

Report on International Conference

As part of briefing sessions on the results of the research of “Sharing Information on Food Standards and Methods of Analysis in East Asia”, which was conducted as the FY2009 and FY2010 Overseas Business Support Project for Japanese Food Industry supported by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the following international conference was held at Pathumwan Princess Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on March 4 (Fri.), 2011.

International Conference for Sharing Information on Food Standards, Resource and Environmental Conservation for Food Industries in Asia Pacific – Challenges and Opportunities for Food Safety & Human Health –

Background of the Conference:

The Second ASEAN+3 Roundtable Conference on Food Security Cooperation Strategy was held in May 2010 in Tokyo. At the conference, the participating countries shared the recognition of the necessity of dialogues for promotion of agriculture and food industries within the region. Further, the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security was first held in October 2010 in Niigata, Japan, where “dialogues of food industries on quality management and resource and environment conservation” was established as an action plan.

Purposes of the International Conference:

In order to strengthen food industries’ capabilities of quality and safety control of foods in the region for enhancement of their international competitiveness, it is of key importance for the food industries in the region to understand the food standards and methods of analysis in the countries in the region. Thus, this international conference was held for the following purposes: (1) To make investigations on the commodity food standards and methods of analysis in the Asia-Pacific region and to contribute to the mutual understanding in the region. (2) To contribute to future possibility of integration or harmonization of the commodity food standards and methods of analysis in the Asia-Pacific region. (3) To contribute to fair trade and business opportunities for foods in the region through the activities mentioned in (1) and (2).

At this international conference, ILSI Japan and ILSI Focal Point in China, ILSI Korea and ILSI Southeast Asia Region reported the results of the research of “Investigation and Sharing of Information on Food Standards and Methods of Analysis in East Asia” conducted as the FY2009 and FY2010

Overseas Business Support Project for Japanese Food Industry supported by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (**Session 1**). In addition, the representatives from Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand made presentations on the activities and roles of the regulatory authorities and food industries toward harmonization of the standards for foods and agricultural products in ASEAN countries (**Session 2**). Furthermore, in relation to food security and environmental issues (**Session 3**), an official of the Thai office of FAO gave a lecture about stable supply of foods and food security in the ASEAN region. In relation to the efforts for environment protection/preservation, the representative from Ajinomoto Co. which is developing business in Thailand made a presentation on the activities and efforts in the Thai factory of Ajinomoto Co., specifically, case reports, problems and challenges.

The participants were far more than expected and totaled over 100 persons. Not only the administrators in Thailand but also officials of Thai embassies of the countries in the ASEAN and APEC regions and administrators of Indonesia, Philippine and Hong Kong were present at the Conference. It was noted that interest of administrators and food industries in harmonization of the standards for foods and agricultural products in the ASEAN countries is very high. The conference was really more successful than expected.