

Food Safety in the New Era

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Background

- Rising living standard
- Globalization of food trade
- Advancement in food technology
- Rapid information flow – food incidents, new/re-emerging hazards
- Increasing public expectation on safety of food
- Restructuring of food control framework



Situation in Hong Kong

- Free port
- Densely populated international city of 6.9 million people
- Little local food production
- Over 95% of food consumed is imported
- Large volume and variety of food



Some Import Statistics

In 2005,

- Over 300 million kilogram of rice
- 169 million kilogram of pork
- More than 17 million heads of live poultry
- Some 1,700 million poultry eggs
- Other imported food - fish, vegetables and fruits, dairy products, prepackaged food, etc.



The Centre for Food Safety (CFS)

- Established on 2 May 2006
- About 430 staff
- Multi-disciplinary team of professionals - public health physicians and nurses, veterinarians, health inspectors, food chemists, nutritionists, food toxicologists, food biotechnologists, food scientists, administrative officers and others.



Vision and Mission

- To protect the health of people in Hong Kong through the development and implementation of effective food safety control measures
- To enhance food safety through proactive tripartite collaboration among the Government, food trade and consumers to ensure that food available for sale in Hong Kong is safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption



Values

- Integrity
- Fairness
- Effectiveness
- Professionalism
- Responsiveness
- Transparency



Approach

- Adopts risk analysis framework
- Maintains inter-departmental cooperation
- Emphasizes tripartite collaboration with the trade and consumers
- Enhances networking
 - Global players in food safety
 - Overseas food regulators
 - Experts



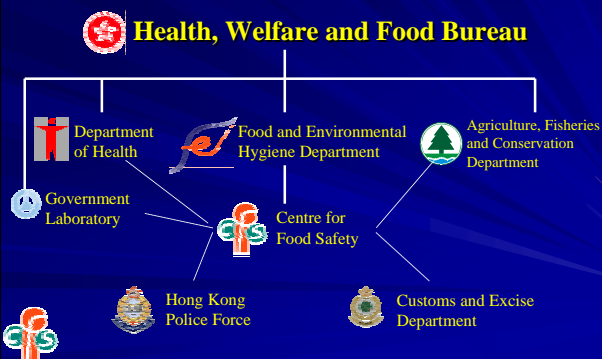
Risk Analysis Framework



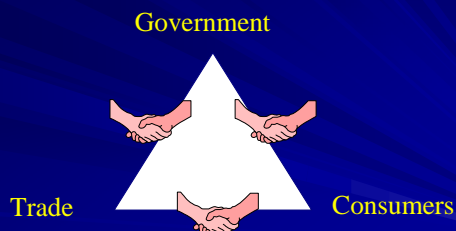
Organization of CFS








Internal Players



Partnership in Food Safety



Global Players in Food Safety

-  **World Health Organization**
-  **Codex Alimentarius Commission**
-  **Food and Agriculture Organization**
-  **World Trade Organization**
-  **World Organization for Animal Health**



Local and Overseas Expertise

- Expert Committee on Food Safety
- Advisory Committees and Panels



Work of CFS (I)

Risk Assessment

- Conducts studies of food related hazards and assesses risks
- Reviews and advises on food standards
- Conducts population-based food consumption survey



Work of CFS (II)

Risk Management (I)

- Enforces food legislations
- Exercises import control of live food animals and poultry, and other food products
- Manages a food surveillance programme at import, wholesale and retail levels



Work of CFS (III)

Risk Management (II)

- Conducts audit inspections of overseas farms and food processing plants
- Manages food incidents including food poisoning outbreaks in food premises
- Operates disease surveillance programme for food animals in local slaughterhouses



Work of CFS (IV)

Risk Communication

- Organizes promotional and educational activities on food safety
- Disseminates timely food safety information through various channels
- Communicates effectively with stakeholders
 - Trade Consultation Forum
 - Consumer Liaison Group



Challenges

- “Control at source”
- “Regulation” versus “Free Port”
- Risk communication to stakeholders
- Maintain “Gourmet’s Paradise”
 - Quality, Variety and Safety



Looking Ahead

- CFS – at its infancy
- Grow from strength to strength
- Enhance and maintain public confidence in food safety in Hong Kong



Thank You

