

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CRD29

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Forty-Ninth Session

Macao SAR, China, 20-24 March 2017

OPENING REMARKS

Speech by Vice minister of National Health and Family Planning Commission, Mr. Xiaotao JIN

Chairman Chen Junshi, SAJ Secretary Chan Hoifan, experts from FAO and WHO, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

In this beautiful season of spring, we gather here in Macao for the 49th Session of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) to talk about the international standards for food additives. This session is hosted by National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) on behalf of the Chinese government and organized by the government of Macao SAR. On behalf of NHFPC, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the convening of the session! I would also like to welcome delegates of FAO, WHO, the secretariat of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and all delegates here! Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of Macao SAR and China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA) have made a lot of detailed and thoughtful preparations to ensure the successful opening of this session, for which I would like to express my most sincere thanks! At the same time, I would also like to express my sincere respect to the solid and effective work of Codex and CCFA secretariat!

The 49th CCFA session is the 11th session after China became the host country. Over the past 11 years, the number of member states and observers attending the session has been on the rise, and the participation of developing countries in this work has become more extensive. In the joint efforts of the governments, international organizations, institutions and the participating experts and delegates, we have made positive progress in the International Codex General Standard for Food Additives and reached consensus on a number of food additive standards. It can be said that CCFA has become a communication platform for the exchange of work about food additives management between countries and international organizations. CCFA has enhanced the understanding and trust in food safety management, promoted the development of the food additive industry and played a positive role in safeguarding consumer health and improving food safety management.

I would like to take this opportunity to brief you on China's food safety work, especially the progress we've made on food safety standards. The Chinese government has always attached great importance to food safety. We've just concluded the 5th Session of the 12th National People Congress (NPC) and the 5th session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and in those sessions food safety is still one of the hot topics of concern. The central government put food safety in an important position, requiring "the most rigorous standards, the most strict supervision, the most severe punishment for violators and the most serious accountability system" to speed up the establishment of a scientific and sound food safety management system, securing every step from farm to table. Food safety standards are important components of the food safety management system. They are the mandatory requirements that regulate food manufacturing and distribution to ensure food safety, and they also form the basis for the government to strengthen the supervision of law enforcement. NHFPC has strengthened the comprehensive food safety standards management, and the standards have become remarkably complete, scientific and practical. In 2016, 530 new national food safety standards were published, with the total number of food safety standards reaching 1,213. They cover all types of food and their full production and operation process, forming a complete food safety standard system in line with the Codex Standards. At the same time, we will continue to strengthen the food safety risk surveillance and assessment to consolidate the scientific basis for food safety standards; we will adhere to the principle of open and transparent or "open the door to develop the standard" to engage the whole society in the work; and we will strengthen international cooperation actively participate in the development of international standards, and assume full responsibility being the host countries of Codex Committee on Food Additives and Codex Committee on

Pesticide Residues. At present, we are actively promoting the implementation of the “13th Five Year Plan of National Food Safety”. We will uphold innovation, coordination, and green, open and sharing development concept, and strive to amend not less than 300 national food safety standards by the end of 2020, improving China’s national food safety standard system. Based on the needs of the country and the people, we will follow the international frontier issues, strengthen international standards exchange, carry out comparative study between Chinese standards and the international ones, and accelerate the research on transformation of international standards to meet China’s terms.

In September 2016, President Xi Jinping pointed out in the congratulation letter for the 39th session of the International Organization for Standardization that the development of standards can promote innovation and development in our time. International standards are an important technical basis for the development of global governance systems and economic and trade cooperation. Delegates, we are deeply aware that development and safety are common issues faced by all countries. With the development of international food trade, food safety has become a common challenge facing the whole world. We are willing to work with all countries in the world to further our cooperation and exchange in standards, and jointly improve the international standard system and make contribution to creating a better future for mankind.

I wish the meeting a complete success! Thank you!

Speech by Secretary for Administration and Justice, Ms. Chan Hoi Fan

Honourable Vice-Minister of National Health and Family Planning Commission, Mr. Xiaotao Jin Honourable Chair of Codex Committee on Food Additives, Dr. Junshi Chen

Honourable guests and friends,

Good morning!

