

# Overview of national Codex Committees in the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region



**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for South-East Asia

# An overview of national Codex Committees in the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region

*Prepared by*  
*Nutrition and Food Safety Unit*

© **World Health Organization 2012**

All rights reserved.

Requests for publications, or for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – can be obtained from Publishing and Sales, World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, Indraprastha Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India (fax: +91 11 23370197; e-mail: [publications@searo.who.int](mailto:publications@searo.who.int)).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use.

This publication does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of the World Health Organization.

Printed in India

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations.....	iv
1. Background .....	1
2. Codex activities in the South-East Asia Region.....	2
3. Country activities .....	3
Bangladesh .....	3
Bhutan .....	4
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea .....	4
India.....	4
Indonesia.....	5
The Maldives.....	5
Myanmar .....	6
Nepal .....	6
Sri Lanka .....	6
Thailand .....	7
Timor-Leste .....	7
4. Concluding remarks.....	7

## *Annexures*

1. South-East Asia Regional/National Events (2010–2011) .....	8
2. Current status of national Codex committees in the South-East Asia Region .....	9

## Abbreviations

ACFS	Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
BSN	National Standardization Agency of Indonesia
BSTI	Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCASIA	Coordinating Committee for Asia
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Export and Import Inspection and Certification System
CCPFV	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
CGTF	Consultative Group for the Trust Fund
CNFSDU	Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
CTF	Codex Trust Fund
DFTQC	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
eWG	Electronic Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FSSAI	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
GFN	Global Foodborne Infections Network
GI	Geographical Indications
INMU	Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University
NCC	National Codex Committees
NCCP	National Codex Contact Point
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
WHO	World Health Organization

## 1. Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is a joint body of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was established in 1963 to develop international food standards, a code of practices, and guidelines and other recommendations to protect the health of consumers, and ensure fair practices in the food trade. At present, the CAC consists of 185 Codex memberships (184 Member States and a member organization, the European Union). The executive committee of the CAC is composed of a chairperson, three vice-chairpersons, six regional coordinators and six members from the regions.

A national Codex contact point (NCCP) is designated when a country becomes a member of the CAC. The NCCP coordinates all relevant Codex activities within the country; receives invitations to Codex sessions; informs the relevant chairpersons and the Codex secretariat of the names of the participants from the country; receives all Codex final texts and working documents of Codex sessions, and ensures that they are circulated within the country; sends comments on Codex documents or proposals; works in close coordination with the national Codex committee; acts as a liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and other parties concerned; acts as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex members; maintains a library of Codex final texts; and promotes Codex activities throughout the country. The success of a country's Codex activities depends on the effective functioning of the Codex contact point, which serves as the link with the Codex secretariat and Member States.

National Codex committees (NCCs) are established in many countries to supplement the work of the Codex contact points and facilitate communication among all stakeholders in Codex. Countries may or may not have an NCC, depending on the national mechanism to ensure an adequately coordinated and all-inclusive national Codex programme.

The most recent meeting of the CAC, its 34th session, was held in July 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives of 145 Member States, 9 international governmental organizations and 28 international nongovernmental organizations attended the meeting. Seven representative members from the South-East Asia Region (Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand) participated in this meeting.

For many years, WHO and FAO have been providing assistance to the developing countries to enable them to take full advantage of the Commission's work. This effort has been enhanced to a considerable extent by the financial and technical support extended by industrialized countries. To enhance the participation of Member States in Codex activities, the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) was launched in 2003. WHO administers the CTF under the direction of the Consultative Group for the Trust Fund (CGTF), comprising senior WHO and FAO staff. With the support of WHO/FAO, the CTF organized six Codex training sessions in the four regions in 2010. The WHO/FAO Coordinating

Committee for Asia (CCASIA) organized a regional workshop on the “Use of science throughout the food chain for safe foods” in November 2010 in Indonesia.

Regional coordinating committees play a crucial role in ensuring that the work of the Commission is responsive to regional interests and to the concerns of developing countries. There are six coordinating committees: (i) Africa, (ii) Asia, (iii) Europe, (iv) Latin America and the Caribbean, (v) Near East, and (vi) North America and the Southwest Pacific. Membership of the coordinating committee is open to all Member States and associate members of the FAO and/or WHO which are members of the CAC. The committees normally meet at two-year intervals and the countries of their respective regions are usually well represented. The country that chairs the coordinating committee is also the regional coordinator for the region concerned. These committees have no standing host countries and their meetings are hosted by the Member States of a region on an *ad hoc* basis and in agreement with the CAC.

