Governments and international organizations in Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission wishing to submit comments on the draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015 – 2020 are invited to do so no later than 30 September 2012 to the Secretariat for CCASIA, Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8950, Japan (E-mail: ccasia@nm.maff.go.jp), with a copy to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy (E-mail: codex@fao.org).

In order to facilitate the compilation of comments and prepare more useful comments’ document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments under the following headings:

(i) General Comments
(ii) Specific Comments

Specific comments should include a reference to the relevant section and/or paragraph of the document that the comments refer to.

BACKGROUND

1. Development of a strategic plan for the Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) was first proposed by Malaysia with the goal “to strengthen the food safety infrastructure of all Asian Members and the region’s contribution to Codex work” at the 15th Session of the CCASIA in 2006.

2. At its 16th Session in 2008, the CCASIA agreed to adopt the Strategic Plan for the Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) 2009-2014. (Annex 1)

3. At its 17th Session in 2010, the CCASIA reviewed status of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014 and agreed to request the next Coordinator to provide an update of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to prepare a preliminary new draft Strategic Plan for discussion at its next session.

4. On April 27th, the Coordinator circulated a questionnaire to request preliminary comments on the next Strategic Plan for CCASIA. Deadline for submission of the comments was May 31st and comments were subsequently received from two Members.

5. A preliminary draft of the new Strategic Plan for the CCASIA was prepared with taking into account various sources including above mentioned initial input from Asian Members.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION POINTS FOR THE NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCASIA

6. Considering that 18th Session is the first time to substantially discuss the next strategic plan for the CCASIA, the Coordinator is planning to propose first to have a general discussion (e.g. discussion on “Introduction,” “Goals” and “Objectives” in the draft Strategic Plan) rather than go deeply into specific discussion on each “Actions” at the 18th session of CCASIA.
The followings are some potential discussion points to be clarified, discussed and/or considered in the process of elaboration of the next Strategic Plan for the CCASIA.

1) Timeframe

Timeframe of the next Strategic Plan for CCASIA should be discussed from some viewpoints including balance with the timeframe of worldwide Codex Strategic Plan. At this time, the Coordinator placed 6 years in the draft Strategic Plan as an option for CCASIA to consider.

2) Structure

The coordinator adopted a structure of the current Strategic Plan for the CCASIA as a basis for the attached draft new Strategic Plan with some modifications.

a) Structure of Main text of the draft new Strategic Plan

The Coordinator is proposing a structure consisting of three sections “Introduction,” “Goal” and “Strategic Objective”. In section “Strategic Objective,” six “Objectives” are placed with two sub-sections “Rationale” and “Actions” in the draft Strategic Plan. Sub-section “Rationale” is newly added in order to clarify the reason for placing each objective.

b) Annex of the draft new Strategic Plan

A questionnaire and reporting form to monitor the status of implementation of the current Strategic Plan has been attached to the current Strategic Plan. CCASIA need to discuss whether this kind of questionnaire and reporting form should be also attached to the next Strategic Plan for CCASIA. At this time, the Coordinator attached reporting form as a reference for CCASIA to consider.

3) Elements

a) Review of the current Strategic Plan

Understanding that the next Strategic Plan will be developed with taking into account the status of implementation of the current Strategic Plan, it is important to review elements of this current Strategic Plan to see whether it is still relevant to the Asian Members. Especially, following Objectives / Actions need to be identified:

• Those included in the current Strategic Plan that should be continuously included in the next Strategic Plan;
• Those included in the current Strategic Plan that should be deleted due to the achievement of the objective or the completion of action; and
• Those that Asian Members wish to newly add to the next Strategic Plan

b) Measurable indicators

Recalling that the last session of CCASIA concluded that the new worldwide Codex Strategic Plan should include measurable indicators, measurable indicators or actions could be included also in the next Strategic Plan for CCASIA, wherever appropriate.

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THIS WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circulation of the draft next Regional Strategic Plan for CCASIA for comments</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for the comments</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation of compiled comments (in the form of meeting document for the 18th Session of CCASIA from the Codex Secretariat)</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consideration at the 18th Session of CCASIA</td>
<td>November 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption of the new Strategic Plan for the CCASIA at the 19th Session of CCASIA</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the Strategic Plan for the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) for the period 2015-2020. The Strategic Plan for CCASIA has been formulated referring to Strategic Goals described in Codex 2014-2019 Strategic Plan and taking the needs of Asian Members into account. This Strategic Plan presents goals and strategic objectives for CCASIA and Asian Members, and also includes detailed actions that are necessary to achieve those goals and objectives.

