



Message from the Chairs of the Eighth International Food Data Conference

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On behalf of the Organising Committee & Scientific Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to the 8th International Food Data Conference (8th IFDC) in Bangkok, Thailand. This event, the first conference of its kind to be held in Asia, is organised by the Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (INMU) under the auspice of the International Network of Food Data System (INFOODS) and the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) Task Force as a pre-conference of the 19th International Congress of Nutrition (ICN 2009). **“Quality Food Composition Data: Key for Health and Trade”** has been chosen as the main theme to emphasise the importance of the quality and reliability of the analytical food composition data and the quality of the data compilation system. These can reflect the quality of the database used in various areas of foods, nutrition, health and trade as well as all related research and development.

Guided by the theme of the conference, seven sessions are arranged as follows: 1) Quality system and standards for food composition data generation, compilation and evaluation; 2) Codex issues related to food composition (labeling, health claims, nutrient reference values, analytical methods); 3) Influences on nutrient composition: biological, biodiversity, physical environmental, processing and biotechnology; 4) Emerging techniques for analysis and new compositional data for nutrients and bioactive compounds and their bioavailability; 5) Innovative use of food composition data in health and trade; 6) Current activities on food composition at national, regional and international levels and 7) Gaps in food composition data generation, compilation and uses. The last session, in particular, provides the chance for the participants and experts to exchange views, share and discuss the real problems, gaps and issues and to find some solutions, agreement or guidelines which may be declared at the conference.

The two and a half-day conference brings together approximately 150 delegates from over 40 countries around the world who are analysts, food scientists, nutritionists, dietitians and researchers from the public sector, private industry, academia and international agencies. It serves as a forum to disseminate up-to-date knowledge and latest information pertaining to food composition data. It also provides the opportunity to exchange ideas, share experience, update relevant activities and discuss various issues of mutual interest. Moreover, participants from FoodComp courses can meet their lecturers to report their progress and to share issues encountered in the real experience after the

course. Lastly, it is definitely a good time to meet your long time friends and made new friends in the same career.

The conference cannot be successful without contributions from various partners. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all collaborators and sponsors particularly FAO, EuroFIR and private companies (as listed in the abstract book) for the financial support; Scientific Advisory Committee - both international and local for their kind efforts in reviewing the abstracts and arranging the conference programme; the Organising team and Secretariat staff for their effort and dedication in order to make this event possible. Equally, we wish to thank the speakers, poster presenters and all participants for your contribution, cooperation and attendance at the 8th IFDC. Without your interest and participation, this conference could not be organised.

We also would like to extend our appreciation to everyone else, who in one way or another, contributed to the success of this Conference.

Thank you.