## 2. Codex activities in the South-East Asia Region

The importance of the Asian region in the international food trade has long been recognized since more than half of the world population resides in the Asian region. There has been a significant increase in the production of food in this region over the years. There has been a growing realization among the countries of the region of the importance of Codex in protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. The participation of Asian countries in the Codex forum has also increased considerably. However, the effectiveness of their participation can still be improved further.

Through a joint effort, WHO and FAO have provided technical assistance in the region to enhance food safety and strengthen national food control systems. The components of the activities of WHO and FAO include: the provision of technical support to enhance food safety policy; development of a management and regulatory framework; strengthening of NCCs; strengthening of surveillance/monitoring of food-borne disease and food contamination; provision of training to food inspectors; development of a regional food policy; provision of advisory technical assistance; and formulation of project proposals on food quality control.

The strategic plan for the CCASIA 2009–2014 was developed as a result of the 15th session of the committee in 2006. The draft strategic plan was circulated to all Member States for their comments in January 2007. At the 16th session of the committee in Indonesia in 2008, it was agreed to establish an electronic working group of the CCASIA to gather information on developments at the national level in various countries of the region, with a view to provide a systematic framework for monitoring and implementation of the regional strategic plan for the CCASIA (2009–2014). The goal of this plan was to strengthen the food safety infrastructure of all Member States in Asia and the region’s contribution to the work of the Codex.

Indonesia was appointed the regional coordinator for Asia in 2007–2009 and 2009–2011. It was also appointed the representative of the Asian countries in the Executive Committee in 2007–2009 and 2009–2011. The CCASIA secretariat acts as the regional

coordinator, performing activities such as organizing an informal meeting of the Asian Member States prior to the Codex session, participating in Executive Committee meetings and developing a CCASIA website to promote regional coordination, including the exchange of information between Asian Member States. The CCASIA members normally meet every two years, with representations sent from the countries of the respective region. The host country is chosen by rotation among the committee members and can remain the host for a maximum term of two sessions.

The most recent session of the CCASIA, its 17th one, was jointly organized by the FAO and WHO in November 2010 in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting was chaired by the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia. More than 130 participants from 20 Member States, in addition to representatives from several international organizations, attended the session. The committee reached certain conclusions regarding matters to be referred for consideration to the CAC during its 34th session. The CCASIA session enabled the participants to understand the functioning of CAC and the processes employed for the establishment of international food standards. In addition, there were discussions on a wide range of topics, including the WHO and FAO activities complementary to Codex; draft standards on various food products (processed cheese, edible sago flour, non-fermented soybean products, etc.); the strategic plan for the CCASIA, 2009–2014; and future work. The committee identified a number of issues relevant to Asian economies, as well as new areas of work. The next session of the CCASIA is scheduled for 2012 and will be hosted by Japan.

To understand the working of the NCCs of the Member States of the South-East Asia Region, an assessment was undertaken by the Nutrition and Food Safety unit of the WHO SEA Region. Information was obtained from the documents available, through telephone interviews with the NCCPs, and where possible, through direct interactions with relevant national officers. A significant amount of the information contained in this report was made available by the focal points for food safety at the WHO country offices.

The current status of the Codex activities, as well as the contact details of the NCCPs in the Member States, are summarized in Annexure II.

### **3. Country activities**

#### **Bangladesh**

The Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI), located in Dhaka, has been designated the Codex contact point for Bangladesh. It has adopted 40 Codex standards as national standards. However, the activities of the BSTI remain limited due to a shortage of staff; weak coordination among the organizations dealing with control, standards, enforcement and testing; inadequate training and limited capacity of the staff; and lack of appropriate testing facilities. Bangladesh is planning to improve the functioning of the NCC by enhancing technical capacity, promoting infrastructural development and passing appropriate legislation.

## **Bhutan**

**Country activities** -The Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests has been designated as the National Codex Contact Point for Bhutan.

The Food Legislation has been formulated on the basis of Codex Standards. Under the Food Legislation, a National Codex Committee has been established as well. Development of National Food Standards, in compliance with the Codex food standards, guidelines and code of practices, is under way. This will serve as a national reference for setting up the food safety control system.

