



# Food Safety Matters

July-October, 2002

No **27**

**ICD / SEAMEO FOOD SAFETY GAZETTE**

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## Workshop on Food Safety Education Network in Thailand, Bangkok, September 5, 2002

The faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University and the SEAMEO TROPMED Network organized a workshop on Food Safety Education Networks at Chalerm Prakit Building, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Bangkok on September 5, 2002. Dr. Supraanee Changbumbrung, food safety trainer, coordinated the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to identify existing food safety activities in institutions, to seek potential collaboration among institutions to expand the food safety education network and related fields and to explore the possibilities for further activities related to food safety. It was decided that the University of Mahidol will organize food safety courses on eight Saturdays for local industries, government and academia and will offer an M.Sc. program in Food Safety and Food Control. Some local institutions presented their Food Safety Education activities for different target groups, such as Kasetsart University, Department of Medical Science - Public Health, Division of Sanitation - Ministry of Public Health, TISI, National Food Institute and others. A mapping on the detail information of their activities on food safety education and information will be constructed to build the network. Dr. John Crowther, Prof. Soemilah Sastroamidjojo, Dr. Widjaja Lukito, Dr. Siti Muslimatun, Rina Agustina-Ahmad and D.N. Iswarawanti represented ICD and SEAMEO in the meeting.

## CALENDAR - FOOD SAFETY COURSES

January 13-24, 2003	Food Safety Course at SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN UI, Jakarta. Indonesia. (English).
January 24, 2003	Training of Trainers on Food Safety at SEAMEO-TROPMED RCCN UI, Jakarta. Indonesia. (English).
January 3-7, 2003	Food Safety Course at Atmajaya University, Jakarta. Indonesia. (Indonesian)

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Dear Alumni and readers,

Many meetings have highlighted the importance of food safety education. Last August, the ICD/ SEAMEO conducted a seminar and workshop on "Food Safety Education in Decentralization Era". The ICD/SEAMEO facilitated the workshop conducted by Mahidol University and SEAMEO TROPMED Bangkok entitled "Food Safety Education Network in Thailand" in September. Also in September, The Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. conducted a conference on Food safety Education: Thinking Globally-Working Locally.

We include a Fact sheet to give you clearer understanding on the Food Safety Education.

In this newsletter we again report on many activities related to food safety at both the local and regional level. Congratulation to our trainers from Bung Hatta University, Padang; Sam Ratulangi University, Manado, Indonesia and Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand who have made a great effort in conducting the food safety course and workshop.

Lastly, We would like to invite researchers, educators, physicians, nurses, nutrition professionals, journalists and concerned consumers all over the world who read this newsletter to contribute to our newsletter.

Warmest regards  
The editors

### **The 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Committee for South East-Asia, WHO SEAR**

The fifty-fifth session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held from 11 to 13 September 2002. Participants included representatives of all the ten Member States of the region, the UN and other agencies, non-governmental organizations having official relations with WHO, as well as observers. The ICD Associates attended the program as observers. His Excellency Dr. Achmad Sujudi, Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia, inaugurated the session. The Session reviewed the Report of the Regional Director for the period of 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 and the recommendations of the Technical Discussion on Management of Decentralization of Health Care Results held during the 39th Consultative Committee for Programme Development and Management meeting. The committee decided to hold its 56th session in the WHO Regional Office in New Delhi in September 2003.

### **Half-day lecture on "Food Safety for Veterinarians: an International Update" Bogor, August 29, 2002**

The Faculty of Veterinary Bogor Agriculture University and ICD/ SEAMEO organized a half-day lecture on "Food Safety for Veterinarians". Dr. John Crowther, the project manager of WHO/ ICD Food Safety Project, delivered his lecture to the faculty members and post-graduate students. The lecture has been delivered annually since 1999 with updates on current food safety issues for veterinarians.

### **Workshop and Seminar on Food Safety Surabaya, October 9-10, 2002**

On October 9-10, 2002 the Food Security Agency (Badan Ketahanan Pangan), East Java Province conducted a two-day seminar and workshop at Cendana Hotel on Food Safety. The program was aimed at obtaining insights on food safety aspects and formulating agreements for operational plans from relevant institutions or organizations. It was attended by people from various institutions within the East Java Provincial Office, Regional Offices, local universities, local NGOs, the local House of Representative, local Drug and Food Control Agency officers, and local industries. Four different papers were presented for the seminar, Food Safety Regulation (Prof. Deddy Fardiaz, NADFC Indonesia), The Role of Food Safety Education in Increasing the Quality of Human Resources (Rina Agustina-Ahmad, ICD/SEAMEO), Local Food Safety Program (Head of BKP East Java) and Strategy for Food Safety Research (Dr. Sri Rahardjo, Gadjah Mada University). During the workshop, the participants were divided into three different groups to discuss about Food Safety Education, Food Safety Regulation Program and Research on Food Safety.

