FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT
AND
CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference
on
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
- PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES & SAFETY

27 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2003
MANDARIN SINGAPORE
SINGAPORE

ORGANISER:
Singapore Institute of Food Science & Technology (SIFST)

SUPPORTED BY:
- Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA)
- Food Science & Technology Programme, Chemistry Department, National University of Singapore
- School of Chemical & Life Sciences, Singapore Polytechnic
- Federation of Institutes of Food Sciences & Technology In ASEAN (FIFSTA)

Conference Website: www.sifst.org.sg
Greetings from the Singapore Institute of Food Science & Technology (SIFST).

Genetically Modified (GM) Foods, whilst posing unknown health-related concerns and thus major challenges in their pioneering years, offer much hope to feed the world. SIFST has decided to follow the progress of this epic event by organising an international conference on GM Foods. The 3-day Conference aims to update delegates with the latest issues in GM Food developments, to generate interest, to provide networking opportunities and to bring greater public awareness on this aspect of biotechnology which concerns our daily well being.

We have gathered many prominent speakers, each of whom is an expert in his or her own field related to food biotechnology. The areas to be covered include GM regulations, patentability, test methodologies and research findings.

The Conference Organising Committee welcomes any further interested parties to speak at this Conference on topics that are relevant to the theme of the event.

Country papers will be presented by the Presidents of the Institutes of Food Science & Technology in ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) on the current status of GMO issues in their respective country, together with perspectives presented from USA, Europe and New Zealand.

In order to let the non-specialist delegates have a first-hand knowledge on what genetic modification and biosafety are all about, a half-day workshop is arranged with the assistance of the Department of Biological Sciences of the National University of Singapore (NUS). In addition, a half-day Public Forum will be organised on the last day of the Conference which will gather a panel of experts from the Conference to address the various pertinent hotly-debated issues of GM foods. It is hoped that members of the public will be provided with the correct information on GM foods and that any concerns on their safety for human consumption will be addressed.

Mrs Tan Irene Ek Ek
President, SIFST
INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

Ever since the first commercially-grown GM slow-ripening *Flavr Savr*â tobacco was introduced in 1994, research into GMOs and GM Foods gathered pace. Today, many food crops have been genetically modified, some with foreign genes, others with specific protein functions, and yet others using various biotechnological means. One of the most promising breakthroughs is the ‘Golden Rice’ which is enriched with \( \beta \)-carotene, a precursor of Vitamin A. Whilst, on the one hand, the development of new GMOs and GM techniques promises many exciting downstream application possibilities in the food and agriculture industries, on the other hand, just as many bio-safety issues confront researchers, manufacturers and regulatory authorities in these industries.

Government legislation and regulations governing the approval of GM Foods for human consumption and the labeling, or otherwise, of GM Foods are sensitive issues which are hotly-debated in many countries. The Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL) is expected to finalize its guidelines on the labeling of GE (genetically engineered) foods soon.

It is with all these complex and difficult GMO issues in mind that SIFST decided that it was timely to gather prominent speakers from various fields of expertise to raise the awareness of members of the food industry and the general public on the current developments in GM Foods and their implications on food safety. Not least of all, the Conference will update interested parties on current GM techniques, testing methodologies, bio-laws, patent rights and the public status of GM foods.

PROGRAMME

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

- Plenary lecture on an overview of current issues on GMOs
- Research summaries on new functional transgenes in foods with specific functions
- Recent development on analytical techniques for GMO testing
- Bio-laws, legislation and patent aspects on GM foods
- Safety assessment methodologies for monitoring bio-safety of GM Foods
- Long term environmental / ecological impacts of GMOs

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

ASEAN country papers on their respective current status concerning the regulations and labeling requirements together with perspectives from Europe and New Zealand.

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP

“Understanding Genetic Modification and Bio-safety” for non-specialist delegates.

PUBLIC FORUM

“Current Concerns and Issues on GM Foods”
CALL FOR PAPERS

Interested parties intending to give any technical presentation at the Conference are welcome to register their interest with their title of the paper and a short abstract by emailing to the Conference Secretariat at ctmp@singnet.com.sg by 10 December 2002.

PROMINENT SPEAKERS TO-DATE

Dr Ngiam Tong Tau  Chief Executive Officer of AVA (Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore)
Dr Jacqui Coutts  Tepnel Biosystems, United Kingdom
Dr Stuart Boyer  Griffiths & Hack, Australia
Prof Geza Hrazdina  Cornell University, Geneva, New York, USA
Dr Jany Klaus-Dieter  University of Karlsruhe, Germany
Dr Kaare Nielsen  University of Tromso, Norway
Mr Norman Lodge  Lodge & Associates, New Zealand
Dr Ruud Valyasevi  National Center for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (BIOTEC), Thailand
Assoc Prof Dr William Chen  School of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Dr Liew Oi Wah  School of Chemical & Life Sciences, Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore

PLUS:
6 Presidents of the Member Institutes of FIFSTA to present their respective country papers

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Researchers, graduate students, government regulators, food importers/exporters, food industry executives, general public and anyone concerned with GM food safety.
**REGISTRATION FEES**

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<th>Before 7 Jan 2003</th>
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<tr>
<td>SIFST Members</td>
<td>S$650</td>
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<td>Student Members**</td>
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The Conference Fee covers daily lunches, coffee/tea-breaks and Conference materials.

** Lunch is not provided.

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

Special room rates have been negotiated with the following hotel for all Conference delegates:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Room Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mandarin Singapore (Conference Hotel)</td>
<td>S$160.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Grand Central</td>
<td>S$ 90.00</td>
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- All room rates are based on per room per night and are subject to 10% service charge, 1% cess and 5% goods and services tax.
- Room rates are applicable for Single/Twin/Double room.
- Reservations for rooms will only be confirmed with payment of one night’s deposit.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Request for refund of registration fee must be received in writing (mail, fax, e-mail) by the Conference Secretariat and according to the following schedule:

Before 28 January 2003 Refund of 50% of registration fee paid
After 28 January 2003 No Refund
Singapore Institute of Food Science & Technology (SIFST) is a non-profit professional organisation with more than 300 members who are food scientists, technologists, academicians and food entrepreneurs. Its objectives are to promote the furtherance of knowledge, development and application of science and technology to any aspect of food, and to promote the dissemination of knowledge and to afford opportunities for communication and free exchange of ideas amongst its members and the public. Over the past years, SIFST has successfully organised many international and regional conferences, notably the 7th World Congress of Food Science & Technology in 1987 and the 1st and 6th ASEAN Food Conferences in 1982 and 1997 respectively.

### ABOUT THE ORGANISER

**Chairman**
Yeoh Guan Huah, Mr

**Advisors**
Irene Tan Ek Ek, Mrs
Ong Kim Lian, Mrs

**Hon Secretary**
Toh Hui Kheng, Ms

**Hon Treasurer**
Ser-Low Wai Ming, Mrs

**Members**
Lim Chee Kian, Mr
Pho Lay Koon, Dr
Connie Tan, Ms
Philip Barlow, Dr
Koh Boon Liang, Mr
Liew Oi Wah, Dr
Tan Soon Ann, Mr

### CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**GM Conference Secretariat**

**c/o Conference & Travel Management Associates Pte Ltd**

**451 Race Course Road Singapore 218695**

**Tel : (65) 6299-8992**

**Fax : (65) 6299-8983**

**Email : ctmapl@singnet.com.sg**

**Conference Website : www.sifst.org.sg**