaports
3. Informal sectors like street foods: Local Government Units (LGUs)

Singapore

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) is the national authority on food safety for both primary and processed food. AVA ensures the safety of all food from production to just before retail. The National Environment Agency (NEA) is responsible for hygiene standards of the food retail industry. There has been no further update since the 15th CCASIA.

Viet Nam

Food Administration (under Ministry of Health)

(ii) Legislation and Regulations on Food Safety and Quality - Including Import/Export Matters (update information since the 15th CCASIA)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

In DPRK, there are food safety-oriented laws and acts such as «The Law of the DPRK on Food Hygiene», «The Law of the DPRK on GMO Safety », «The Law of the DPRK on Import and Export Commodities Inspection», «The Law of the DPRK for Quality Supervision» and «The Law of the DPRK on Frontier Hygiene and Quarantine» adopted by the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) in 1990s and also codes of practices detailed to be observed by the food inspection and controlling institutions in compliance with the laws. All the laws and regulations are subject to amend and complement constantly in accordance with the practices and development.

Japan

Between September 2006 and June 2008, Japan made 72 notifications regarding food safety and quality to other members in accordance with the provisions of the SPS and TBT agreements as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mongolia

The Mongolian Government has paid particular attention to the food safety situation and has implemented many measurable activities. They are intended to create and improve the food security legal status, to intensify the government or public control of food safety, to meet global standards, to enhance intersection cooperation, to renew the structure and organization of the control system, and to eliminate the duplication of controls, etc.

The food safety issues have been implemented within the “Food law” (1998, 2001), “Law of Hygiene” (2001) under the National Plan of Action for “Food Security, Safety and Nutrition” approved by the Government Resolution Number 249 and the NP on “Prevention of Infectious Diseases”, approved by the Government Resolution Number 129. The implementation of these laws and national programs has created favorable conditions to provide consumers with safer foods and the awareness of the responsibilities of manufacturers has increased. Many other legal instruments are available on Hygiene, Standardization and Quality Certification, Animal and Plant Quarantine Inspection, Modified Live Organisms, Protection of Consumer's Right.

The NPFS will facilitate achieving these MDG targets. In recognition of the importance of food security the Government of Mongolia declared 2008, the year which the NPFS will be developed, as the “Year of Food Security and Safety”.

Pakistan

The legislation on food safety & quality are as under:

- (a) Pakistan Standards & Quality Cont Authority Act, Act VI 1996.
- (b) Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937(1 of 1937).
- (c) Pakistan Pure Food Laws. The Ministry of Health monitors the quality of food items in the country whereas, the District Health Administration enforce the food laws.
- (d) The Pakistan Fish Inspection and Quality Control Act, 1998.
- (e) Pakistan Slaughter Control Act, 1963 (WP Act III of 1963).

Philippines

- Republic Act (RA) 3720 – Food, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act, RA 7394 – The Consumer Act of the Philippines
- RA 8172 – An Act Promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide and for Related Purposes
- RA 8976 – Food Fortification and Philippine National Food Standards (PNS)
- AO 153 s. 2004 – Revised Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices on Manufacturing, Packing, Repacking or Holding Foods
- Bureau Circular 01-A s. 2004 - Guidelines for the Microbiological Quality of Processed Foods

- A.O. 88-A s. 1984 – Regulatory Guidelines Concerning Food Additives
- Bureau Circular 016 s. 2006 – Updates List of Food Additives
- Republic Act (RA) 9296 - Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines

Singapore

AVA administers the Sale of Food Act, the Wholesome Meat and Fish Act and their subsidiary legislation, to ensure food safety and quality. NEA administers the Environmental Public Health Act and its subsidiary legislation to ensure proper food hygiene practice at outlets and eating establishments. There has been no further update since the 15th CCASIA.