GOAL

The goals of this Strategic Plan are:

1. To promote contribution of Asian Members to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and its subsidiary bodies;
2. To enhance communication and coordination among Asian Members;
3. To obtain the maximum benefit from Codex activities; and
4. To improve scientific and technical capacities of Asian Members

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This Strategic Plan clarifies six strategic objectives of the Asian region that contribute to achieving above mentioned four goals. In implementing each action, Asian Members may seek cooperation with FAO/WHO and other international organizations.

OBJECTIVE 1: To achieve the maximum and effective participation of Asian Members in the activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies

Rationale:
To achieve maximum participation and submit appropriate comments and data from Asian Members are essential for making sound decision at the sessions of CAC and its subsidiary bodies.

Actions:
1.1 Strengthen the capacity of Asian Members to submit their comments and appropriate scientific data on relevant issues.
1.2 Formulate national positions and participate in relevant sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies.
1.3 Encourage developing Asian Members to apply for funding assistance under the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing the Participation of Developing Countries in the Work of Codex, as well as other sources.
1.4 Promote the understanding of Codex rules including the Procedural Manual among Asian Members.

OBJECTIVE 2: To strengthen regional communication and coordination among Asian Members in the activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies

Rationale:
Since Member countries in Asia region tend to share the same concerns derived from similar climate and dietary habitat, Asian Members can benefit from using the network among Asian members to address their concerns through helping and compensating each other for Codex related activities. This network is also important to promote cooperation to form clear and sound regional positions and subsequently increase presence of Asian Members in the Codex activities.
Actions:

2.1 Maintain and share an up-to-date directory of the Codex Contact Point (CCP) of Asian Members.
2.2 Update and maintain a website of CCASIA and encourage its use.
2.3 Encourage the exchange and sharing of submitted comments and relevant data among Asian Members.
2.4 Organize informal meetings of CCASIA members at the margin of the meeting of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to develop common position, where possible.
2.5 Cooperate to gather data/information and make proposal at the sessions of CAC and/or subsidiary bodies on issues of common concerns or interests.

OBJECTIVE 3:
To promote the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts taking into account regional situations and needs

Rationale:
Asian Members can benefit from using worldwide and/or regional standards developed by taking their identified needs into account.

Actions:

3.1 Conduct surveys or exchange views with relevant stakeholders in Member countries to capture interests and needs for the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts.
3.2 Identify specific food products and area of interest of the region that require standards and related texts to be developed and/or reviewed.
3.3 Make proposals at the sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies to reflect interest of the Asian region.

OBJECTIVE 4:
To promote the use of Codex standards and related texts as bases for national legislation by Asian Members

Rationale:
Promoting the use of regulations and measures based on Codex standards and related texts would contribute to protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practice in the food trade.

Actions:

4.1 Inform and share the results of meetings of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to relevant stakeholders in Member countries.
4.2 Train technical personnel and policymakers responsible for the elaboration of food policies including regulations on the significance of and need to consider Codex standards and related texts.
4.3 Increase awareness of the Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders in Member countries including consumers, industries and academia.
4.4 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to harmonize their national policies including regulations with Codex standards and related texts.

OBJECTIVE 5:
To develop and strengthen capacities and functions of CCP and/or National Codex Committee (NCC)

Rationale:
Enhancing capacities and functions of CCP and/or NCC is essential to promote the effective participation of Asian Members in the Codex activities and the dissemination and implementation of Codex work in each Asian Members.

Actions:

5.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to establish and/or strengthen CCP and/or NCC.
5.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or mentoring and training program to strengthen CCP and/or NCC.

**OBJECTIVE 6:**

*To strengthen food control capacities and framework of Asian Members*

**Rationale:**
In order to address food related problems and also to contribute to the work of CAC and its subsidiary bodies, Asian Members need to strengthen their capacities and framework.

**Actions:**

6.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to improve scientific and technical capacities related to food control including those relating to laboratories and inspections.

6.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or training courses to improve scientific and technical capacity.

6.3 Update and maintain a list of experts and institutions available in the region which can provide the required scientific and technical expertise.

6.4 Facilitate the development and/or review of national food control regulatory system including organizations, laws and regulations.

