ILSI SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION

Improving Nutrition and Food Safety for Public Health

SCIENTIFIC STRATEGIES AND PROGRAM

ILSI SEA Region’s core strategy for maximizing our impact on public health is to:

- Share new scientific knowledge and research in nutrition and food safety
- Develop capabilities in the region for science-based decision making
- Foster innovation in a diverse region
- Support community health programs and research.

The strategies are pursued through our Scientific Program, which is organized and facilitated through our Science Clusters and Task Forces.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013 - 2014

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Mr. Geoffrey Smith
Vice President
Dr. Roger Beltran
Co-Vice President
Dr. Sudhija Chang
Honorary Secretary
Dr. Harvey Glick
Honorary Treasurer
Dr. Lionel Buratti
Member-at-large
Dr. Yoko Ogiso
Member-at-large
Prof. Corazon Barba
Member-at-large
Dr. E. Song Tew

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Soh Hia Chan
Mr. Howard Gimour
Dr. Leon Gursky
Dr. Widadua Lukito
Dr. Nadim Anwar
Prof. Andrew Sinclair
Dr. Elifrom Waseda-kan
Dr. Aman Warakalitsakumah

COUNTRY OFFICE / COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Australia
Ms. Christine Dowdall
Indonesia
Ms. Wandasari Ruch-Rathi
Malaysia
Dr. Sze Young Lim
Philippines
Dr. Rodolfo Florentino
Thailand
Mr. Rattanaporn Chotitawan

In addition, a panel of experts serves as advisors to the Scientific Clusters and Task Forces under which the branch’s programs operate.

REGIONAL OFFICE

Executive Director
Mrs. Bom Yee Yeong
Deputy Director, Scientific Programs
Dr. Sohna Amoana
Deputy Director, Development and Communications
Mr. Li Yong Yeong
Senior Manager, Administration
Ms. Amy Koo
Manager, Administrative Programs
Ms. Jadee Gayer
Manager, Scientific Programs
Mr. Kang Ngee Teoh
Assistant Manager, Administration
Mr. Chong Chien

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 ACTIVITIES

NUTRITION

HEALTHY AGING STRATEGIES FOR ASIA AND AUSTRALASIA

With widespread demographic changes taking place in Asia and Australia, a new population aging presents unique challenges to government policy makers and health care providers. To explore the science and policy around nutrition, physical activity and healthy aging, ILSI SEA Region organized a conference called “Optimum Health and Nutrition for our Aging Population” held in Singapore in March 2013, and a symposium called “Optimum Health and Nutrition for our Aging Population” held in Melbourne, Australia, in May 2013.

The symposium in Australia was co-organized with The Omega-3 Centre, and highlighted key issues affecting nutrition for the elderly. It also provided an update on the latest science on nutrition and aging, shared common goals for future research as well as action by industry and government to help address these issues.

The conference in Singapore was organized with the Singapore Health Promotion Board, in collaboration with the Singapore Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIR0) of Australia. The 2-day conference discussed current findings on diet, nutrition, and longevity, discussed the health values of the elderly in Singapore, and reviewed international and regional experiences on programs and research into aging, and identified effective nutrition and health practices to promote healthy aging.

MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION OF FOODS TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Micronutrient deficiencies continue to present a significant challenge to public health throughout Asia, particularly in vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and young children. The fortification of food products with micronutrients is an ongoing strategy to address this public health concern. With evaporating regulations and technologies surrounding food fortification, there is a need for better control levels, food vehicles, and level of regulatory control in addition. The ability to improve micronutrient deficiencies in some Asian countries is not well-established.

To address this issue, ILSI SEA Region co-organized a parallel symposium session “Micronutrient Fortification: Science and Strategies for Public Health Improvement in Asia” in September 2013 at the International Congress of Nutrition in Asia. The session featured case studies in large-scale food fortification from Vietnam, Philippines, and Cambodia, and provided the opportunity to share scientific outcomes, lessons learnt on administrative policy, and business case studies from around the region to achieve the common goal of public health improvement. The session was supported by ILSI SEA Region, ILSI Japan Centre for Health Promotion, ILSI Focal Point in China, and the Government of Singapore (Gomen). ILSI SEA Region also organized a Regional Conference on Micronutrient Fortification of Food held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2015 to equip an update on micronutrient deficiency in Southeast Asia, and to address issues related to the micronutrient fortification of foods, including benefits and regulatory considerations. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Food Science and Technology Association of Thailand (FoSTAT), and discussed future strategies to address micronutrient deficiency in Asia.