Viet Nam

- Food Safety and Hygiene Ordinance,
- Veterinary Ordinance
- Plant Protection Ordinance
- Law on Quality of Products and Commodities 2008 (new)
- Law on Standards and Technical Regulations 2008 (new)

(iii) Establishment of Equivalence or other Trade Facilitation Agreements with other Governments

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

The government has many agreements to facilitate foreign trade on an equal footing and mutual benefit with other governments including Russian Federation and China, the neighbouring countries, and also Southeast Asian countries etc. and the most of the works in the field are organized and conducted by the government ministries including the Ministry of Foreign Trade in a unified way.

Japan

The economic partnership agreements (EPA) with the Republic of Chile, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam came into effect and EPA with the Philippines were signed since last update. In addition, Japan is negotiating with several other countries for establishing EPA.

Mongolia

Negotiations with Russia on quarantine procedures are ongoing and SSIA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Quality Inspection and Quarantine Agency of People’s Republic of China for coordination on quality inspection and quarantine control in 2005.

There are of Animal and Plant Quarantine Agreements were established with number of Governments under the bilateral cooperation framework.

Pakistan

Trade facilitation agreements have been signed with Iran, China, Russia; USA. Equivalence agreements are underway with Australia & New Zealand. Free trade agreements have been signed between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Pakistan.

Philippines

Bilateral agreements with other governments for specific food commodities.

Singapore

Singapore has been engaged in free trade agreements with a number of countries over the years. The details are available at the following website: <http://www.iesingapore.gov.sg/wps/portal/FTA>

Viet Nam

Ministry of Trade and Industry

(iv) Identified Need for Capacity Building and Training to Strengthen the National Food Control System

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

To strengthen the national food control system, the government is paying a deep concern to enhance consumers' awareness of food safety and train experts regarding man as the master in ensuring food safety while taking several measures including adoption of the laws related to food safety. In this aspect, the government pays also attention to efforts of WHO collaborating centres to train experts and officials concerned with surveillance of food-borne disease and laboratory techniques for capacity building while promoting domestic training itself.

For the present, the identified need for capacity building are summarily as follows:

- Revision and complementation of the regulatory rules for food inspection and control in compliance with the national food laws and Codex standards.
- Training related to food inspection should be regularly performed to improve food inspection capacity in every food-related units in the country, and provide equipments and facilities for food inspection along with increasing function of the institutions responsible for food inspection.
- Strengthening of capacity of analysis for principal hazards including chemical contaminants (pollutants occurring during processing), zoonosis, antibiotic substances (residues of veterinary drugs) and hormones in various types of foods, and detection of Avian influenza and bovine spongiform encephalopathy which are prevailing these days on the globe and development of GMO analysis and analytical method of pesticide residues in fruits, vegetables and cereals.
- Increase of the roles and responsibilities of inspection and controlling institutions to keep and observe strictly the food safety regulations etc.

Japan

No update

Mongolia

- To improve adequate community advertisement and trainings on food safety has led to inadequate awareness of consumers on the safe handling of food, food hygiene and nutrition have exacerbated the poor food safety situation. The food safety curricula of universities and colleges have not been harmonized with international standards. The improvement of these curricula is one of most important factors necessary to strengthen the capacity of national specialists.
- To provide increasing supply of textbooks, manuals and visual aids to learning on food safety has negatively influenced the quality of trainings.
- Inadequate capacity of food safety laboratory and laboratory specialists at the local level and the lack of laboratory facilities particularly for speedily testing are influencing for assurance and quality of laboratory.
- has not been improved due to lack of equipment, poor laboratory capabilities and inadequate methods of food analysis.
- The lack of capacity building of inspection agency. Their training is as follows: 24.9% have Master's Degrees in food hygiene control, 37% are trained in an advance course and 63% are trained as specialized food hygiene inspectors.
- One of the main problems envisaged in the food safety areas is the translation of documents, food standards and CAC guidelines and documents from English to Mongolian.(and national food safety documents, survey reports and laws translation from Mongolian to English)

Pakistan

- Capacity Building of public private staff
- Training of staff in carrying out chemical and microbiological analysis including mycotoxin, MRLs and Heavy metals.
- Up gradation of testing laboratories to acquire international accreditation.
- Technology transfer to build food safety infrastructure to deal with disease.