BAFRA has plans for implementing the food safety system in line with the HACCP principles in major food businesses and establishments. It is also looking forward to developing a control system on import of substandard products in the country. However, due to lack of funds and trained personnel, the implementation of food safety activities is getting delayed. The areas in which we need support are human resource development, capacity building, information system and publication, equipment and implementation of codex activities.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Academy of Health and Food Science, Ministry of Public Health, is the Codex contact point. DPRK has received funds from the CTF and WHO SEARO to participate in various Codex meetings. The national food safety system has been amended so that it harmonizes with the activities of Codex. DPRK is also taking measures to strengthen the national food control system and to formulate/update food laws. WHO SEARO has provided extensive technical and financial support to strengthen the national food analysis laboratory and improve the technical capacity of the national food safety staff. The national authorities have indicated that improving the functioning of the Codex committees and the overall food safety programme in the country remain priority issues for the government. DPRK is having trouble accessing relevant Codex documents and publications that are not available regularly in the form of CDs or as hard copies.

## **India**

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the Codex contact point in the country. This body, which is under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, began its operations formally in August 2011. An important activity of the NCCP in India was to take the lead in discussions of the Codex Committee on Food Export and Import Inspection and Certification System (CCFICS). The NCCP also contributed to the preparation of draft principles and guidelines on the national food control system in developing countries. The NCCP also prepared a discussion paper for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CNFSDU) for underweight children. A new Electronic Working Group (eWG) led by India has developed a section (part B) of the standard for processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children. There are insufficient supportive data and research to support India's viewpoint at Codex

meetings. Another constraint is the lack of trained manpower for undertaking Codex activities and is a need for capacity-building.

## **Indonesia**

The NCC of Indonesia is led by the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (BSN). The NCC comprises Director-generals from related ministries and agencies that deal with food safety standards and regulations, senior scientists, associations of food producers, consumers' associations and academia. The NCC is active in formulating national policy relating to the handling of Codex in the country and important issues pertaining to food safety that are under discussion in Codex. In developing national positions for Codex meetings, the NCC receives technical assistance from the Mirror Codex Committee.

The Mirror Codex Committee has been established along the lines of the Codex subsidiary bodies and is coordinated by the institution concerned. The coordinator of the Mirror Committee is responsible for developing drafts of papers on the national position to be adopted at a specific Codex meeting. Research agencies, regulators and producers are involved in the development of the drafts. The working group, which consists of representatives from government institutions, experts, representatives from food industries and consumer organizations, is responsible for verifying the Mirror Committee's drafts. The papers on the national position require the final approval of the NCC before they are submitted to the Codex secretariat and the appropriate Codex committee.

Indonesia has indicated that it will continue to require the assistance of the CTF to support the development of scientific data necessary for the preparation of the country's position in Codex forums. Indonesia intends to increase its participation in the development of Codex standards, increase the generation of scientific data to support the preparation of the country's position on various Codex issues, and actively disseminate the results of the Codex forum's activities to stakeholders in the country .

## **The Maldives**

The NCC and a technical working group have been set up in the Maldives. WHO had encouraged the Maldives to become a Codex member in 2008 and provided it assistance. The major role of the NCC is to advise the government on the implications of various issues concerning food standardization, food quality and food safety that have arisen and are related to the work undertaken by the CAC. In addition, the NCC appoints technical working groups on subjects being handled by the various Codex committees. Further, it assists in the study or consideration of technical matters and is involved in the formulation of a national position. In the year 2010, the NCC made efforts to strengthen the stakeholders' awareness of Codex. The private sector's awareness and understanding of Codex and its contribution are still limited in the Maldives. Technical expertise is also lacking. Another constraint is the shortage of funding from the government to strengthen the national Codex activities.

## **Myanmar**

The national Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Ministry of Health serves as the NCCP in Myanmar. Myanmar has been following Codex guidelines and standards. Three to four meetings are held every year for the development of the national food standards and guidelines. Myanmar has been successful in improving the coordination and collaboration between different government agencies dealing with food and food-related issues. There is an urgent need for capacity-building in the FDA at the district level. Further, the NCC should be set up in accordance with the procedures laid down by the CAC. Myanmar intends to coordinate the activities of all stakeholders to ensure that the inputs for the Codex activities are as effective as possible. There is a need for funding for technical subcommittees in Myanmar, as well as for capacity-building.

