APFAN has been extremely active with the Fourth Asia Pacific Food Analysis Conference (4AC) held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 16-19, 1998 and the Sixth Asia Pacific Food Analysis Workshop (6AW), held at the Queensland Health Scientific Services (QHSS) Laboratory, May 7-14, 1999.


There were 160 participants and 88 papers/posters were given over three days. There were invited speakers from FAO, Rome and from Australia and elsewhere in the Asia Pacific region. Sessions were held on food composition data and nutritional status; food analysis: quality assurance and management; food analysis: nutrition labelling and quality assurance; food analysis; chemical and microbiological laboratory development and training in developing countries; simple/rapid methods for analysis of pesticides, aflatoxins and antinutrients in foods; as well as two workshops on "nutrition labelling in the Asia-Pacific" and "are the benefits of quality assurance cost-effective?" The conference was preceded by a Rapid Methods in Food Microbiology workshop held at KMITT, Thonburi and was followed by a workshop held at the Chiang Mai University on Pesticide Immunoassay, which were both well attended. This is the first time that APFAN was able to hold a stand-alone Conference, that was not linked with either FACS (as in May 1995 at Manila) or with Instituit Kimia Malaysia (as in 1990 and 1992). 4AC was a great success.

Sixth Asia Pacific Food Analysis Workshop (6AW), QHSS, Brisbane, May 7-14, 1999.

There were 25 participants from 8 countries of the Asia Pacific region and one person from Ethiopia, who all spent one day on lectures and the remaining 5 working days in the laboratory learning to carry out an analysis of their choice. This hands-on workshop was perhaps the best one yet. Over the 6 workshops there have been 117 persons trained from 13 countries.

APFAN has also organised individual training courses of from 2 weeks to 6 months duration in Australian laboratories (mainly at QHSS)
for food scientists from developing country laboratories, who receive training in the particular area requested by the sending laboratory. In the ten years since it started there have been 28 persons who have received such training.

A project funded by AusAID, which would have been impossible without the networking of APFAN, involved laboratories in Indonesia, Thailand and Australia and helped upgrade food analysis laboratories in Indonesia. A similar project is currently planned for the Philippines. APFAN in Malaysia publishes an APFAN/ASEANFOODS Newsletter, in Thailand inexpensive food reference materials are produced and in Australia simple kits are made and are available free of charge for determination of cyanogens in cassava and thiocyanate in urine.

The current membership of APFAN is 470 members from 30 countries.

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