- Biotechnology issues.
- Emergency management to monitor emergency food safety situations.

Philippines

Need training on strengthening of National Food Control System.

Singapore

HACCP verification and Risk Analysis are two important areas that have been identified to strengthen the food inspection system and the application of risk-based approach in food control.

Viet Nam

To formulate more sub-law regulations on specific food safety issues

Practical implementation of food safety preventive and management system including HACCP, GMP, GHP

Funding for implementation of National Food Safety Program at provincial level

(v) Activities to Increase Awareness on Food Safety and Quality among the Consumers and other Specified Groups

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Lecture and training for masses of people to ensure food safety and quality are just for themselves in maintaining good health and even life security have been conducted throughout all society and the common senses related to food safety have been propagated very often by radio and TV etc.

Japan

Food Safety Commission (FSC), MHLW and MAFF jointly, sometimes independently, organize meetings to communicate with the public and to share information on food safety issues. In the fiscal year of 2007, about 30 meetings focusing on various subjects such as BSE and microbiological food poisoning were held.

Mongolia

- To promote awareness programme on food safety, including nutritional value, healthy diet and knowledge on quality of products
- To promote advertisement and awareness programme through public media targeting younger generation focusing on healthy aspects of food products. It could be done through different approaches, depending on age group of children

Pakistan

Workshops, Training Programmes, Awareness Programmes.

Philippines

1. Issuance of Health Advisory, Television & Radio guesting, posting at the BFAD website for information updates
2. Conduct of seminars/conferences on food safety and quality, and activities of the National Codex Committee (NCC) in major regions of the country
3. Information, Extension and Communication (IEC) materials, tri-media advertisement (newspaper advertisements, posters, pamphlets, brochures)
4. Participation/presentations in professional/food industry associations' meetings

Singapore

AVA has a website which provides consumers with information on food safety and quality.

In addition, AVA also promotes food safety through its food safety advertisements over the press, radio and TV and other activities during its annual food safety day.

Furthermore, school talks on food safety are also carried out to promote food safety.

Viet Nam

Meeting, Workshops, Seminar to introduce the vital role of Codex in setting food standards, protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practice in international food trade.

(vi) Any other Relevant Information**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Nothing special other than the above.

Singapore

Some of AVA's activities to promote food safety can found at the following website:

<http://www.ava.gov.sg/FoodSector/FoodSafetyEducation/>

2. NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT POINT AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR CODEX MATTERS**(i) Activities of the Codex Contact Point (update information since the 15th CCASIA) and any Information about Change of Contact Details (if not yet notified)****Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

As already notified to CAC the official name of the Codex Contact Point of the DPR Korea is the Academy of Health & Food Science (the former Foodstuffs Institute).

Only E-mail address freshly registered: KSCTC151@CO.CHEGIN.COM is to be newly notified.

The details about activities of the Codex Contact Point have been already notified to FAO/WHO CAC secretariat through the reports and application form for participation in the Codex meetings by the Codex Trust Fund.

Japan

No update

Mongolia

Since 1993, Mongolia has joined WHO/FAO Codex Committee activities by participating in the Codex meetings and workshops and implementing joint projects to strengthen food safety and control measures. Cooperation activities had been stopped during 1993 to 2003 and re-activated again that Codex information is well known among food sector.

