

New Technology and Innovation in Food Safety enhancement

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GS1 Hong Kong presented this yearâ??s Food Safety Forum themed "Food Safety in New Era - A Decade for Digital Experience & Innovation in Food Safety Enhancement" on 30 August, 2018.



22 Winners Awarded for Outstanding Efforts in Food Traceability @GS1 HK Food Safety Forum 2018

GS1 Hong Kong presented this yearâ??s Food Safety Forum themed "Food Safety in New Era - A Decade for Digital Experience & Innovation in Food Safety Enhancement" on 30 August, 2018.

More than 300 food industry stakeholders attended and shared their perspectives on how new innovations strengthen food traceability and ensure food safety.

Enabling Food Supply Chain Transparency with Technology

According to the World Health Organization, every year approximately 600 million people -- a full one-tenth of the worldâ??s population -- become ill after food incidents, and 420,000 of them die.

In Hong Kong, it is found that a lot of citizens are concerned about the credibility of the food product source, its information and the transparency of food supply chain. The results came from a street survey of 1,505 respondents conducted by GS1 Hong Kong, which shows the importance of food traceability that enables supply chain transparency to consumers. As a result, food safety and traceability along the food chain are receiving increasing focus by suppliers, retailers, consumers and governments.

Addressing the Food Safety Forum 2018, the Under Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Chui Tak-yi, JP, said, "Information technology is enhancing supply chain efficiency and food traceability from all perspectives. Not only do food producers, traders and logistics providers apply technology to enhance their competitive edges, food safety regulators are also capitalising on technology to enhance their regulatory efficiency."

"The Centre of Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is embarking on a challenging project to revamp its IT systems to enhance its data management capability to facilitate its gate keeping work. Also, it is building up an E-portal to interface with food traders on matters ranging from the handling of applications on food import to issuing instructions on food inspection and sample collection arrangements electronically. The E-portal will become part of the HKSAR Government's Trade Single Window system, which will be the Government-wide one-stop online kiosk for trade declaration and customs clearance."

Thanks to the advancement of technologies like IoT, artificial intelligence and blockchain, food companies are able to manage an integrated, round-the-clock approach to food safety. "Digital transformation is revolutionizing businesses, helping companies provide a new kind of consumer experience, boosting transparency and organizational efficiency." Ms. Anna Lin, JP, FCILT, Chief Executive of GS1 Hong Kong said in her welcome remarks. "Yet it requires a common set of standards to help scale across the complex, global supply chain, and maintain a clear, unbroken record. With global standards, each product and process are uniquely identified and automatically captured by RFID or scanning the barcode, end-to-end traceability and visibility are made possible with information uploaded and exchanged through the IoT platform."

Hong Kong Food & Beverage Industry Advisory Board

Ms. Lin also announced the inauguration of the Hong Kong Food & Beverage Industry Advisory Board, which aims to promote the importance of traceability and transparency in the food and beverage supply chain to enhance food safety. The Board is also dedicated to fostering dialogue with the Government, advancing effective online and offline (O2O) channels that facilitate trade, and strengthening the F&B industry supply chain ecosystem by advocating the adoption of global standards and driving innovation and technology development.

Ms. Grace Ho, General Manager of Nestle Hong Kong Limited and Mr. Keith Wu, Executive Director and Group COO of Tsit Wing International Holdings Ltd., are the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the first term of the Advisory Board. Other members include senior executives and experts from leading companies, academic circle and associations in F&B industry.

Increasing Number of Companies on Food Safety

22 outstanding food-related enterprises are being awarded in the Quality Food Traceability Scheme 2018, which all demonstrated their vigorous efforts in upholding food traceability. The majority of the awardees have joined since the inception of the Scheme, showing that companies are putting more emphasis on food traceability to ensure safety for consumers.

Initiated in 2015, the Scheme is designed to help local food and food services companies to enhance their track and trace capabilities along the supply chain, and effectively adopt international standards for their food management systems.

Participating companies will undergo a structural, all-round assessment based on Global Traceability Standard, with cross-reference to GFSI recognized food safety scheme. It defines a comprehensive set of traceability requirements suitable for local food businesses to achieve full chain traceability. Diamond, Gold and Silver awards are presented to recognized companies based on the audit results.