## **Nepal**

The Director General of the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, acts as a Codex contact point. The Codex contact point of Nepal was established in 1983. Since then, Nepal has committed to participate in Codex committee meetings and work in Codex *ad hoc* task forces. The NCC was established several years ago, but it is not functioning well due to inadequate human and other resources. It also lacks any legal status. The Food Standardization Committee of Nepal is a legal entity involved in the development of food standards. Among the major activities undertaken so far is the harmonization of some food standards with Codex standards. Further, food standards were developed and notified to all Codex / WTO members through the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) Notification Authority, after which they were published in the Nepal Gazette. The activities of the NCC have to be enhanced through the establishment of a Codex secretariat office in the DFTQC and the establishment of a Codex documentation centre to strengthen the information and communication system. Other issues that need to be addressed urgently are the formulation of appropriate guidelines for small-scale food industries and the development of a food control system that is based on risk assessment and focuses on consumer protection.

## **Sri Lanka**

The NCC in Sri Lanka was established in 2005. The Director of the Department of Environmental, Occupational Health and Food Safety, Ministry of Health is the designated NCCP. The national regulations on food safety and food standards have been formulated on the basis of Codex. Sri Lanka has been successful in increasing the participation of NCCP members in international meetings with support from the CTF. It aims to receive more assistance for capacity-building programmes to train personnel and also looks forward to receiving funding to carry out Codex activities. There are plans to develop a proper food control system in the country, which intends to contribute actively to global food safety issues. Lack of funds and manpower, as well as inadequate institutional capacity, are the major constraints hampering Codex activity in Sri Lanka.

## Thailand

The Office of Commodity and System Standards, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, has been designated the NCCP for Thailand. The main function of the Codex working group is to appoint subcommittees to assist in the study or consideration of technical matters. At present, 17 subcommittees are in place to carry out Codex work in the country. Thailand has successfully adopted the Codex standards which were originally proposed and/or drafted by Thailand, i.e. standards for fish sauce and chilli sauce, the maximum residue limit for pesticides in tropical fruits and vegetables, and the method of analysis of the fat content in coconut cream. Agreements have also been reached on new standards proposed by Thailand with respect to durian and rice bran oil. In 2008, Thailand hosted and chaired the meeting of the *ad hoc* task force on processing and handling of quick frozen foods. The country has received support from WHO for capacity-building activities in the sphere of assessment of risks to food safety and for risk-benefit analysis. Codex Thailand expects to increase the involvement and participation of consumers and other stakeholders, and enhance the implementation of Codex standards throughout the food chain. Thailand also intends to improve the technical capacity of the staff involved and the quality of scientific data to play a more constructive role in Codex activities. Additional funding support would be necessary to ensure that the country's participation in Codex meetings is more effective.

## Timor-Leste

Currently, Timor-Leste is not a member of Codex. Timor-Leste is planning to introduce the Codex system within two to three years and intends to conduct an assessment of the existing situation and the technical areas that will need to be addressed in order to establish the NCC.

## 4. Concluding remarks

All Member States of WHO's South-East Asia Regional Office, except Timor-Leste, are members of the CAC. NCCPs have been designated in these Member States, although the activities of the NCCPs vary considerably, depending on the level of technical capacity and the availability of human and financial resources. Resources and technical capacity are limited in many Member States. Communication between the stakeholders involved in the various aspects of the food safety programmes in the Member States remains inadequate. Codex standards and protocols are not being implemented properly, and effective participation and involvement in Codex activities is lacking. The quality of the food control systems in the Member States is also variable.

The CCASIA is making efforts to improve the contributions of the Member States to the ongoing Codex activities. Annexure 1 gives details of the activities organized by both WHO and FAO at the regional and national levels to strengthen the food safety programme in all Member States.

## Annex I

### South-East Asia Regional/National Events (2010–2011)

Activity	Organizers	Date	Venue
Regional Workshop on Geographical Indications	FAO	15–16 July 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
Workshop on FAO/WHO Framework for Food Safety Emergency Response Planning	WHO/FAO and GFN	21–23 July 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
Regional workshop: SPS Measures and their Impact on Food Inspection and Certification including Managerial Aspects	FAO	25–26 August 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
FAO/WHO regional workshop on the Use of Science throughout the Food Chain for Safe Foods	WHO/FAO and CTF	18–20 November 2010	Bali, Indonesia
Regional consultation on Food-Based Dietary Guidelines for Countries in the Asia Region	WHO and FAO	6–9 December 2010	New Delhi, India
Workshop on strengthening safety and quality in the food retail chain	FAO and FSSAI	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter, 2010	New Delhi, India
Training course on Risk-based Food Inspection for Domestic Food Control	FAO	16–18 March 2011	Yangon, Myanmar
Regional workshop to share experiences from implementing food and nutrition security projects	FAO	31 March–1 April 2011	Bangkok, Thailand
Regional consultation on safe street foods	WHO/FAO/INMU	20–23 June 2011	Bangkok, Thailand