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude towards the National Health and Family Planning Commission and Codex Committee on Food Additives for their trust and support for the Macao SAR Government, so that the 49th Session of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) can be held in Macao. It is our great honour and pleasure to have this opportunity. Please allow me to extend my warm welcome and sincere gratitude to all guests participating in this session again on behalf of the Macao SAR Government.

As an international tourist city, Macao receives tens of millions of visitors each year. As the saying goes, “People view food as their primary need.” Thus food safety is the first priority. The Macao SAR Government attaches great importance to safe consumption and healthy eating of every resident. In view of this, we formulated the “Food Safety Law” in 2013 and announced a number of food safety standards, including standards for drug residues, radionuclides, pathogenic microorganisms and mycotoxins in food, aiming at providing legal means for food production and supervision.

With regard to food monitoring and control, the Macao SAR Government has established a mechanism on various levels and through different channels: setting up the Food Safety Centre and establishing the food incident surveillance mechanism, database related to the food industry and food sampling test programme to implement the supervision and enforcement work of food safety in accordance with law. In the meantime, the Macao SAR Government signed a series of co-operation agreements with General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of People’s Republic of China, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment and Pan-Pearl River Delta region, etc. Moreover, Macao signed a co-operation agreement on surveillance and monitoring of food activities with Portugal. Through the co-operation mechanism, the information exchange, supervision and contingency ability in food safety are raised. Macao continues to extend its regional co-operation and international network, proactively setting up good partnerships in food safety with various regions.

As this Session of CCFA is held in Macao, we can understand work priorities of Codex Alimentarius Commission, receive updates on various standards and keep abreast of international trends in changes of standards so that we can update and review local food safety standards promptly. Moreover, this is beneficial to making exchange and co-operation in the management area of food additives to raise the management level of food safety in Macao to attain international standards through this platform.

In the future, the Macao SAR Government will continue to strengthen food safety efforts, improve laws and regulations and deepen regional co-operation in food safety. Meanwhile, we will actively complement the national “13th Five-year” plan and be involved in the construction of “Belt and Road”, striving to build Macao with its development position as “one centre, one platform” while driving the continuous improvement in life quality of local residents.

Lastly, I wish the 49th Session of CCFA complete success, and I wish you all good health and happy families.
Thank you.

**Welcome Speech by Chairman of Administration Committee of IACM,
Mr. José Maria da Fonseca Tavares**

Honourable guests,

On behalf of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR government, I would like to express my warm welcome and sincere gratitude to all leaders, guests and participants who are here to join the 49th session of Codex Committee on Food Additives. It is our great honour to have this session held in Macao this year.

Benefited from rapid economic development over the past two decades, the population and economy of Macao increased greatly as well. With the small area of only 30 square kilometer, Macao's population is more than 640 thousand, GDP Per Capita reached over 69 thousand US dollars and received around 30 million tourists in 2016. Thus, Macao is an international tourism city and the government pays great attention to food safety management.

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR government is responsible for different areas of work including environmental hygiene, greening, management of public markets, food safety and etc. Among these duties, food safety is one of our major responsibilities. We have to ensure that food for people consumption in Macao is wholesome, hygienic and safe. Therefore, holding the 49th CCFA session is particularly important for us. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude towards Codex Committee on Food Additives and the China National Health and Family Planning Commission for their trust and support. This CCFA session is a good chance for Macao to familiarize with the core frameworks of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the latest development of food standards.

In these few days, the highlights of the meetings will be discussions on the topics regarding food additives quality and specifications. It also enables us to update and evaluate the related standards as necessary. Besides, this session is an opportune time to renew contacts, observe the latest developments, and discuss issues of mutual interest with fellow delegates from various countries. I truly believe that your presence will make this session fruitful and productive.

Macao is a city that possesses over 400 years of history of the blend of Chinese and Western cultures. This unique blend of east and west is evident in its cityscape, culture and cuisine. It is hoped that you can spend some time in exploring this city, visiting the landscape and heritage, as well as enjoying the local delicious food. For this reason, we will arrange a half-day city tour with professional guide this Thursday morning. Through this tour, I hope you can discover the city better and take home with many warm memories of your visit.

I wish this session great success and I wish you all good health and happiness.

Thank you.