By initiation of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Health the issue on intensifying National Codex Committee team had been discussed respectively at the II Session of the National Committee of Social Health in 2003 and II Conference of the National Committee, which function is to organize, coordinate and monitor national programs in food sector. In result of this, non permanent working group with objective of Improving food safety and protecting human health through strengthening Codex coordination and Codex activities was established upon approval of the Minister of Food and Agriculture's decree #105 dated on 23 September, 2005. Initially, this working group consisted of 10 members representing different government and non government organizations

Pakistan

- (a) The Codex Contact Point has identified the Acts/Laws relating to food enforced in the country and maintains contact with the agencies involved in enforcing food related laws.
- (b) Initiate National Codex activities remaining within the regulatory framework and legal structure.
- (c) Help establish linkages between private and public sector stakeholders.
- (d) Encourage better coordination between intergovernmental departments engaged in enforcing food safety & food laws.
- (e) Encourage consultative process with various government agencies and private sector agencies & firms in decision making process.
- (f) Out-line the Codex role to stakeholders through awareness programmes.

- (g) Maintain contact with food processors and encourage adoption of Codex standards guidelines.
- (h) Create awareness among consumers about Codex standards & guidelines.

Philippines

1. Maintain the National Codex Information System (NCIS).
2. Link the NCC with the Codex Secretariat and Codex member countries
3. Transmit documents endorsed by the TC to the Codex secretariat and information from the Codex Secretariat to the TC.
4. Transmit training materials, programs and other information on training prepared by the Codex secretariat to the NCO
5. Perform other functions as provided for in the Codex Procedural Manual, where appropriate

Philippines Codex Contact Point:

Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS)

Address: BPI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101

Contact Details:

Phone: +63 2 920 6131; +63 2 455 2856 ; +63 467 9039;

Telefax: +63 2 455 2858 E-mail: bafps@yahoo.com

Singapore

AVA is Singapore's National Codex Contact Point. There are no changes to the contact details.

Viet Nam

1. Codex Contact Point: Vietnam Codex Office, 70 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi, Vietnam
 - Director: Dr. Vu Ngoc Quynh;
 - Tel: 84 4 9 426605; 84 4 928030;
 - Fax: 84 4 8 222520; Email: codex@tcvn.gov.vn; vnquynhcodex@tcvn.gov.vn;
2. Activities of Vietnam Codex Contact Point:
 - Duties and functions as described in the Procedural Manual;
 - Consultation and coordination agency to advise relevant ministries and/or bodies in developing regulations, legislation concerning food safety and quality.

(ii) Structure, Composition and Operation of a National Codex Committee (or Equivalent or Similar Structure) or Plans for its Establishment (Update Information since the 15th CCASIA)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

There is no the National Codex Committee as an official name, but the Committee for Standardization of the DPRK is in charge of the overall standardization-related works including foods in the country.

The Committee for Standardization authorizes the National Institute for Standards Setting to deliberate the draft standards in detail including the experts examination after receiving the draft standards from the standing sections in charge of standards setting in every central, provincial, municipal and county (or district) administrations and finalizes the standards through the official consultation to register them as the official national standards.

And there is also the National Codex Coordinating Committee, which was established on December last year (2007) to organize and facilitate participation in the Codex meetings and to conduct the Codex works initially throughout the country.

Japan

MHLW and MAFF organized a consultative committee on Codex activities and 10 meetings were held since last CCASIA.

Mongolia

Minister of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia has approved a resolution number 18 to renew non permanent the National Codex Team dated on 09 February, 2007, upon which National codex team has been extended by involving 23 members representing 17 organizations such as Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Health, WHO RR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Standard and Metrology Center, Ministry of Trade and Industry, State Specialized Inspection Agency, Custom's Office, Food Research Center of the Social Health Institute, Foodtech Corporation, State Veterinary Laboratory, Food and Biotechnology College of the Science and Tech University, National Association of the Mongolian Customer's Protection organizations, Mongolian Trade and Commerce Chamber and others.

National Codex team organizes meetings not less than three times year, during which members discuss annual plan, activities, exchange information on implementation of planned activities, inform CAC meetings and workshops, select CAC meetings to attend team members, nominate participants, and discuss report of the delegations for further actions.

After NATIONAL team is approved it's annual work plan and report of its activities, it should be discussed and approved at the Intersectoral Coordinating National Committee, which is chaired by Minister of Food and Agriculture.

