

## ○ Assessment guidelines

To facilitate the smooth deliberations of risk assessment, FSC guidelines have been developed to outline the basic principle of dossier/data submission and procedures for food-related risk assessment. To date, 11 guidelines have been developed (e.g. 'guidelines of safety assessment standards for genetically modified (GM) foods') and are used for assessments.

## ○ Fact sheets

FSC's fact sheets are outlined information/data sheet of concerned hazards. They are drafted based on the latest scientific knowledge from those international bodies' various risk assessments and research results available at the time of publication. Additional data are periodically added to the existing published fact sheets such as those on 'acrylamide in processed food', 'growth hormone for cattle', 'potassium bromate', 'trans fatty acids', 'effects of excessive vitamin A intake', 'Q fever' and 'the effects of alcoholic drink intake for pregnant women on fetus.' FSC is committed to continuously collect and analyze latest knowledge so that the information is relayed to the general public in a timely manner.

## 2. Risk communication

Risk communication by FSC aims at communicating with stakeholders on risk assessment outcomes or other information related to food safety through opinion exchange and other methods. Commonly used communication practices include the followings:

### ○ Opinion exchange meetings on risk assessment results

Once a draft risk assessment report is finalized, by usual procedure, FSC seeks public comments on assessment outcomes. Additionally, in some cases FSC holds opinion exchange meetings with stakeholders (e.g. consumers and industry participants) to offer direct commentaries about assessments, especially when the assessed subject is of high concern by general public. In fiscal 2009, FSC held opinion exchange meetings on subjects such as 'Campylobacter, the food-poisoning bacteria' and 'Beef and beef offal imported to Japan from countries with no BSE report.'

'Science cafe' is another type of opinion exchange meeting where participants can freely exchange opinions about basic science as is the foundation of risk assessment. Under international program, FSC invites experts from overseas to host seminars on international trend and the latest knowledge of selected hazards.

### Junior Food Safety Commission

This summer event is one of FSC's ways of risk communication with general public, specifically targeting 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> graders at elementary schools and their parents.

Core concept of this event is FSC's recognition that kids are the future key players of food safety. Participants are also given opportunity to learn basics about food safety from FSC Commissioners while having fun. Their mock deliberation takes place in the real FSC meeting room, and the event has been continued since 2007.

