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APEC EXPORT CERTIFICATION ROUNDTABLE

The increasing globalization of the food supply has introduced new hazards to foods and complexity in ensuring food safety throughout the supply chain. Meeting the twin goals of food safety and trade facilitation will help ensure that trade in agriculture and food products across the Asia-Pacific region continues to bring benefits to all Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members. The Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) was formed under the Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) in response to APEC goals to further work on strengthening food safety standards and practices, while facilitating trade. The PTIN enhances existing resources across government, industry, and academia to create a network of institutes with the capacity to conduct training and develop training modules in international best practices in food safety.

This next PTIN event will address one of the top training goals for 2010 and build on the success of last year's initial workshop on Risk Analysis held in Singapore. The next event is titled *"APEC Export Certification Roundtable"* and will be held preceding the next meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). This roundtable will bring together technical experts, Codex experts and industry representatives from the APEC region to discuss a range of topics in order to:

- enhance APEC knowledge related to Codex guidance on export certification;
- identify common official export certification challenges and discuss options to address those challenges;
- review the basis for requirements on official export certificate using case studies;
- identify the hierarchy of available choices when deciding if an official export certificate is required,
- share information on best practices; and
- develop effective solutions and promote the use of risk-based official export certification requirements.

The goal of this roundtable is to give a greater understanding of the role of risk- based approaches in meeting our collective challenge of ensuring food safety and facilitating access to food and agricultural products in the APEC region.