FOOD SAFETY

ASEAN FOOD CONSUMPTION DATA AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

Following the earlier workshop held in 2011, ILSI SEA Region in collaboration with the Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized the 2nd Workshop on ASEAN Food Consumption Data and Exposure Assessment held from 13-15 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This workshop is part of the work of the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety (AEGFS) Project on “Strengthening ASEAN Risk Assessment Capacities: Food Consumption Data”. The project aims to develop an ASEAN Food Consumption Data Base that could be used for dietary exposure assessment for both food safety and nutrition. Technical representatives from all 10 ASEAN Member States, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by experts from FAO and WHO. At the end of the workshop, an agreement was obtained for a harmonized format for the ASEAN Food Consumption Database to collate available national food consumption data. The format is also harmonized with WHO/FAO requirements so that it could easily be adopted by the stakeholders. Based on the agreement it was decided to continue the evaluation of the consumption data into the ASEAN Food Consumption Database and to be made available to the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre (ARAC) for potential use in future risk assessment capacity development.

MEMBERS 2013 - 2014

- Abbott Manufacturing Singapore Pte Ltd
- Ajinomoto Co, Inc. ASEAN Regional Headquarters
- Almond Board of California
- BASF Southeast Asia Pte Ltd
- Bayar CropScience (China) Company Ltd
- BENEDE Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd
- Campbell Arnotts
- Coca Cola ASEAN
- Danone Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Ltd
- DSM Nutritional Products Asia Pte Ltd
- DuPont Nutrition & Health
- F&N Interfinance Pte Ltd
- Fosters Brand
- In2Pharm
- Mars Inc
- Mead Johnson Nutrition (Asia) Pacific Pte Ltd
- Meat & Livestock Australia
- Mondelēz International
- Moskito Singapore Co (Pty) Ltd
- Nestle R&D Center (Pty) Ltd
- Nutrition Strategies International
- Pepsico Asia Services
- PT Carig Indonesia
- PT Nutrifood Indonesia
- Shiremade (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd
- Simplot Australia Pty Ltd
- Unilever GCEA-JK
- Yakult Honsha Co Ltd
- Yeo Hsiang Seng Ltd

Food allergies are increasingly being recognized globally as an important public health concern, including in Southeast Asia. In view of the need to address this issue, ILSI SEA Region supported a session on “Managing Allergens in the Food Chain” at the 13th ASEAN Food Science and Technology Conference, held in Singapore in September 2013. Among the highlights of the session was the sharing of Dr. Lee Bee Wah of the National University of Singapore on the prevalence of food allergies in the Southeast Asian region. In contrast to Western populations, peanut allergies are rare in Southeast Asia while allergies to fish/shrimp are much more common. This is in part due to cross-reactivity from the inhalation of dust and insect allergens, which is common due to hot and humid climatic conditions. In addition, Ms. Kristen Sintir from the Allergen Bureau in Australia also shared updates on ongoing initiatives being undertaken by the food industry in Australia to support decision making on allergen labeling through the “Voluntary Incidental Trace Allergen labeling” (VITAL) program. The VITAL program is underpinned by scientific risk assessment to determine the likelihood of cross contamination. The thresholds for typical allergens are subsequently used to set action levels to guide the need for trace allergen labeling. Due to its effectiveness, similar approaches may one day be rolled out in other regions including Southeast Asia to manage allergens in the food chain.

的一员: Dr. Md. Zaid bin Kasim

- Chair of the Allergen Bureau
- Managing Director of Allergen Bureau

- Advisor, Food Safety

Each of the Science Clusters covers a wide range of scientific issues and public health challenges. Scientific projects, activities and programs that address these challenges are carried out through our Task Forces. To maximize our impact and strengthen our leadership role in strategic and/or emerging areas, ILSI SEA Region has also identified flagship programs with a 2-5-year framework of objectives, outcomes and outputs, within each of our Science Clusters.

OUR MISSION TO ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

With 2 decades of scientific undertakings, ILSI SEA Region’s mission is to contribute scientific knowledge and understanding of nutrition, food safety, and health. By building a strong network of partnerships with many institutions and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region, ILSI SEA Region is able to bring together cutting-edge science for public health impact in the region. We continue to strengthen our scientific resources by collaborating with leading scientists, research organizations and academic institutions in our region and globally.