

Foreword

This booklet is one of the outcomes of the APEC Seminars and Training Courses in Legal Metrology titled “Workshop on Metrology of Agricultural Products and Foods” that was held from February 2 through 9, 2007 at the Central Duangtawan Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This workshop was our first attempt to go into the field of agricultural safety. It was organized by the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) with a support fund of APEC Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation (TILF) program, CTI-11/2006T. The workshop was also supported by (1) Weights and Measures Bureau, Department of Internal Trade (DIT), Ministry of Commerce, Thailand, (2) National Measurement Institute, Australia (NMIA) and (3) National Metrology Institute of Japan (NMIJ). Having this result, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Siripol Yodmuangcharoen of DIT, Dr. Grahame Harvey of NMIA and all the speakers who contributed their expertise to the workshop. Also special thanks should be extended to the APEC Secretariat for their great contributions.

We have conducted the survey among the APEC member economies concerning seminar and training programs in legal metrology to find their needs as well as possible resources available in the region. The survey shows that there is a strong need for a seminar designed on agricultural metrology. Agricultural product is one of the most important categories in legal metrology closely connected to our daily life. In addition, according to the globalization of international trade in worldwide, the compliance to the international recommendations is becoming a significant issue for the APEC and APLMF member economies.

Main objective of this workshop was to share knowledge on the current situation on agricultural trading in the APEC/APLMF economies in order to develop a reliable system to determine the quality of internationally traded agricultural products. To be specific, we aimed at clarifying the present situation on agricultural trading in the member economies, sharing information on metrological requirements for food safety set in the region, introducing methods for quality evaluation, explaining technical procedures for verification of measuring instruments and discussing the issues that exist in the region.

Main target of this training course was to assist the experts involved in international trading of agricultural products in the member economies to learn in depth on and to develop common understanding about the procedures based on the international standards and OIML recommendations. Thus the target would meet the APEC objective to harmonize metrology legislation with OIML international recommendations. The contents of the seminar are classified into four topics: Agricultural Quality Measurements, Measurements for Food Safety and Health, Quality Control of Agricultural Products and Measurement Infrastructure. Presentations on each topic were delivered by the speakers that are experienced in the fields.

In this view, the workshop provided an important and among the most demanded opportunity to the Asia-Pacific region to establish an international awareness in agricultural products trading and its product safety. I would like to say that this is certainly a valuable step to build a shared confidence in determining the product quality and safety.

I am really pleased to have this outcome from the training course and again deeply appreciate invaluable voluntary efforts of the APEC and APLMF secretariats.

May 15, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akira Ooiwa', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Akira Ooiwa
APLMF President