In March 2007, national workshop on "Cooperation between Codex and Mongolia" was organized in order to discuss and report activities implemented by the National team in the past and future plans as well as to inform CAC, sources of CAC information and utilization by presenting CAC manuals.

In 2006, 124 CAC standards, which was approved as a National standards have been reviewed and discussed by the National team that concluded urgently to review again 13 standards, which should be approved by the Standard and Metrology National Committee.

Following publications were published and distributed in Mongolian languages: 1a and 1b volume of "Manual of Food Hygiene", 1b volume of "General requirements for Food Hygiene" and "Encyclopedia of Food Hygiene"

In 2005, survey was conducted among 154 food selling entities in Capital Ulaanbaatar area and concluded evaluation on storing and selling conditions of food products as well as safety aspects of products.

With assistance of WHO, Food research center of the Social Health Institute developed regulation to carry out surveillance and monitor Food borne diseases.

Recommendation for introducing GHP and GMP has been developed (2007).

There was working group was established to formulate "Regulation on removing food safety nonqualified products from market", which shall be approved by joint decree of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister of State Specialized Inspection Agency, Minister of Food and Agriculture and Minister of Health. Members of the Codex team has joined the working group by assisting to provide information on related legislation and regulation, international agreements, contracts and regulations, experiences in other countries. Currently, the draft of the regulation is ready for further approval.

Pakistan

A National Codex Committee (NCC) has been constituted by MINFAL to consult relevant agencies & stakeholders on Codex related issues. The NCC undertakes appraisal of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meetings and decisions. Maintains liaison with the working of CAC at various for a, review existing Acts / Laws and standards to bring them in harmony with Codex standards. The NCC advises MINFAL on Codex issues and helps identify gaps in existing infrastructure & human resource required to meet Codex standards. The NCC is supported by 8 Sub-Committees of NCC in various fields and assists the NCC in forming policy, participation in CAC meetings and promotion of Codex based regulations through interaction with public private agencies for informed positioning.

Philippines

The National Codex Committee (NCC) was created with the issuance on November 25, 2005 of a Joint Department of Agriculture and Health (DA-DOH) Administrative Order. It has the following objectives:

1. A mechanism for integrating Codex decisions and activities into the programs of food control agencies;

2. Venue for government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), and industry associations to work together in the development of country positions on pertinent Codex issues, and in the evaluation and dissemination of Codex texts;
3. To institutionalize the establishment of technical expertise for cost-efficient and effective country participation in Codex meetings.

An amended NCC Terms of Reference (TOR) is currently for joint approval by the Departments of Agriculture and Health to correct operational difficulties encountered in its almost two and a half (2.5) years of operation.

The important amendments to the TOR are the following:

1. A change in name of the NCC to the National Codex Organization (NCO) to reflect its actual structure of Committees within an Organization, rather than Committees within a Committee;
2. Creation of a Section on Rules and Procedures to improve operational efficiency and to avoid actions that are not consistent with the TOR. It specially includes measures for the transparent and professional selection of country delegates to Codex meetings;
3. Establishment of a Management Support Office (MSO) at a DA or DOH agency to provide administrative and technical support to the NCO, particularly its Sub-Committees and Task Forces which mirror the subsidiary bodies of Codex. This is to allow these bodies to focus on scientific issues and in the process improve technical expertise to use these to meet Codex principles for developing standards.

The NCO organizational structure is as follows with major functions:

