



ARAC

ASEAN
RISK ASSESSMENT CENTRE
FOR FOOD SAFETY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FOR FOOD SAFETY?”

26 APRIL 2017

TOKYO, JAPAN

INTRODUCTION

- Establishment of ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC):
 - Inline with the direction of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to establish ASEAN as a single market and production base which lead to the free movement of safe food and achieve the Science-based ASEAN Common Food Safety Measures
 - Initiated by the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety (AEGFS) and guided by the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD)
 - endorsed by the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM), September 2014, Hanoi Viet Nam

“We commit to strengthen national food control systems and work together to contribute towards safe and quality food in the ASEAN Community. We recognise risk assessment as an important tool to provide scientific input in developing evidence-based food safety measures, and shall build capacity for integrated ASEAN risk assessment through the ARAC”

INTRODUCTION

- Establishment of ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC):
 - reflected in the Chairman’s statement of the 27th ASEAN Summit, November 2015, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
 - *“ARAC in Malaysia as an important landmark in the application of an integrated risk assessment mechanism to provide independent scientific input by pooling and utilising scientific expertise across ASEAN in developing evidence-based common food safety measures in ASEAN. This would contribute towards safe and quality food in the ASEAN Community as well as in facilitating food trade within ASEAN*
- Hosted by Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia & supported by the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE)

OBJECTIVES

- ARAC is to provide independent scientific opinion on food safety issues of common interest in ASEAN including during a food safety crisis to promote adoption of common position/food safety measures and to facilitate trade.
- The functions of ARAC are:
 - Coordinate the implementation of food safety risk assessment in ASEAN by pooling and utilising scientific expertise across ASEAN;
 - Strengthen the capacity on the risk assessment of AMS;
 - Facilitate sharing of information and experiences on risk assessment;
 - Provide a pool of qualified experts on risk assessment; and
 - Coordinate and communicate with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and collaborative partners.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision Statement

“ARAC aims to be a regional coordinating centre for independent food safety risk assessment in enhancing the health of the ASEAN Community and facilitate its food trade”

Mission Statement

“ARAC’s mission is to carry out independent food safety risk assessment in a timely and transparent manner utilising available scientific resources”

ARAC LOGO

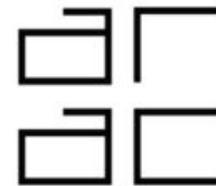


LOGO INFORMATION

INFO 1



ARAC logo formed by colourful (Red, Yellow & Blue) rounded bar that shape a + r + a + c



INFO 2



The Red, Yellow & Blue colour scheme are taken from ASEAN logo colours



INFO 3



The rounded bar inspired by 'test tube' and 'bar chart' signifying the scientific approach



COMPONENT OF ARAC

Component of ARAC	Note
<p>Scientific Committee (SC)</p> <p><u>Main roles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review risk assessment request • identify experts required for the Scientific Panel from the ASEAN Risk Assessor directory • review and adopt scientific opinion from the Scientific Panel 	<p>Each AMS shall nominate one (1) scientist.</p>
<p>Scientific Panel (SP)</p> <p><u>Main roles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform risk assessment and produce scientific opinion for adoption by Scientific Committee • will only convened when directed by Scientific Committee (on a need basis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMS shall nominate <u>any number</u> of risk assessors (criteria in the SOP). - Panelist/Members for the Scientific Panel would be taken from the ASEAN Risk Assessor Directory i.e. by the Scientific Committee (on a need basis).
<p>ARAC Secretariat</p> <p><u>Main roles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide the needed support for the efficient functioning of ARAC including the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel. 	<p>Consists of three (3) personnel provided by the Ministry of Health Malaysia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Dr. Chin Cheow Keat (ii) Laila Rabaah Ahmad Suhaimi (iii) Nur Hidayah Jamaludin

OTHER COMPONENT RELATED TO ARAC

Other component	Note
<p>ASEAN Sectoral Body on Food Safety</p> <p><u>Main roles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as governing body of ARAC 	<p>Previously ASEAN Sectoral Body on Food Safety is AEGFS. Currently it is replaced by Health Cluster 4: Enhancing Food Safety</p>
<p>ARAC Focal Points</p> <p><u>Main roles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a link between national food safety authority in AMS and ARAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eg: to provide data or information to ARAC Secretariat on a need basis 	<p>Each AMS shall nominate Focal Point (1 permanent + 1 alternate)</p>

HOW ARAC FUNCTION

Requesting body

Request for risk assessment / scientific opinion by Risk manager / requesting body

ASEAN Sectoral Body on Food Safety

Provide risk assessment output / scientific opinion to requesting body through AEGFS

Secretariat of ARAC

-Provide the support to the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel
-Collect and update scientific data and information through AMS Focal Point for Risk Assessment

