

APEC High Level Public-Private Forum on Cold Chains to Strengthen Agriculture and Global Food's Value Chains

October 28-29, 2015, Kagoshima City, Japan

Executive Summary

1. APEC High Level Public-Private Forum on Cold Chains to Strengthen Global Agriculture and Food Value Chains (ATC 01 2014A) was held at Kagoshima, Japan on October 28-29, 2015, hosted by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan, with the cooperation by APEC and Kagoshima Prefecture. Sixteen (16) APEC economies and others from government, business, and academic sectors attended¹.

Opening Session

2. Mr. Akira INOUE, Regional Director of MAFF Kyushu, welcomed the participants to Forum as well as Kagoshima, one of the largest agricultural production areas in Japan. He expected that Forum, which was a direct response to “2013 ABAC Recommendations to Leaders²”, would contribute to developing cold chains in Asia Pacific region.

Session 1 - Global Food Value Chains and Cold Chains in Agriculture and Agribusiness

3. As keynote speeches, comprehensive presentations on the cold chains situation in Japan and its technology were provided. The

¹ APEC Members: Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; USA; Viet Nam. Non APEC Member: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar

² “Reduce food losses and increase food safety through more effective use of cold chain technology and increasing awareness of food safety standards”. (page 22)

participants exchange their views on public support and finance/banking for the introduction of cold chains. Also, they discussed the importance of soft component, such as human resource development, to maintain the cold chains.

Exhibition of Cold Chain Technology

4. Exhibition of cold chain technology was provided. Ten (10) booths from business and public sectors showed the latest technology along food value chains from production to final consumption.

Session 2: Challenges in APEC Economies on Development of Cold Chains

5. The results of APEC Research, through literature review, questionnaire survey, and field survey, were reported. The researcher highlighted the utilization of the global events and opportunities to tackle the fiscal burden for the investment for cold chains infrastructures. Also, technical transfer on knowledge and know-hows on cold chains management was underlined.
6. Comments and experiences were provided by field-surveyed participants: the Philippine and Viet Nam. In addition, the current situation on cold chains in Myanmar was presented. Recognizing the high ratio of postharvest loss such as 30% and 60%, the participants exchanges their views on issues, including producers' access to market information, banking technique to be improved, improvement in planting and harvesting to avoid postharvest loss, and effective usage of seasonal facilities.
7. A proposal on a creation of "Cold Chains Forum" with the support of Global Cold Chain Alliance, GCCA, was raised by Japan's MAFF.

The proposed Forum would be useful for interested people to discuss any issues regarding cold chains, including policy, technology, and new products. The participants welcomed this web-based one-year trial project, and were looking forward to hearing its progress.

Session 3: Development of Cold Chains in collaboration among Public and Private Sectors

8. Cold Chains' challenges, experiences, and lessons from business sector in the Philippines, Japan, Malaysia and Viet Nam were shared. Issues on, among others, lack of infrastructure, importance of KAIZEN works to save energy for cold storage, significance of management and networking to access knowledge, skill and supports, and practical clues in production & procurement, transport, cold storage/warehouse, and IT were discussed.
9. The participants exchanges their views on, among others, on-going work on improvement of infrastructure under public private partnership, and joint delivery from distribution centers to retailers in an area. They also acknowledged importance of GAP for further market access, as well as of developing sound business relationship with farmers: trust and monitor.

Session 4: Role of Public Sector in Cold Chains Development and Ways Forwards

10. Role of public sector was discussed from various points of views by Viet Nam, Thailand, Japan and USA. Existing and new agricultural policies as well as further cooperation in research and technologies with international business were discussed. Importance of developments of domestic/local markets/situations by public sector

making use of inputs/experiences from business sectors were stressed. Also, government supports on research in cold chain technologies was highlighted. Furthermore, presenting factors for success for development of cold chains, need for government incentives and consistent and “balanced” regulations are emphasized.

11. The participants exchanges their views on, among others, countermeasures for hunger, improvement of food safety in addition to certifications, technology of freshness of fish, prevalence of private standards and organization of associations.

Wrap-up and Closing Session

12. As the wrap-up, Mr. Shigetoshi AOYAMA summarized the two (2) - day discussion. He also informed that Japan would upload the presentation materials on the APIP, Asia Pacific Information Platform (<http://www.apip-apec.com/>).
13. Mr. Masakazu IKEFUCHI, Deputy Director-General of International Affairs Department of MAFF, appreciated all the participants for their contributions to Forum, and encouraged their future collaboration to develop FVCs.

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