(Attachment: Reporting Form of Monitoring of Implementation of Strategic Plan for CCASIA)
### OBJECTIVE 1:  
**To achieve the maximum and effective participation of Asian Members in the activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Criteria for Implementation</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Strengthen the capacity of Asian Members to submit their comments and appropriate scientific data on relevant issues.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number and outline of comments and data submitted.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Encourage Asian Members to formulate their national position and participate in relevant sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Actions taken to formulate national positions for each Codex meetings. Number and outline of sessions participated by Asian Members.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Encourage developing Asian Members to apply for funding assistance under the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing the Participation of Developing Countries in the Work of Codex, as well as other sources.</td>
<td>Interested Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number and outline of applications Asian Members have made for funding assistance Number and outline of the applications approved by authorized organization.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Promote the understanding of Codex rules including the Procedural Manual among Asian Members.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Actions taken to promote the understanding of Codex rules (e.g. seminars or training courses).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OBJECTIVE 2:  
**To strengthen communication and coordination among Asian Members in the regional activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Maintain and share an up-to-date directory of the Codex Contact Point (CCP) of Asian Members.</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Action taken by the Coordinator to request Asian Members to update the directory of the CCP. Notification made by Members to provide the change of CCP to the Codex secretariat in a timely manner.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Update and maintain a website of CCASIA and encourage its use.</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator. All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Actions taken by the Coordinator to update the CCASIA website in timely manner. Frequency of access to CCASIA website by Asian Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Exchange and sharing of submitted comments and relevant data among Asian Members.</td>
<td>Interested members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number and outline of actions taken by Asian Members to exchange or share the submitted comments and data with other Asian Members.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Organize informal meetings of CCASIA members at the margin of the meeting of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to develop common position, where possible.</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator All members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number of informal meetings for CCASIA organized by the Coordinator. Number of Asian Members participated in the informal meetings. Number and outline of common position developed at those informal meetings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Responsible Parties</td>
<td>Time Frame</td>
<td>Criteria for Implementation</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.5 Cooperate to gather data/information and make proposal at the sessions of CAC and/or subsidiary bodies on issues of common concerns or interests.</td>
<td>Interested Members</td>
<td>On going</td>
<td>Number and outline of gathered data/information Number and outline of proposal made at the sessions of CAC or its subsidiary bodies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OBJECTIVE 3:**

*To promote the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts taking into account regional situations and needs*

- **3.1** Conduct surveys or exchange views with relevant stakeholders in Members countries to capture interests and needs of the region for the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts.
  - Responsible Parties: All Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Number of the surveys and exchange of views conducted by Asian Members and their outline.

- **3.2** Identify specific food products and area of interest to the region that require standards and related texts to be developed and/or reviewed.
  - Responsible Parties: Regional Coordinator, Interested Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Number and outline of identified products or area of interest to the region and their outline.

- **3.3** Make proposals at the sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies to reflect interest of the Asian region.
  - Responsible Parties: Interested Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Number and outline of proposal made at the sessions.

**OBJECTIVE 4:**

*To promote the use of Codex standards and related texts as bases for national legislation by Asian Members*

- **4.1** Inform and share the results of meetings of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to relevant stakeholders in Member countries.
  - Responsible Parties: All Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Actions taken by Members countries to inform and share the results of Codex meetings to relevant stakeholders.

- **4.2** Train technical personnel and policymakers responsible for the elaboration of food policies including regulations on the significance of and need to consider Codex standards and related texts.
  - Responsible Parties: All Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Number and outlines of the training courses, seminars or workshops etc. held during this period.

- **4.3** Increase awareness of the Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders in Member countries including consumers, industries and academia.
  - Responsible Parties: All Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Actions taken to increase awareness of Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders.

- **4.4** Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to harmonize their national policies including regulations with Codex standards and related texts.
  - Responsible Parties: All Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Actions taken to inform and share the content and importance of Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders.

**OBJECTIVE 5:**

*To develop and strengthen capacities and functions of CCP and/or National Codex Committee (NCC)*

- **5.1** Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to establish and/or strengthen CCP and/or NCC.
  - Responsible Parties: All Members
  - Time Frame: Ongoing
  - Criteria for Implementation: Number and outline of identified capacity building need to establish and/or strengthen CCP and/or NCC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Criteria for Implementation</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or mentoring and training program to strengthening CCP and/or NCC.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Actions taken to assist other Asian Members in strengthening CCP and/or NCC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OBJECTIVE 6:**
To strengthen food control capacities and framework of Asian Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to improve scientific and technical capacities related to food control including those relating to laboratories and inspections.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number and outline of identified capacity building need to improve scientific and technical capacities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or training courses to improve scientific and technical capacity.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Number and outline of workshops and/or training courses organized to improve scientific and technical capacity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3 Update and maintain a list of experts and institutions available in the region which can provide the required scientific and technical expertise.</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator, All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Request made by the Coordinator for Asian Members to update the list or send recommendation of the new experts and/or institutions to be listed. Notification made by Asian Members to provide update of the list in a timely manner.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 Facilitate the development and/or review of national food control regulatory system including organizations, laws and regulations.</td>
<td>All Members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Actions taken to develop and/or review the national food control regulatory system and its outline.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>