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and Food Sciences



GFORSS | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY
SCIENCE SOCIETY



Biographies of Panelists

*Shaping a Path Forward for Harmonization of Food Regulatory Requirements
in the Arab Region – Leveraging international experiences*

Webinar through Zoom Platform - Wednesday 24 February 9:30 – 11:30 AM Dubai Time

Participants may join register and join through:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eHAHpo1nRJW3jZkbsuC13A

Panel discussions will be moderated by Prof. Samuel Godefroy and Ms. Rola Arab

Prof. Samuel Godefroy is the former Director General of Health Canada's Food Directorate and a former Vice Chair of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. Samuel is currently Full Professor of Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies in the Department of Food Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Université Laval, Québec, QC, Canada and is leading the development of a Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform (PARERA). Prof. Godefroy serves as a senior food science and regulatory expert on various advisory bodies and committees internationally, including the International Advisory Committees of the China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA) and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority. Prof. Godefroy serves as a strategic and operational advisor to international food safety capacity building initiatives focused on regulatory enhancement, implemented by UNIDO and FAO. Prof. Godefroy is the founder and the current president of the Global Food Regulatory Science Society, a non-for-profit organization, aiming to promote food regulatory science disciplines at the international level. Dr. Godefroy assumed senior food regulatory positions at the Executive Level with Health Canada for over 15 years.



Ms. Rola Arab is the founder and Director of R.A Consulting, a consultancy specialized in the areas of food safety, health and nutrition and International trade and which provides strategic advice on food policies and regulations, opportunities and challenges arising in different markets and on market access. Rola holds a Degree in Law and has a deep expertise in the regulatory environment in the EU, Middle East and Africa. She participates actively in regional and global meetings of international bodies such as Codex Alimentarius and the World Health Organization and has developed partnerships with public health authorities in different markets such as in the GCC, providing support and advise on the development of regulations as well as regular trainings and workshops on food regulations.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Eng. Mariam Eid is the Head of Agro Industries Department at the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture since 2004. The main mission of the Department is the food safety inspection on agro-food processing with a team of more than 50 persons. Mariam Eid is a member of National food Safety Committee and INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point. At regional level Mariam Eid, Under SAFE project, is leading an Arab Initiative in Codex Alimentarius aimed to strengthening the participation of Arab Countries in Codex Food Standards Setting. Currently, Eng. Eid is one of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Vice Chair.



Mr. Mosa Alfaifi is the Executive Director for Saudi Food and Drug Authority Western Region. He received his MSC. Degree in Food Technology form the University of Newcastle, Australia, 2009. His main responsibility is to oversee the inspection and clearance operations carried out at the ports of entry and the local inspection activities carried out on facilities and products inside the Saudi market in a specific assigned sector (food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices) to ensure proper control for the health and safety of consumers. He is currently representing Saudi Arabia as a Regional Coordinator for the Near East of Codex Alimentarius with goals of effective engagement in the implementation of Codex strategic plan 2020-2025 in the region, identification of regional needs, and development of science-based standards to protect consumers' health, and well-being, and to promote nutritional values of food products.



Mr. Alex Samel serves as Chief of Party for the transforming the Assessment and Inspection of Food Businesses (TAIB) in Egypt project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Implemented by Land O'Lakes Venture37, TAIB provides technical assistance to the newly established National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) of Egypt to sustainably execute its mandate and promote expanded domestic and international trade. Prior to working in Egypt, Mr. Samel lived in Georgia, working to expand market access and sales for Georgian agribusinesses and advising the National Food Agency (NFA) on an integrated approach to mitigating agriculture losses from the invasive Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).



Dr. Oday Albuhamad is the Director of Standards and Metrology at the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO). He holds a PhD in Materials Science & Engineering from University of New South Wales (UNSW-Australia) metallurgical engineer with practical experience over 29 years, comprised of over 13 years in aluminum manufacturing industries and 13 years in Academia & Industrial Research as assistant professor in chemical engineering department at Bahrain University (more than 10 scientific publications in journals & conferences). He's an expert in aluminium production and downstream manufacturing, a lead auditor in ISO-9000 QMS & ISO-14000 EMS, an ex-member in the Industrial Committee-Bahrain Chamber of Industry & Commerce (Round 2016-2018) and an ex-member of Bahrain Supreme Council for Vocational Training-Ministry of Labor (Round 2014-2016).



