The ILSI International Organizations Committee

Bringing You Closer to the World

The ILSI International Organizations Committee (IOC) recommends and implements programs of interest to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILSI branches and the ILSI Research Foundation, and committee members and scientific advisors.

Making a Difference

The IOC's activities are critically important to the development of fundamental relationships for the exchange of science that underpins food safety, nutrition, health, and education. Through collaborative efforts with WHO and FAO, IOC members are able to:

- Participate as observers at WHO, FAO, and Codex Alimentarius meetings and conferences
- Provide scientific input on policy and regulatory issues at the local, regional, and global level
- Promote the use of science in developing health policy and regulations
- Leverage science, information, and a network of experts to resolve
- Take a leading role in improving food safety and nutrition, especially in developing countries

The IOC provides in-country training to help WHO and FAO ensure current science underpins food safety, nutrition, and health programs.

Areas of Work: Action, Success, and Ongoing Value

Encourage Codex Alimentarius to continue to base standards on sound science.
IOC provides valuable support to the Codex process by anticipating scientific needs, and providing scientific knowledge to meet those needs.

Action: The dietary fiber definition provided by the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)—which largely conformed to the definition published by ILSI and submitted to CCNFSDU—was approved by Codex Alimentarius Commission. However, the adopted definition left the inclusion of DP3-9 polysaccharides up to national governments.

Action: ILSI delegations give ILSI branches and members an opportunity to attend Codex meetings. Delegations attended several throughout 2010: Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (New Zealand); Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (Turkey); Codex Committee on Food Labeling (Canada); Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (Korea); and the CCNFSDU (Chile).

WHO, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Chilean Ministry of Health organized a pre-CCNFSDU workshop on intervention programs to reduce dietary sodium and the current knowledge base regarding health impacts of dietary sugars. WHO has prioritized both topics through their Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. Joanne Slavin, PhD, University of Minnesota and sponsored by ILSI, presented views on the health impact of sugars at this workshop.

Collaborate with FAO to build capacity in developing countries that leads toward the implementation of scientifically-based and harmonized food regulatory systems and the effective use of risk analysis in a modern food safety system.
In 2010, IOC worked with FAO on training activities in Benin on safety assessment methods and food safety systems. Initial plans for a 2011 meeting on the harmonization of dietary exposure assessment tools have begun.

Impact: ILSI helped build local scientific and technical capacity - a World Trade Organization Mandate - by supporting the training of numerous individuals who are now food safety and food science resources in their countries.

Collaborate with WHO on public health issues: the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) Risk Assessment Harmonization Project; the WHO Food Safety Programme; and the Health Impacts Database.
Staff from the ILSI Research Foundation and the ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute worked with IPCS to develop "Guidance on Combined Exposures Assessment."

Impact: ILSI is recognized by WHO staff as a critical source of scientific expertise in risk assessment and obesity prevention interventions. Because of this, ILSI status as a recognized nongovernmental organization with WHO was renewed in January 2009 for three years. Such status illustrates ILSI's reputation as a source of credible scientific information worldwide.

Vision for 2011 and Beyond

The proposed FAO/ILSI work plan for 2010 focusing on capacity building training activities related to risk-based food standardization in ASEAN countries will continue.

The 2009-2011 WHO/ILSI Plan of Work which includes developing a risk assessment tool kit for developing country staff to use as well as sponsoring training activities at international meetings; developing a life stages initiative within the risk assessment harmonization project; and continuing support for the Health Impacts Database.

Also part of the 2009-2011 Plan, ILSI is exploring what case studies would help demonstrate the usefulness of WHO's "Principles and Methods for the Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food" and, through ILSI Europe, will work with the WHO Water and Sanitation Unit to evaluate implementation of water standards at the country level.

The IOC will work with Codex Alimentarius leadership to identify emerging science and health issues in which ILSI can be provide expertise. These will be incorporated into the 2012-2014 WHO/ILSI Plan of Work.

As always, the IOC will strive to develop new partnerships to extend ILSI's impact on health, especially within developing countries.

WHO recognizes ILSI as a nongovernmental organization, illustrating and reinforcing ILSI's reputation as a reliable partner in providing science for a healthier world.

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The Coca-Cola Company
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