

## — Training auditors/lead auditors in ISO22000:2005 —

**F**ood safety crises and food scandals worldwide in recent years have heightened consumers' food safety awareness and caused public distrust of increasingly complex global food production and trading systems. Consumers are also becoming more sensitive to production processes and practices throughout the supply chain, demanding quality and safety assurances with reliable information. Food safety assurance is equally important for the food industry. A foodborne disease incident can be devastating for any organization that supplies food to the advanced markets. A food safety recall can be costly or result in the closing of a food enterprise. Food safety management systems (FSMS) are therefore becoming critical for food enterprises to enhance their share in the increasingly competitive global food market. In response, agribusinesses and food companies are putting in place FSMS such as ISO22000:2005, which incorporates all HACCP requirements in addition to the requirements of ISO9001.

Implementation of a modern FSMS is, however, always challenging. The verification and auditing of an FSMS are even more difficult. Implementation, verification, validation, and auditing of FSMS require qualified food safety experts and auditors. The APO organized several courses over the past four years, training around 875 stakeholders in ISO22000. In addition, about 70 ISO22000 auditors/lead auditors were trained in courses meeting International Registry of Certified Auditor requirements. The latest training course on ISO22000:2005 for auditors/lead auditors was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 23–28 August 2010, in collaboration with the Korea Productivity Center (KPC). Sixteen participants from 14 member countries attended.



*Participants from IR Iran, Bangladesh, and Thailand (L-R) exchange ideas to devise the best strategy to conduct an effective audit of the Food Safety Management System ISO22000 during the training course in Seoul. Photo courtesy of Dr. Soheyl Eskandari Gharabaghlou*

Secretariat Senior Program Officer Muhammad Saeed observed, “The success of the course was due largely to the competent, experienced resource persons, interactive participants, excellent physical and logistics arrangements, and effective training methodology.” For participant Dr. P. Senthil Kumar of India, the exercises and mock auditing were the most impressive features of the course. According to Dr. Chen Min-Hung of the Republic of China, the realistic role playing led by resource persons Howie Ng Ha Wai and Yong Kok Seng was valuable. Resource person Ng, Director, Hong Kong Veritas Limited, commented, “The KPC really did a professional job with the physical arrangements and logistics. The set-up of the venue and quality of course materials exceeded our needs and expectations.” 🌀