

The APEC Food Safety
Cooperation Forum (FSCF)
Partnership Training
Institute Network (PTIN)

Encouraging Transparency in Food Safety Regulatory Systems in the APEC Region

Megan Crowe
FSCF PTIN Administrator
U.S. Department of Commerce

July 16, 2019



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



FSCF Food Safety
Cooperation Forum
PTIN Partnership Training
Institute Network



Need for Action

- Rising concern about food safety in the Asia Pacific region
- Recognized need to improve regulator and manufacturer technical competence
- In 2007, APEC Leaders noted the need for further work



Establishing a plan

- The Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) and its Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) were proposed to respond to this direction from Leaders
-
- In November 2008, in Lima, Peru, APEC Leaders acknowledged the importance of food safety and endorsed the newly established FSCF PTIN.
-

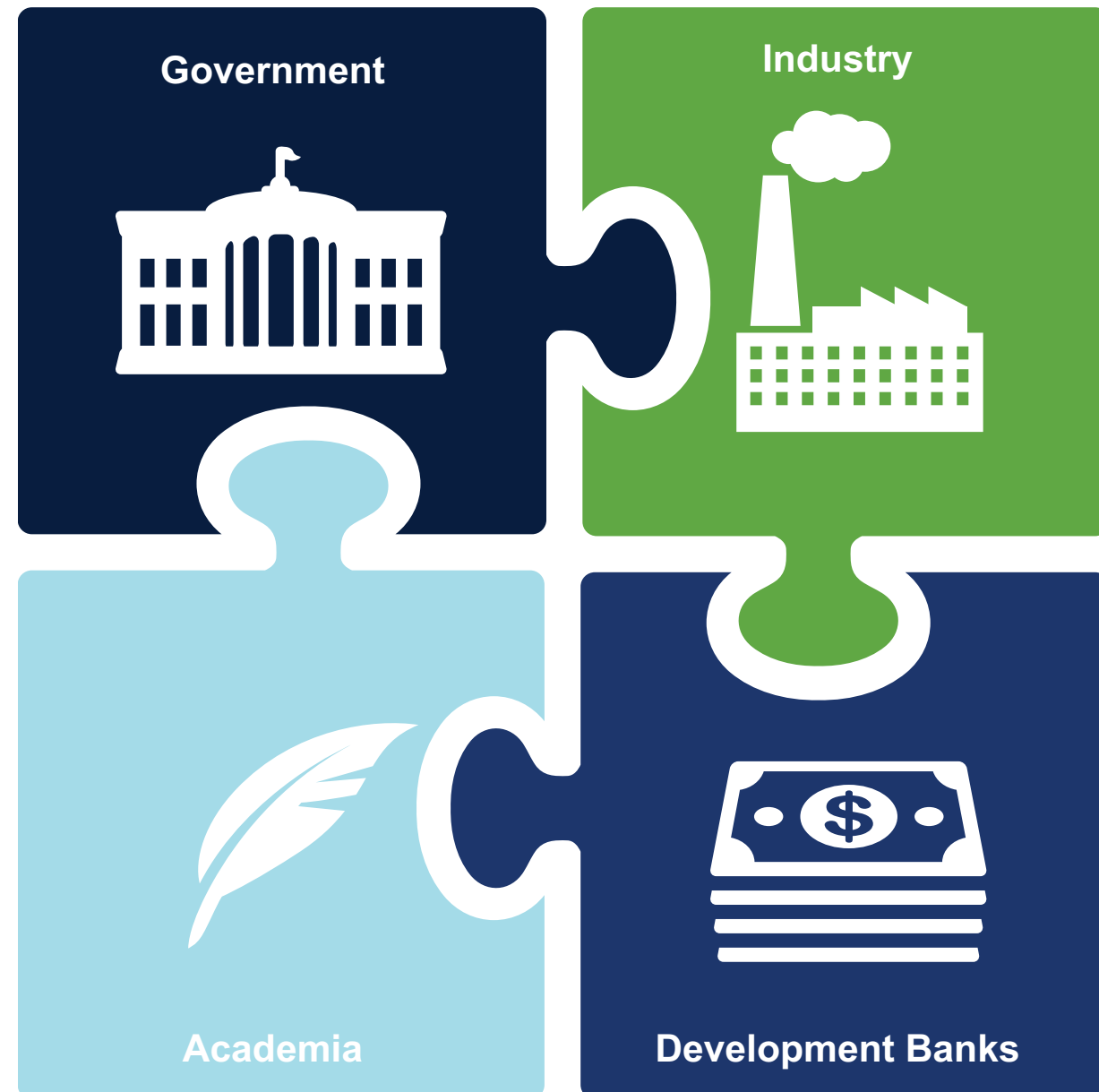


APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)



- Chaired by Australia and China
- Food safety regulators from the 21 APEC economies
- Focus on food safety capacity building and regulatory dialogue
 - Encourage and align use of science-based international standards to Codex standards
 - Encourage adherence to WTO SPS and TBT obligations

FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)



- Administered by the United States
- Public-Private Partnership Model for improving food safety and facilitating trade in the APEC region
- Works with FSCF Regulators to deliver capacity building

FSCF PTIN Priority Capacity Building Areas



Stronger food safety systems + **Improved understanding of regulatory compliance** = **Fewer food safety incidents and trade disputes**

**Food Safety
Regulatory Systems**

**Supply Chain
Management**

Laboratory Capacity



Incident Management

Risk Management

APEC Work on SPS Transparency and Coordination

- Past FSCF PTIN Workshops

Workshops in 2015 and 2016

- Effective Industry/Regulator Communication
- Better Food Safety Regulation Through Increased Transparency and Public Regulation

Resulting Publication: "Food Industry Associations: Role and Value in Policy and Regulation"

- Upcoming APEC Work In August, 2019

- 12th Conference on Good Regulatory Practices
- Promoting Transparency/Improvement of Information submitted in SPS Notifications



Lessons Learned in APEC Work on Public Consultation

Benefits:

- Better food safety regulations
- Better public health outcomes
- Builds confidence in regulatory system
- Well written rules are trade facilitating

Challenges:

- Adequate time for consultation
- Interagency coordination
- Rapidly changing food environment
- Identifying key stakeholders
- Consultation fatigue
- Addressing many and varied comments



Guiding Concepts

- Consultation

- Engage early and standardize processes

- Communication

- Identify and maintain key points of contact- provide timely outreach, updates, and feedback

- Collaboration

- Commit to building cross-sectoral relationships. It takes time

- Coordination and Capacity Building

- Identify capacity building needs - consider international standards and regulatory coherence/alignment.



Key Impacts from FSCF PTIN GRP Work

FSCF PTIN independent review shows workshops encouraged adoption of good regulatory practices in APEC economies in areas such as:

- including public consultation in drafting of food safety regulations
- and publishing regulations more systematically.



Three Key Takeaways

- Public comment leads to better fit for purpose food safety regulations
- Private sector can provide unique technical and scientific information and production knowledge
- Use of web portals/the internet/ other technology for sharing notifications electronically helps to share information widely



Where to go for more information:
<http://fscf-ptin.apec.org>

