



APFAN PT-2 Workshop

Food Analysis Workshop: Proficiency Testing and Reference Materials Development

APFAN - History, Role and future Challenges

Dr Pieter Scheelings,
Past-Coordinator APFAN

APFAN Food Analysis Workshop:
Proficiency Testing and Reference
Materials Development
Bangkok, 19 -21 June, 2019

APFAN - A network of food scientists from the Asia- Pacific Region

- * Formed in 1989 at the 3rd Asian Chemical Conference held in Brisbane on 30/9/ to 2/10 as part of the joint meeting of the RACI and FACS .
- * Workshop on "food analysis in Developing Countries" identified a need for technical support and a chronic shortage of training opportunities for food scientists within and outside the region
- * Key country representatives included H Bradbury (ANU), B Noller (FACS) , G Craven (QHSS), W.Aalbersberg (FiJi) and R. Florentino (Philippines) and other participants from Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific region

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APFAN Structure and Mission



- * APFAN adopted the motto *'food analysis is Vital to Food Quality and Safety'*
- * It's mission is to 'serve the needs of food analysts and thereby promote food quality and safety and good nutrition' and thereby indirectly contribute to food security in the region.
- * APFAN would complement the activities of ASEANFOODS and OCEANIAFOODS

APFAN Structure and Mission

- * A local APFAN working committee was formed with Dr Howard Bradbury as founding Coordinator and Graham Craven (Aus) as training co-ordinator with co-opted country representatives from Fiji, The Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia
- * APFAN would operate as part of FACS and participate in regional FACS meetings
- * Notional support from professional bodies including RACI and AIFST

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Some details regarding the Workshops

- * QHSS executive provided 'in-kind' support to make available the lab facilities and staff to undertake the training and supervision of participants
- * Many participants were provided with travel, accommodation and meal support through the generous funding from a number of Australian funding agencies (including ACIAR, The Crawford fund and AusAID)
- * Participants were provided with a workshop folder which included copies of all lectures and presentations
- * Provisions were made to offer halal or vegetarian meals and prayer rooms within the lab facility
- * All participants were provided with a 'certificate of attendance' at a graduation dinner at the conclusion of the workshop
- * Some past workshop attendees returned to present lectures and assist in the training in following workshops.

past workshop participants



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APFAN Activities 1989 - 2007

- * Registered network membership over 500 from 30 countries
- * 5 conferences held in the Asean region
- * 7 practical workshops held at QHSS in Brisbane
- * Some 140 APFAN members from 18 Asia-Pacific countries 'graduated' through the Brisbane workshops
- * 34 members from 9 countries including several African nations have undertaken specialist training and post-graduate mentoring at the QHSS laboratory
- * APFAN support for regional RMs development led by Dr Puwastien at Mahidol University
- * APFAN newsletter and web page
- * Many workshop participants have adopted roles of 'quality drivers' in their respective agencies and countries


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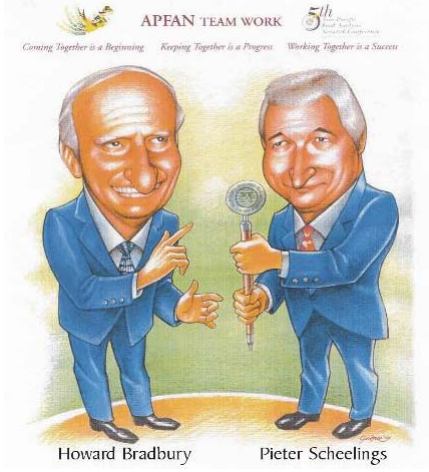
APFAN Coordinators



Dr Howard Bradbury, Founding coordinator 1989-2001, Emeritus professor, Australian National University



Dr Pieter Scheelings, Principal Scientist, QH Forensic and Scientific Services, 2001 - 2014



Howard Bradbury Pieter Scheelings

APFAN Deputy Coordinators

- * Dr Julia Kantasubrata, LIPI, Indonesia
- * Dr Aida Aguinaldo IFNR, The Philippines
- * Mr Graham Craven, QHSS, Australia



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Change of Coordinator - new logo