## Annex II

### Current status of national Codex committees in the South-East Asia Region

Country	National Codex Focal-point	Current status
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Mr A.K. Fazlul Ahmad, Director General, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI), Maan Bhavan, 116/A Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh Tel: 880-2-8821462 Fax: 880-2-9131581 e-mail: bsti@bangla.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 40 Codex standards have been adopted as national standards.</li> <li>▪ Needs training for capacity-building and improvement of testing facilities</li> <li>▪ Faces staff shortage, and weak coordination among organizations dealing with control, standards, enforcement and testing</li> <li>▪ Plans to enhance the functioning of Codex in Bangladesh by increasing technical capacity, building infrastructure and passing legislation</li> </ul>
<b>Bhutan</b>	Mr Karma Dorji Executive Director, BAFRA, MoAF, Thimphu Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food Legislation has been formulated on the basis of Codex</li> <li>▪ National Codex Committee established under the legislation</li> <li>▪ Participated in various Codex committee meeting supported by Codex Trust Fund.</li> <li>▪ Plans to develop and implement Food Safety Control system to avoid import of substandard food products in the country.</li> <li>▪ Government budget insufficient to fund participation in various technical committee meeting/trainings on food safety issues relevant to Bhutan.</li> <li>▪ Technical and financial support required to strengthen the functioning of the Codex Secretariat and Codex activities in Bhutan.</li> <li>▪ Training and technical support required in the area of Global Food Safety Issues.</li> </ul>
<b>DPR Korea</b>	Dr Kim Song Yong, Member of NCC of CODEX, DPR Korea, Academy of Health and Food Science, Pyongyang, DPR Korea Tel: 00850-2-18111-8011 Fax: 00850-2-3814605 e-mail: ahfs421@star-co.net.kp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amended the national food category system and modified the classification of agricultural products on the basis of Codex</li> <li>▪ Was a member of several Codex committees</li> <li>▪ Measures have been taken to strengthen the national food control system.</li> <li>▪ Insufficient information and data</li> <li>▪ Needs further training and technical support in the area of food safety issues</li> </ul>

Country	National Codex Focal-point	Current status
<b>India</b>	<p>Mr Anil Mehta, Deputy Director and Liaison Officer, National Codex Contact Point, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002, India e-mail: codex-india@nic.in Tel: +91-11-23220997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participated in various meetings and in Electronic Working Group and Physical Working Group activities of the Codex, and presented national views on matters of concern</li> <li>▪ Draft amendments to the guidelines for the use of nutrition and health claims proposed to the Codex</li> <li>▪ Draft policies and guidelines for the national food control system under preparation</li> <li>▪ Provided training to national participants from the Maldives on Codex activities in NCCP</li> <li>▪ Need for research-based national-level data to support proposals and amendments suggested to Codex Commission</li> </ul>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<p>Mr Suprpto, Gd. Manggala Wanabakti Blok IV Lt4 Jl, Gatot Subroto, Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia Tel: +62-21-574-7043/44 Fax: +62-21-574-7045 e-mail: suprpto@bsn.go.id</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Served as the regional coordinator for Asia (CCASIA) in 2007–2009 and 2009–2011, while also representing Asian countries at the Executive Committee in 2007–2009 and 2009–2011</li> <li>▪ Hosted and chaired the 17th session of the CCASIA in November 2010</li> <li>▪ Co-hosted and co-chaired the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) in October 2010</li> <li>▪ Hosted and chaired the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the CCASIA in November 2008</li> <li>▪ Insufficient scientific data to support Indonesia's proposals at various Codex meetings</li> <li>▪ Indonesia is advocating activities proposed by it, such as for the formulation of a standard for sago flour, and new work of a regional standard for Tempe.</li> </ul>
<b>The Maldives</b>	<p>Ms Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, Maldives Food and Drug Authority, Sosun Magu, Malé, Tel: +96003014303, +9603014208 e-mail: foodsafetydivision@health.gov.mv/ shabeena@health.gov.mv/ shabyna@gmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Efforts made in 2010 to strengthen stakeholders' awareness of Codex</li> <li>▪ Has participated in various Codex committee meetings</li> <li>▪ NCC and technical working group have been set up</li> <li>▪ A better understanding of Codex is necessary, local food standards need to be aligned with Codex standards, and technical knowledge of the various expert groups has to be enhanced.</li> <li>▪ Government funds insufficient to support national Codex activities</li> </ul>