### **Seminar and Workshop on Food Safety Education in Decentralization Era Jakarta, August 27, 2002**



The purpose of this event was to share information on implementing food safety education in Indonesia including its potentials and challenges, particularly in the decentralization era. Dr. John Crowther from the Industry Council for Development; Dr. Winiati Pudji Rahayu from National Agency for Drugs and Food Control and Dr. Komar Hanifi from Bogor Regency Health Office presented papers. About 43 participants attended the seminar and 34 the workshop. Participants came from 29 different institutions from government, academia, industry and consumer groups. The workshop affirmed the priority of food safety education and identified the target audience, responsible institutions and channels used.



### Seminar on The Role of Food Safety in Tourism Bali, September 3, 2002

The ICD/SEAMEO organized the one day seminar in collaboration with the University of Udayana, Bali and the Gadjah Mada University. The speakers were Dr. John Crowther from the Industry Council for Development; Dr. Sri Rahardjo from Gadjah Mada University and Prof. Dr. W. Redy T. Aryana from the University of Udayana. The purpose of the seminar was to share perceptions of the role of food safety in tourism, increase awareness of existing food safety problems in Bali as well as other Eastern part of Indonesia and to establish a partnerships among local stakeholders to improve food safety condition in Bali. Food Safety Education for various target groups was one of the programs identified.

### The First Food Safety Course at Bung Hatta University, Padang, July 15-18, 2002

The first Food Safety Course in Padang was conducted on July 15-18, 2002. The course was coordinated by Dr. Nurul Huda, the trainers of the ICD/WHO/SEAMEO Food Safety Course in Jakarta, January, 2002. Ten participants attended the course from the Nutrition academy, the Fishery faculty, the Mangrove study centre, a catering company, the Centre for the Study of Food and Nutrition and Regency Health Office.

The course materials were presented in Indonesian language by lectures from ICD/SEAMEO UI, ICD local companies (Nestle and Unilever), the Faculty Medicine of Andalas University and Balai POM, Padang. The second food safety course will be conducted in June next year.

### The Water Safety and Quality Training Manado, September 16-17, 2002

The ICD/WHO/SEAMEO Food Safety trainer from The University of Sam Ratulangi, Manado organized two day training using the Indonesian version of the ICD manual "Drinking Water: A Quality Assured". The speakers were Mr. Eddy Kemenady - PT. Unilever Indonesia, Mr. Untung W. Widayat- PT. Nestle Indonesia, Ms. D.N. Iswarawanti - ICD/SEAMEO and some local resource persons from Sam Ratulangi University, the local public water supplier and the Agro-based Research Center.

The objective of the workshop was to improve participant's awareness of current problems of water safety and quality in Manado to inform them about drinking water quality standard and to introduce the proper drinking water treatment.

The organizer also gave an HACCP exercise on drinking water production on the request of the participants.

Australia will have a food safety week from 11 to 17 November 2002 on the theme of reducing food poisoning risk for school students. The campaign is organized by The Food Safety Information Council, a not-for-profit organization that educate consumers in safe food handling.

Trish Worth, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, said that school students will be educated about the risk of food poisoning as part of Food Safety Week. The students will know common causes of food poisoning and will be taught about a good food handling practices.

For further information, visit the website at: [www.foodstandard.gov.au](http://www.foodstandard.gov.au).

"If you want to be healthy, you have to stay as close to nature as possible". Some people believe that "close to nature" means "raw food". In fact, raw food can be dangerous. Some heating is still needed to make it safe. Thomas R. DeGregori said that the changes in physiology that produce larger brains and erect posture and freed our hands for tool making were accompanied by changes in our dentition and jaw muscles and by the devel-

opment of a digestive tract that cannot digest cellulose and raw starch. Cooking has rightly been described as a type of "external, partial pre digestion."

<http://www.healthfactsandfears.com>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in cooperation with the partnership for Food Safety Education held the 2nd National Conference for Food Safety Educators in Orlando, Florida September 18-20, 2002. The theme was Thinking Globally-Working Locally. Educators, Professionals, Food Safety Consultants, Researchers in the food safety and by the media from all over the U.S. and around the world. Further information and conference material is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Orlando2002/index.htm>

**THE  
CASCADE  
OF  
FOOD  
SAFETY  
COURSES**

**NEWS  
FROM  
FAR &  
WIDE**

**FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION IN THE DECENTRALIZATION ERA**

One important issue related to food safety is the high incidence of foodborne diseases. The health consequences of foodborne diseases vary according to the pathogen, stage of treatment and duration, as well as age and other factors that affect a person's resistance and susceptibility. Acute symptoms include diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, cramps, fever, and jaundice. In most cases immunocompetent persons recover within a few days or a few weeks. In some cases, however, particularly among vulnerable groups (e.g. the elderly, infants, young children, pregnant women, and malnourished, immunocompromised persons), some food-borne diseases may be fatal, especially when adequate treatment is not available (Borgdorff and Motarjemi, 1997). The World Health Organization (WHO) concluded that food-borne diseases may cause the death for more than 2 million children annually in developing countries (WHO, 2000).