Prof FG Winarno
2014-2018



Stewart Jones,
2018 to present



Kunchit
Judprasong,
Deputy
Coordinator



Other (AusAID) funded Training Programs 1996-2007

- * Staff placements from and to Fiji lab from AGAL Adelaide in 1995/6 arising from OCEANIAFOODS recommendations
- * QHSS training at LIPI, Bandung in 1996-1998, and 2000
- * NMI/QHSS training in Jakarta and Bandung in 2001 coordinated by Stewart Jones
- * Follow-up regional PT/RM training workshops supported by NMI
- * ACIAR funded review of NAL in PNG in 2006-7
- * Review of health Laboratories and ISO standards training in Mozambique Ministry of Health laboratories

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ASEANFOODS RM and PT Development

- * Development of RM and PT capabilities commenced at Mahidol University Institute of Nutrition in 1983 under the ASEANFOODS program by Dr Prapasri Puwastien and her team
- * Further training supported through workshops at IRMM in Belgium enabled similar capabilities to be extended to The Philippines (Teresita Portugal) and later to LIPI in Indonesia
- * Subsequent workshops coordinated by Stewart Jones have been held in Thailand, The Philippines and Indonesia in 2005/6

Challenges going forward

Limited funding and the speed of technology change represent significant challenges for food analysts, analytical laboratories and networks such as APFAN.

Issues to manage include:

- * Increasing use of laboratory automation
- * Bench chemistry versus problem solving capability
- * Employment security - permanent staff versus contract and casual employees
- * Increase in productivity versus training time
- * Staff need to maintain relevance to their employers

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Some Corporate Challenges

- * Loss of expertise through retirements and redundancies
- * Impact of funding constraints on training and aging equipment
- * Maintaining staff morale and productivity during structural changes
- * Increasing client demand on quality, accreditation
- * Development of new analytical capabilities with limited resources

Future Challenges for APFAN?

- * Secure sufficient on-going funding and training resources
- * Prioritise activities based on identified technology gaps and needs of its membership within budget
- * Re-align training and workshops within the Asia-Pacific region
- * Re-establish relationships with international and local funding agencies and instrument suppliers to support new ventures
- * Communicate APFAN achievements through newsletters, international conferences and to science ministries in the region.
- * Collaborate with like networks and professional bodies within the region

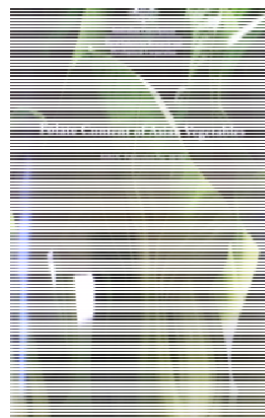
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Some observations and personal reflections

- * globalisation together with robotics will continue to provide employment threats (and opportunities) for analytical chemists and like professionals
- * contract/casual employment is trending towards 'the norm' for scientists in government, industry and academia
- * organisational restructuring will continue to impact on laboratory services in line with government policies and fashion
- * there is however likely to be a continuing but dynamic role for government analysts and laboratories
- * chemists/scientists have inherent and learned problem solving skills which are highly transferable
- * as employees, we need to maintain relevant (skills, knowledge) to our employers and clients
- * membership of and active participation in professional societies remains an integral pathway for personal development and networking
- * collaboration between government and private labs needs continuing support and encouragement

Collaboration and Cooperation`

- * Transfer of technology is not 'a one-way street'
- * Dr Prapasri Puwastien and Wasinee Jongitsin from Mahidol University provided valuable expertise in setting up a folate bio-assay method and RMs at QHSS as part of a RIRDC contract to determine the folate content of Asian Vegetables (RIRDC Publication No 10/167)



Regional Cooperation and Collaboration

- * The value of APFAN and similar networks which engender collaboration and cooperation can simply be illustrated by the following slides:

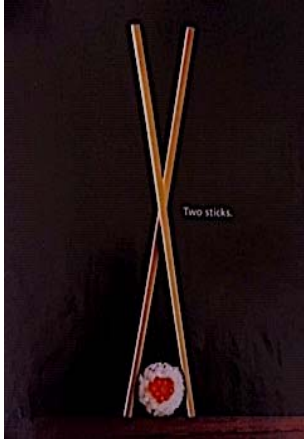


What value collaboration?



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What value collaboration?



Some science legends and heroes

- * Professor Lloyd Miles Jackman
- * Dr Linus Pauling
- * Professor John Cornforth
- * Dr William Horwitz
- * Dr John Keenan Taylor
- * Dr Howard Bradbury
- * Professor Muhammad Yunus