Country	National Codex Focal-point	Current status
<b>Myanmar</b>	Dr Kyaw Lin, Director, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Ministry of Health, Office No. (47), Nay Pyi Taw Tel: +95-67-431134 Fax: +95-67-431134 e-mail: linkyawdr@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3–4 meetings organized per year to formulate the national food standards and guidelines</li> <li>▪ Increasing coordination and collaboration among food-related agencies</li> <li>▪ Capacity-building required for expansion of FDA at district level</li> <li>▪ Needs support to set up the NCC in accordance with the CAC procedural manual</li> <li>▪ Funding needed for technical subcommittees</li> </ul>
<b>Nepal</b>	Ms Jiwan Prava Lama, Director General, Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4262369 Fax: +977-1-4262337 e-mail: jiwanlama@gmail.com; dgdftqc@mail.com.np	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has harmonized some food standards with those laid down by Codex</li> <li>▪ Has developed certain food standards that have been notified to all Codex members/ WTO members</li> <li>▪ Participated in a Codex Committee meeting with the support of the CTF and UNIDO</li> <li>▪ Compilation of Codex documents initiated</li> <li>▪ Codex standards have been internalized as the benchmark standards.</li> <li>▪ Low level of consumer awareness</li> <li>▪ Plans to build the capacity of the DFTQC to ensure a system of prompt communication that allows for networking among all stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Dr T.B. Ananda Jayalal, Director, Environmental, Occupational Health and Food Safety, Ministry of Health, "Suwasiripaya" "385", Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha Colombo – 10, Sri Lanka Tel: +94-011-2672004 Fax: +94-011-2672004 e-mail: jayalal313@yahoo.co.uk codexcontact@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has participated in international meetings and NCC meetings</li> <li>▪ National Codex activities and Codex secretariat have to be strengthened.</li> <li>▪ Plans to strengthen the national food safety control system by increasing participation in activities related to global food safety issues</li> </ul>
<b>Thailand</b>	Mr Pisan Pongsapitch, Director of the Office of Commodity and System Standards, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives 50 Phaholyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand 10900 Tel: +66-2561-2277 ext. 1401 Fax: +66-2561-3357 e-mail: codex@acfs.go.th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increasing awareness of the importance of Codex and dissemination of information on the results of meetings, and of progress in the preparation of Codex standards, among all relevant stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Promotion of the consistent application of the risk analysis principle at the national level</li> <li>▪ A website on Codex activities has been established and is being maintained.</li> <li>▪ National positions on issues of interest to the region shared on a regular basis e.g. ASEAN</li> <li>▪ Codex standards proposed and/or drafted by</li> </ul>

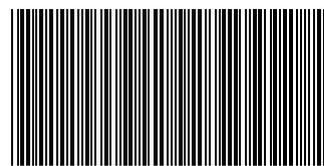
Country	National Codex Focal-point	Current status
		<p>Thailand have been adopted, i.e. standards on fish sauce, chili sauce, MRLs for pesticides in tropical fruits and vegetables, and method of analysis of fat content in coconut cream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thailand is advocating activities proposed by it, e.g. in relation to durian and rice bran oil.</li> </ul>
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	<p>Mr Joao Bosco da Costa, Dietetic Officer of Nutrition Department, Ministry of Health, Democratic Republic of Timor- Leste, Caixa Postal 3784, Caicoli Street, Dili, Timor-Leste Tel: +670-7260864 e-mail: joao.bosco74@hotmail.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not a member of CAC</li> <li>▪ A baseline assessment of the existing situation is proposed to determine the areas to be improved prior to the establishment of the NCC and NCCP.</li> <li>▪ The government intends to apply for membership after 2–3 years, once the outcome of the assessment is known.</li> <li>▪ Limited infrastructure and technical capacity</li> </ul>

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is a joint body of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was established in 1963 to develop international food standards, a code of practices, and guidelines and other recommendations to protect the health of consumers, and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The importance of the Asian region in international food trade has long been recognized since more than half of the world population resides in the Asian region. Through joint efforts, WHO and FAO have provided technical assistance in the region to enhance food safety and strengthen national food control systems. To understand the working of the national Codex Committees of Member States of the South-East Asia Region, an assessment was undertaken by WHO-SEARO on the basis of a review of available data and interactions with colleagues in the Member States. The findings from the assessment are included in this report.



**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for South-East Asia  
World Health House  
Indraprastha Estate  
Mahatma Gandhi Marg  
New Delhi-110002, India



SEA-NUT-183