Mr. Mohamed Elkhishen is the Food program Manager in the Middle East Region at Intertek International, a Total Quality Assurance provider to industries worldwide with more than 44,000 employees in 1,000 locations in over 100 countries. He is also working as a technical consultant for the Egyptian Chamber of Food Industry (CFI). For over 14 years, Mohamed Elkhishin has been a noteworthy participant in the space of Food Regulatory Expert at the Domestic and International Level and he holds a master's degree in Food Safety from Lincoln University, New Zealand. He worked as the Technical Consultant for the National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) Chairman in Egypt and he contributed to developing many of its regulations such as the modern Import Control System for Egypt and its related regulations. He has been honored with being a Senior Food Regulatory Advisor, with international organizations such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on targeted capacity building initiatives in food safety and quality regulatory policy development.



Dr. Amal Al-Rashdan is the Deputy Director General for Inspection and Control at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition. Dr Al Rashdan previously held the position of acting Manager for Central Analytical Laboratories.



Dr Fadi Al Natour is the Agri-Food Risk Analysis Specialist at the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority. He graduated from Jordan university of science and technology from veterinary medicine faculty and has more than 12 years' experience in different areas of food safety, inspection, risk analysis. He is involved in designing risk management projects such as risk-based inspection system for imported food and local market establishment and the contact point related the Food incidents notifications, food safety crisis with global and international food safety networks such as EU-RASFF. He is also involved in developing food safety regulations and guidance through the Membership of Bylaws task force committee for food hygiene regulations (FHC) and Import and Export regulation committee (FIEC).



Dr. Nadia Mohammed Abbas is the Director of the Food Risk Assessment department at the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority. Dr Nadia has been working for the Authority for 10 years holding the positions of Veterinary Laboratory Analyst (2010), reporting Administrator on Food and Agricultural Risks (2014). She is also a member of the Agricultural and Food Risk Assessment Committee, the coordinator of the agricultural and food risk assessment teams and a member of the Emergency Operations Center management team.



Mr. Kenneth Lowery is the Senior International Issues Analyst in the U.S. Codex Office which is part of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA) at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Mr. Lowery has over 10 years' experience working within Codex Alimentarius and serves as the Secretary for the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF). He is a member of the U.S. delegation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) and serves as an advisor to the member elected on a geographic basis on the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC). In addition, Mr. Lowery acts as the liaison for the United States to Africa (CCAFRICA), the Near East (CCNE), Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) and is the U.S. delegate to their FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees.



Dr. YongXiang Fan is currently the Director of Food Safety Standards Department, China National Centre for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA). His background is public health, mainly on food safety control and management. Dr. Fan is responsible for the daily running of Secretariat of China National Food Safety Standard Committee, Secretariat of China Codex Committee and WTO office of National Health Commission (NHC) and appointed as Chair of Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) since 2018. He is the key expert on development of Chinese national food safety standards. Dr. Fan led and contributed to development of food safety regulations and standards on various areas, such as food

additives, food packaging, food labeling, GMP and HACCP etc. He has been working in FAO and WHO headquarters in 2015 and 2009 as consultant to Codex and JECFA activities. Dr. Fan obtained his Master's degree in food safety control in 2001 and PHD in food safety risk assessment in 2006.



Dr. Tom Heilandt holds the position of Secretary of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. He holds degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science. From 1990-1992 he worked at Bayer in operations research and expert systems then joined AION International as systems engineer. From 1994 to 1998 he worked in the Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva on the international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods. From 1998 to 2005 he was Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards. In 2005, he joined the Codex Secretariat in Rome as Senior Officer responsible for communication.



About the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS)

GFoRSS is a not-for-profit organization hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)) of the Department of Food Science and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods of the Université Laval.

The Society aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, that is, all disciplines applied in the context of developing, implementing and evaluating food regulatory decisions including, but not limited to, food risk analysis and associated disciplines.

The Society's membership consists of scientists and regulators from food regulatory agencies at any level of government: municipal, state / provincial, national and international, including international organizations, scientists and professionals in any related food regulatory scientific discipline from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

About the Food and Beverage Regulations Committee of Dubai – Amcham

The **Food and Beverage Regulations Committee of Dubai – Amcham** is a member of the global network of American chambers of commerce. The food regulations committee was established to create a robust collaboration platform for US companies based in the UAE and seeks to create a favorable regulatory environment in the GCC.