

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Opening Remarks

CRD11

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

AD HOC CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Sixth Session

Opening Remark Mr. Ryu Young-jin-Minister of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all honorable participants gathered here in Busan for the 6th Session of the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Jeffrey Lejeune from the FAO, Dr. Awa Aidara-Kane from the WHO for their participation and the vice chair of Codex Alimentarius Commission, Mr. Steve Wearne.

My appreciation also goes to the TFAMR chair Yong Ho Park who has outstanding leadership skills, the Codex Secretariat and the TFAMR Secretariat for organizing this session.

And my special thanks go to the delegations coming from around the globe.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Used properly, antimicrobials can save lives. But growing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is curving the effectiveness of these drugs. AMR is an increasingly serious threat to global public health.

Economist Jim O'Neill says at his report released in 2016, at least 700,000 die each year of AMR and warns that AMR could cause 10 million deaths a year by 2050 if the world doesn't take proper actions. The number is higher than cancer death.

As the global food trade has rapidly increased, there is an urgent need to control food safety and food-borne AMR worldwide.

Cooperation between international bodies including CODEX, FAO and WHO, raising awareness of AMR and promoting behavioural change through public communication programmes are the keys to tackling AMR.

International organizations including FAO and WHO have made efforts to let the world know about AMR issues and to take actions.

In 2014, a resolution that emphasizes cooperation between FAO, WHO and OIE was adopted at the World Health Assembly in 2014.

The three bodies signed an MOU and agreed to strengthen their long-standing partnership, with a strong focus on tackling AMR in May this year.

And at the regional level, the ASEAN+3 leaders issued a statement on cooperation against AMR last month.

The Korean government has joined the efforts. It is improving farm environment to reduce antimicrobial use in animals, beefing up monitoring of AMR bacteria and raising public awareness of AMR.

As AMR bacteria don't respect borders of countries, a single country cannot solve the problem.

Please join the effort making practical international guidelines to tackle AMR.

We, the Republic of Korea, will spare no effort in making the TFAMR session successful.

Thank you again for coming from far away and I hope you to have opportunities to peep the beauty of this city between sessions.

Thank you.