1. Executive Council (EC) - composed of relevant Departments, representatives from processed food industry, consumer organization, chairperson of the NCO TC, representatives from the national sectoral committees (NSCs). The EC provides policy directions, oversee NCO activities, approve and/or source NCO funding requirements and integrate NCO decisions into the programs of relevant Departments and organizations that are members of the Council; support the development of scientific and manpower base for effective Codex work.
2. Technical Committee (TC) - composed of Chairpersons of the NCO SCs and TFs and representatives from the 4 NSCs. The TC shall provide overall technical support and administrative guidance to the SCs and TFs for effective country participation; evaluate country positions and the list of delegates to the Codex meetings from the SCs and TFs and endorse these to the CCP for transmittal to the Codex Secretariat; identify and evaluate NCO requirements for R&D, data gathering, training and information dissemination programs, and for work complementation; represent the country in other regional and international Codex events, etc.
3. SCs and TFs - chaired by government with members from private sector, academe, professional association or other government agencies subject to the policies of the DA and DOH. It shall prepare country positions, ensure their relevance to national interests and needs, and identify the official delegates to Codex meetings; convene meetings to analyze documents and identify relevant issues. Prepare science-based country positions. Strive for the participation of national experts and relevant stakeholders from government and private sector in the work of the SCs and TFs. The SCs and TFs shall fund its meetings through the Agency Chair. Participation of the SC or TF Chair to Codex meetings or other regional or international Codex events shall be funded by the Agency Chair or by extra budgetary sources subject to the policies of the DOH and the DA.
4. Management Support Office - Its major tasks are to (1) provide overall management support to the TC, SCs and TFs and formulate systems that lead to cost-effective implementation of the work of the NCO; (2) coordinate and monitor the development of country positions and participation at Codex meetings and provide needed assistance and/or recommendations to the TC; (3) prepare project proposals for training and other forms of capacity building and support their implementation; (4) monitor the results and evaluate the impact of country participation in Codex meeting and other regional and international Codex events; (5) monitor the effect of changes in internal rules and recommend changes as necessary in consultation with the SCs, TFs and the TC; (6) recommend national experts and interested stakeholders to the TC for inclusion in the SCs and TFs. The MSO also serves as the Secretariat to the Executive Council (EC) and TC.

5. Codex Contact Point (CCP) - It shall maintain the National Codex Information System; link the NCO with the Codex Secretariat and Codex member countries; transmit documents endorsed by the TC to the Codex Secretariat and information from the Codex Secretariat to the TC; perform other functions as provided for in the Codex Procedural Manual, when appropriate.

Singapore

The Committee comprises representatives from relevant government agencies, standard bodies, food manufacturers and food traders. The Committee works through emails as and when necessary.

Viet Nam

Vietnam National Codex Committee is a government organization under the direct administration of the Ministry of Science and Technology with participation of other related ministries including Ministry of Health (MOH), Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT), and associations such as Association of Consumer Protection, the Vice Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology is the Chairman of Vietnam National Codex Committee (VNCC). All activities of the Committee conducted through Vietnam Codex Contact Point with the consultation by Chairman and General Secretary in accordance with Government Regulation. Vietnam Codex Contact Point is an administrative office which fulfils the duties assigned by the VNCC and under the Directorate for Standards and Quality (belonging to Ministry of Science and Technology).

(iii) Participation in Codex Committees (Update Information since the 15th CCASIA)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

- on Food additives (39th session) April 2007
- on Food additives(40th session) April 2008
- on Methods of analysis and sampling (29th session) March 2008
- on Pesticide residues (40th session) April 2008
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (31st session) July 2008

Japan

Japan has participated to all the Codex committees except for regional coordinating committees other than CCASIA.

Mongolia

Our delegations have attended in following Codex meetings: The first meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, Beijing, China, 16-20 April, 2007, 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, 30 April to 4 May, Ottawa, Canada, 35th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling, 12-16 of November, Bad Neuenahr –Ahrweiler, Germany, 29th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. In 2008, 4 delegations were nominated to attend Codex Sessions.

Pakistan

The Codex Trust Fund has approved the country's participation in 04 Codex meetings during 2008.

Besides due to increasing interest for participation in Codex sessions, one meeting has been arranged through the participating agencies own resources. The Cabinet has made mandatory attendance in Codex meetings.