Scientific Committee

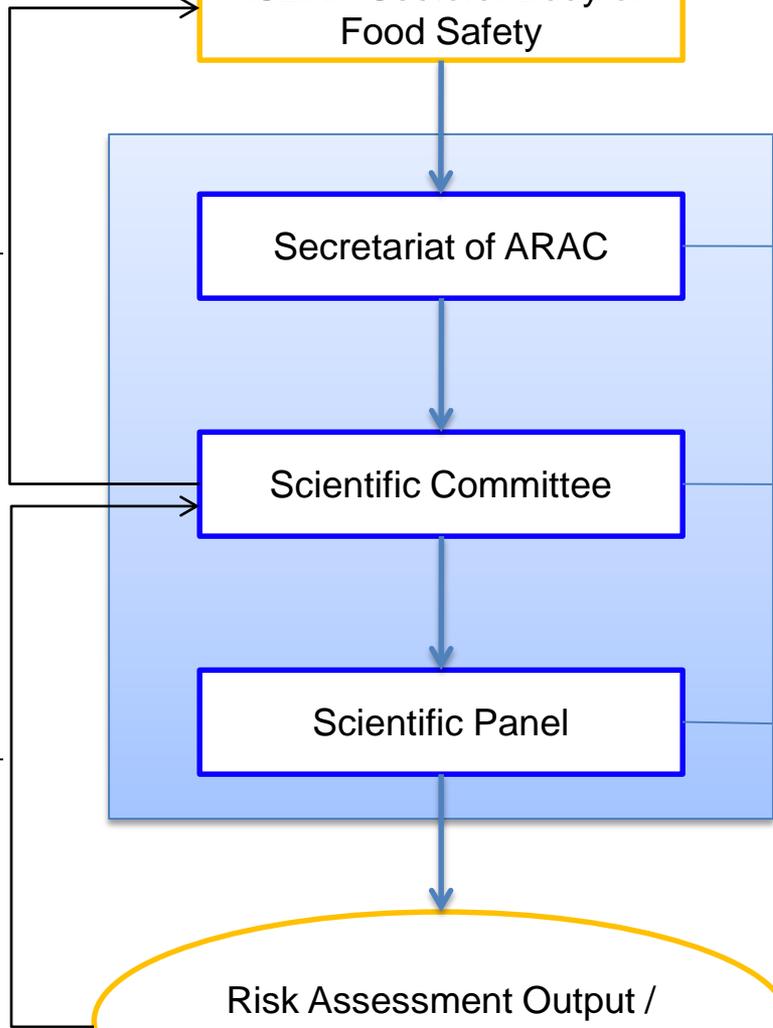
-Review of request in terms of clarity, completeness and expected output
-- appoint experts from ASEAN database into Scientific Panel
-- adopt scientific opinion from Scientific Panel

Scientific Panel

-Conduct independent scientific assessment
-produce scientific opinion

Adoption of risk assessment output / scientific opinion by Scientific Committee

Risk Assessment Output / Scientific Opinion



OPERATIONALISATION OF ARAC

- Operational of ARAC are guided by SOPs:
- Started to operate after its launching on 22 Mac 2016
- Activities of ARAC:
 - 1) Official Launching of ARAC;
 - 2) 1st Scientific Committee Meeting of ARAC;
 - 3) 1st Scientific Panel Meeting of ARAC; and
 - 4) Outreach & interaction with Potential Collaborative Partner
 - 5) Review and Evaluation of ARAC

Official Launching of ARAC

- Objective
 - to provide a brief orientation of ARAC
 - to increase visibility of ARAC
- Launched by the Honourable Minister of Health Malaysia, 22 March 2016, Pullman Hotel, Putrajaya Malaysia.
- Attended by 112 international, regional and local delegates including Secretary General of ASEAN; Deputy Secretary General ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC); EU Ambassador to ASEAN and; Chair and Vice Chair of ASEAN sectoral bodies.
- Launching was followed by a Panel Discussion entitled “ARAC: Strengthening food safety risk assessment in ASEAN”

Official Launching of ARAC

22nd March 2016



1st Scientific Committee Meeting of ARAC

b) 1st Scientific Committee Meeting of ARAC

- Held in ARAC Office, Putrajaya from 23 – 24 March 2016
- Attended by 26 participants:
 - 8 Scientific Committee Members (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam);
 - 3 from the ARAC Secretariat; and
 - 15 observers (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, ASEAN Secretariat and ARISE)
- Dr Paul Chiew King Tiong from Singapore and Ms Norrani Eksan from Malaysia was elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair of Scientific Committee for 3 years (2016-2019)
- The Meeting reviewed and evaluated 3 risk assessment requests submitted:
 - Total Aflatoxins and Aflatoxin B1 through the consumption of peanut and corn, including their products
 - *Salmonella spp* in Chicken
 - Cyclamates through the consumption of food sweetened with cyclamate