A food is considered safe if it does not contain contaminants at levels that cause harm when it is consumed. The prevention of foodborne diseases requires that contamination be prevented or controlled at all stages of the food chain from production to consumption. However, measures implemented at the earlier stages of the food chain will be effective only if measures are also applied at later stages, particularly when food is being prepared for consumption. Therefore, prevention of foodborne diseases can be described in terms of three defense mechanisms; (1) improvement of hygienic quality of the raw food from the farm, (2) application of food technology that able to control the contaminants, and (3) education for consumers and food handlers. The latter is crucial when the first and second mechanisms fail (WHO, 2000).

Again, food safety is everyone's responsibilities. The stakeholders of food safety are well established in the three pillars introduced by WHO; they are academia/governments, industry and consumers. Preventive strategies comprise the following measures: (1) regulatory measures, (2) educational activities, and (3) the surveillance of food-borne diseases and monitoring of contaminants. Each stake holder has its own specific role to play and no single stakeholder can solve the problem alone (WHO, 2000).

The power of education has been also proven by experience from educational program on other health concerns, such as reproductive health. Well designed and implemented educational programs are a feasible and cost-effective strategy for improving health status (Piotrow et al., 1997). In the light of food safety, methods and strategies on food safety education should therefore be targeted to all parties involved in the food chain.



The WHO (2000) underlined that education gives a strong impact in preventing food-borne diseases by enabling the consumers to (1) consume safe foods, (2) know the hazards in foods, (3) know how to control it, and (4) know the principles of food safety.

Food safety management has progressed rapidly in recent years. The current recommended approach involves risk analysis, which includes risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Risk communication as a component of health education in food safety, consists of understanding consumers' perception of food safety risks and disseminating the results of risk assessment and decisions regarding risk management. The latter may include measures that governments or industries should implement or practices that the public as consumers or food handlers should observe (WHO, 2000).

Through the Act no. 22 in 1999 about "Regional Autonomy", Indonesia is currently undergoing a transition in which the health sector is decentralized under the authority of the local governments. Budgets, human resources and other resources as well as the flow of instructions in the implementation of food safety program will be administrated by the local authorities. The central and provincial government facilitates and supervises the programs/activities carried out in the districts.

Furthermore, in the side of government, Indonesian National Agency for Food and Drugs Control (NAFDC) on 26 February 2001 through the decree no. 02001/SK/KB/POM on "Organization", established a new "Directorate of Food Safety Surveillance and Education" under Division of Food Safety and Hazard Substance Control. This division has established an integrated food safety system that introduce food safety network. The network has three areas of concern, they are food intelligence, food control and food safety promotion. Interestingly, on the academic side, a collaboration between Industry Council for Development (ICD) and South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) through ICD/SEAMEO Cooperative Program, a course on food safety has been integrated into the curriculum of Master of Science at the SEAMEO-TROPMED Regional Center for Community Nutrition (RCCN) University of Indonesia (UI) since 1992 using the ICD/WHO manual on "Food Safety for Nutritionist and other Health Professionals". Currently the program has grown to 6 countries. A workshop on Food Safety Education took place on 27 August 2002, organized by the ICD/SEAMEO Cooperative Program. This workshop was attended by people from government, industry, NGOs, academia, research center, and by consumers. The workshop identified potential problems in food safety, determined who should be responsible for putting food safety in place and identified potentials and future challenges for implementing food safety education with regards to regional autonomy.

**References:**

Borgdorff MW and Motarjemi Y. Surveillance of food-borne diseases: What are the option? Food safety Issues. Food Safety Unit, World Health Organization, Geneva, 1997.

WHO. Food-borne disease: a focus for health education. World Health Organization, Geneva, 2000.

Piotrow PT, Kincaid DL, Rimon II JG, and Rinehart W. Health communication: lessons from family planning and reproductive health. Johns Hopkins University/Center for Communication Program, USA, 1997.

We congratulate Avita Usfar, Erika Wasito, and Helda Khusun for the safe deliveries of their gorgeous newborns.

Two thumbs-up to Siti Muslimatun and her team for the successful South East Asia Nutritionist Leadership Program (SEANLP) held on October 14-19, 2002.

**AGENDA OF THE SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN UI**  
**Prof. Nevin Scrimshaw visits SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN UI**  
 Between 18 and 20 of November, Prof. Nevin Scrimshaw (President of the International Nutrition Foundation) will visit the centre to assess of the institutional capacity building.

**SHORT COURSE OFFERED BY SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN UI**  
**Nutrition in Food Industry (English) November 25 - December 2, 2002**  
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