Philippines

15th CCASIA, Nov. 21-24, 2006, Seoul, Korea

6th TF on Foods Derived from Biotechnology, Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2006, Chiba, Japan

1st CCCF, April 16-20, 2007, Beijing, China

39th CCFA, April 24-28, 2007, Beijing, China

30th CAC, July 2-7, 2007, Rome, Italy

39th CCFH, Oct. 30-Nov. 4, 2007, New Delhi, India

29th CCNFSU, Nov. 12-16, 2007, Germany

16th CCFICS, Nov. 26-30, 2007, Queensland, Australia

8th CCMMP, Feb. 4-8, 2008, Queenstown, New Zealand

1st TF on Quick Frozen Foods, Feb. 25-29, 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

2nd CCCF, Mar. 31-April 4, 2008, The Hague, The Netherlands

40th CCFA, April 21-25, 2008, Beijing, China

36th CCFL, April 28-May 2, 2008, Ottawa, Canada

31st CAC, June 30-July 4, 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

Singapore

Singapore has been attending meetings of the following Codex Committees:

- Plenary Session
- Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
- Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
- Codex Committee on Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
- Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
- Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis
- Codex Committee on Food Additives
- Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling
- Codex ad hoc Intergovernmental Task On Foods Derived from Biotechnology

Viet Nam

Actively participation in Codex Committees such as Food Labelling, Food Hygiene, CCASIA, Fish and Fishery Products, Milk and Milk Products, Contaminants in Foods, ...

3. PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMERS IN STANDARD SETTING

(i) Consumer Participation in Codex related Activities at National and International Level (update information since the 15th CCASIA)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Every delegates (1 or 2 persons) from the Ministry of Commerce and the central, municipal and provincial organizations for public catering service etc. participate and take the floor in the deliberation for the draft food standards elaborated by the experts in the area of food safety and production as the standards maker and the food consumer as well.

Japan

No update

Mongolia

Representatives from Consumer protection NGOs attended in the National Workshop, the purpose of which was to introduce Codex activities and its implementation in the country.

Pakistan

The National Codex Committee has been constituted in a manner to ensure participation of private sector agencies. The 8 Sub-Committees on various subject has a fair representation of private sector including private processors growers and exporters. Participation in Codex session from autonomous bodies and private sector is encouraged.

Philippines

1. Consumers are invited to comment on draft standards during public consultation and during Sub-Committee Meetings of the NCC.
2. Consumers attend meetings of Milk and milk Products, Food Labeling, Food Hygiene, Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses, Food Additives and Contaminants.

Singapore

Consumer participation in Codex related activities at national and international level is limited at this time.

Viet Nam

Vietnam Consumer Protection Association (VCPA) and a number of food businesses are members of Vietnam National Codex Committee

(ii) Activities aimed at Increasing Consumer Participation in Food Standards Setting (update information since the 15th CCASIA)**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Although there is no an official National Codex Committee, the Committee for Standardization of the DPRK which is responsible for food standards setting as a part of its activities undertakes the works deliberating food safety-related standards setting with the National Hygiene Inspection Bureau as technical institution of the government.

The government organized and conducted the training course once or twice a year for capacity building of consumer organizations to increase consumer's awareness of food safety-related matters and to distribute the knowledge on food safety among all the consumer sectors.

Japan

No update

Pakistan

At national & provincial level workshops/awareness programmes/meetings are conducted to disseminate information about Codex standards. A national workshop on SPS management is scheduled to be held on 15th September, 2008 in collaboration with UNIDO. Similarly, private sector agencies are also encouraged to hold such workshops. Institute of Public Policy Beacon House, National University will hold a workshop on food safety soon in cooperation with NAPHIS (National Codex Focal Point, MINFAL).

Philippines

Posting of Draft Phil. National Standard (PNS) on the agency websites and conduct of public hearing or public consultation prior to finalization of a standard

Singapore

Consultation with consumers' groups in the development of new standards.

Viet Nam

We invite representative of consumer protection organization to attend Codex meeting as well as to comment draft standards and related texts in terms of food standard setting, workshop and seminars of technical committees. Food and agriculture businesses actively participate in formulation of the government position in Codex Meetings