



**Opening Ceremony**  
**8<sup>th</sup> International Food Data Conference**  
**October 1, 2009 08.30 am**

**Remarks by**

**Professor Dr. Kraiid Tontisirin**

Associate Professor Dr Visith Chavasit, the Director of Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Dr Prapasri Puwastien, the Convener, Professor Dr Nevin Scrimshaw, Dr Paul Finglas, Dr Barbara Burlingame, friends and colleagues, and participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Food Data Conference.

May I begin by welcome you all to Bangkok and sincerely thank the organizer for giving me this opportunity to deliver a remark at the opening session of the international conference. This conference is a major pre-congress satellite meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition. It just happens that I have been entrusted by the Nutrition Association of Thailand to be the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and the President of the congress. I do believe that you will be able to participate in the nutrition congress to share and learn more about nutrition. As a matter of fact, nutrition is a link between food and health in fulfilling of nutrient and non-nutrient requirement from food. Quality of food composition data- key for health and trade, the theme of this conference is indeed very crucial and timely.

In the current society, we are witness the rising trend of ageing population, globalization, urbanization, changing in lifestyle and eating habits. Nutritional challenges have also been shifting from under nutrition to over weight, obesity and diet related chronic diseases. With regard to developing countries, they are facing with double burden of malnutrition, a coexistence of under and over nutrition occurring in the same family, same community or even in the same individuals. There is therefore a need to ensure the nutritious and safe food supply along with food and nutrition education for consumers throughout human lifecycle in normal and illness situations. These require the support from a high quality food data system to be used widely and appropriately.



With reference to food industry and trade, there is a need to respond to all the societal changes and to the rise of consumer health awareness. Nutrition information of food products is often required to be provided. This can hardly be achieved without food composition information that is accurate, up-to-date and utilizable.

In 1983 when Thailand organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress on Nutrition, Professor Aree Valyasevi was the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and I was the Secretary General of that Congress. The INFOODS was first introduced to Asian's food and nutritional scientists the very first time by Professor Nevin Scrimshaw, the founder of INFOODS. It was emphasized at that time on the standardization to generate food composition data, to compile food data in a systematic ways to be friendly for users, and to promote for widely utilization. Apparently, this concept is still quite valid today.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and congratulation to the Organizers of this conference for their hard work in the preparation of this event. I am certain that the conference will provide a good opportunity for scientists from all regions of the world to share their knowledge and experience with the common goal to improve food composition data. Finally, I wish you a fruitful and successful conference and hope that you will participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> ICN. Please also spend some time to enjoy Thai food and cultures.

Thank you.

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