1st Scientific Committee Meeting of ARAC

23-24 March 2016



1st Scientific Panel Meeting of ARAC

- **1st Scientific Panel Meeting of ARAC “Risk Assessment on Total Aflatoxins and Aflatoxin B1 through the Consumption of Peanut and Corn, including their Products”**
 - The Meeting was held in ARAC Office, Putrajaya from 26 to 27 October 2016
 - The Meeting was attended by 22 participants:
 - 9 member of the Scientific Panel
 - 3 from the ARAC Secretariats
 - 10 observers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, and ARISE.
 - Ms Kwanyuen Sripaoraya is elected as Chair and Dr Hanifah Nuryani Lioe as Vice Chair of Scientific Panel of ARAC. Dr. Nurul Izzah Ahmad is appointed as Rapporteur
 - The Meeting had discussed on the approach for the risk assessment based on the risk questions, establish work plan and timeline for the completion of the risk assessment tasks and develop format for the risk assessment report or scientific opinion

1st Scientific Panel Meeting of ARAC



Outreach Program

- ARAC will seek any possibilities to enhance visibility of ARAC as well as facilitate the understanding on the work of ARAC among relevant stakeholders:
 - i. FAO Regional Training Workshop: “Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries”, 9 -11 Januari 2017, Bangkok, Thailand
 - ii. 21st Meeting of the Expert Working Group (EWG) on Harmonisation of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLS) of Pesticides among ASEAN Countries, 18-20 January 2017, Penang, Malaysia
 - iii. International Conference “What Does the Future Hold for International Scientific Cooperation for Food Safety?”, 26 April 2017, Tokyo, Japan
 - iv. World Food Summit – Better Food for More People 2017, 24-25 August 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark

Outreach Program



FAO Regional Training Workshop: "Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries", 9 -11 Januari 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



21st Meeting of the Expert Working Group (EWG) on Harmonisation of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides among ASEAN Countries

Interaction with Potential Collaborative Partner

- ARAC will act as a platform for regional and international networking with relevant sector and organisations such as:
 - European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
 - Application Européenne de Technologies et de Services (AETS)
 - Delegation of ASEAN regional Danish Embassy and representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Food and the Danish Veterinary and Food Agency

Interaction with Potential Collaborative Partner



Embassy of Denmark, Malaysia (2016)



EFSA and AETS (2016)



Dr Georges Kass from EFSA (2015)

Review and Evaluation of ARAC

- Workshop to review and assess ARAC
 - Objectives :
 - To improve the implementing mechanism of ARAC
 - To identify the next step/way forward of ARAC
 - Will involve:
 - Scientific Committee of ARAC
 - Scientific Panel of ARAC
 - ARAC Focal Point
 - Risk manager (AMS and ASEAN Sectoral Bodies)
 - ARISE
- This workshop is planned to be held in last quarter of 2017.
- Results and experience in conducting Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel Meeting as well as input from Risk Managers on ARAC SOPs will be used for the review of ARAC operation.

Food Safety Initiatives in ASEAN

SUPPORT FUTURE ASEAN SINGLE MARKET

FACILITATE INTRA-ASEAN FOOD TRADE BY
ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

- Minimize differences and gaps between ASEAN Member States Food Control systems
- Enhance harmonization of food safety measures and control procedures of ASEAN Member States

ASEAN FOOD SAFETY
POLICY

ASEAN FOOD SAFETY
REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK

MUTUAL RECOGNITION
ARRANGEMENT (MRA)

HARMONISATION OF
FOOD SAFETY
STANDARDS

ASEAN FOOD SAFETY
NETWORK

ASEAN COMMON FOOD
CONTROL
REQUIREMENTS

ASEAN RISK ASSESSMENT
CENTER

ASEAN RAPID ALERT
SYSTEM FOR FOOD &
FEED

CONCLUSION

ASEAN in collaboration with relevant partners has obviously succeeded in undertaking a significant amount of cooperative work in relation to food safety issues across the different sectors of agriculture, trade and health.

These initiatives have indeed facilitated in enhancing the capacity of ASEAN in improving food safety and have established a base for the process of regional integration towards ASEAN Community 2025.

CONTACT



ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC),

Food Safety and Quality Division,
Ministry of Health Malaysia,
Level 4, Menara Prisma,
No 26, Persiaran Perdana, Presint 3,
62675 Putrajaya, Malaysia.

☎ +603-88850797

📠 +603-88850798

✉ arac@moh.gov.my

www.arac-asean.org

THANK YOU



This is supported by the European Union through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE).