

Collaborative Research Seminar and Workshop Empowering Global Food Safety

January 15, 2015 . Thursday . The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

PolyU Steps up Collaborative Efforts in Empowering Global Food Safety - Event Report -

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) organized and hosted a whole-day technology development event **Empowering Global Food Safety** on January 15, 2015 to discuss the latest challenges in global food safety, the best practices in safeguarding public food health, and concurrently to announce PolyU's new initiative in addressing the needs of the food industry - **The Food Safety Consortium (FSC)**. A public lecture was delivered by Professor Jørgen Schlundt of the Technical University of Denmark, and was followed by a Networking Luncheon and an afternoon Industry Technology Needs Assessment Workshop. The activities were jointly organized by PolyU's Innovation and Technology Development Office (ITDO) and the Food Safety and Technology Research Centre (FSTRC) with the support of the Hong Kong Food Safety Association (HKFSA) and the Hong Kong Food Council (HKFC), and signified PolyU's stepped-up efforts in empowering global food safety. The whole day event was attended by over 150 members from the academia, industry, and government bodies.

The seminar started with welcoming remarks by Professor Wing-tak Wong, Director of the FSTRC, followed by introduction of the HKFSA by its President Dr. William Siu-wai Choi. Professor Terence Lau, Director of Innovation and Technology Development and Convener of the FSC, then introduced the FSC, PolyU's new initiative to address the needs of the food industry. Our invited speaker Professor Jørgen Schlundt delivered the inspiring lecture before the morning session concluded with rigorous questions & answers, and industry networking.



Invited speaker and guests from supporting organizations

Prof. Jørgen Schlundt (fourth from right) together with, left to right, Prof. Yuk-lam Lo, Prof. John Tam, Prof. Terence Lau, Dr. William Choi, Ms. Anita Lai (General Manager, HKFC), Prof. Wing-tak Wong, and Dr. Man-sau Wong.



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New Perspective on Food Safety

Professor Jørgen Schlundt formerly served at the World Health Organization (WHO) as the Director for Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses. He shared his views with the audience on the most imminent food safety threats and the prioritization of tackling these threats based on the food borne disease burden faced by the community. New global initiatives in dealing with food safety problems, the optimization of risk assessments based on stochastic modeling, and other solutions were also being discussed and illustrated with the examples of Efficient Farm-to-Fork (One Health) solutions.



Professor Wing-tak Wong commented, “food safety is an every-day problem and it is important for food safety experts and the industry to join hands in ensuring food quality from farm to fork. Professor Schlundt’s substantial food safety experience in national and international bodies could provide unique and holistic perspectives on how we could tackle such safety threats in a collaborative manner.”



Managing food safety is largely dependent on science. “We have seen significant improvements over the last decades and it comes to a point that we need to comprehensively evaluate our food-borne disease burden and the technologies required to alleviate such burden, so that we make smarter decisions on how to prevent outbreaks rather than to respond to them. Fostering close research and industry collaborations is the key to addressing such an issue,” said Professor Schlundt. “To achieve significant

improvements in global food health management, we should also keep in mind any leapfrogging potential of implementing one-health solutions in developing countries, so that time will not be wasted in repeating the same mistakes that were once made due to our inexperience.”

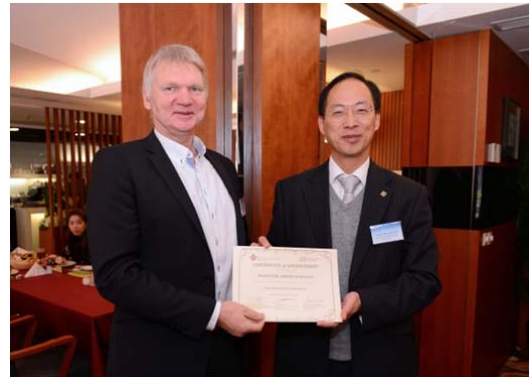


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Conception of The Food Safety Consortium

During the seminar, PolyU announced the conception of The Food Safety Consortium (FSC), our latest initiative of addressing the needs of the food industry. The mission and goals of the FSC were introduced by Professor Terence Lau, Convener of the FSC. "The Food Safety Consortium is set out with the vision to assist industry and the community to tackle food safety issues" said Professor Lau. "We will create a network comprising various stakeholders and support it with PolyU's applied technology portfolio. We also aim at enhancing the capability and competence on food safety and its related technology development through academic and industrial collaborations."



Witnessed by Guests of Honor Dr. Gloria Tam, Centre for Food Safety Controller, and Ms Pamela Lam, Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, appointments of the very first FSC advisors took place during the networking luncheon, with PolyU's Vice President (Research Development) Professor Alexander Wai welcoming Professor Schlundt, Professor John Siu-lun Tam (retired Scientist at WHO, Visiting Professor at PolyU), and Professor Yuk-lam Lo (Honorary President of HKFSA) to the team. Professor Alex Wai said, "further to the on-going research and development conducted by PolyU's FSTRC, we are very excited to bring in new expertise to advise us on FSC's development and be steps closer to solving today's most imminent food safety threats."



Supporting PolyU's Stepped-up Efforts in Empowering Global Food Safety

Guests of Honor Dr. Gloria Tam (Centre for Food Safety Controller, third from left), Ms. Pamela Lam (Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, far left) joining the Networking Luncheon and exchanged government perspectives with PolyU's Vice President (Research Development) Prof. Alex Wai (fourth from left), Prof. Schlundt, Prof. John Tam, Prof. Yuk-lam Lo, Prof. Samuel Lo (Associate Head, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, PolyU), Prof. Terence Lau as well as other guests on equipping the community with food safety measures.



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Industry Technology Needs Assessment Workshop

The Industry Technology Needs Assessment Workshop and Roundtable Discussion were immediately conducted in the afternoon, co-chaired by Professor Terence Lau and Dr. Man-sau Wong, Deputy Director of FSTRC. The workshop started with an introduction of FSTRC by Dr. Wong and a presentation by Professor Schlundt on the Global Microbial Identifier; PolyU food safety experts from the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology (ABCT) also shared their latest research initiatives to over 20 industry and government participants:

<i>Professor Samuel Chun-lap Lo Associate Head</i>	<i>Enabling On-site Rapid Screening with Hand-held Dedicated Biosensor</i>
<i>Dr. Sheng Chen Associate Professor</i>	<i>Development of Preventive Measures to Enhance Food Safety</i>
<i>Dr. Kahing Wong Assistant Professor</i>	<i>Preparation of Novel Selenium Nanoparticles with Strong in vitro and in vivo Anti-tumor Efficacy Using Tiger Milk Mushroom</i>
<i>Dr. Mankin Wong Associate Professor</i>	<i>Development of FRET-based Fluorescent Probes for Rapid Detection of Harmful Substances in Food</i>
<i>Dr. Zhongping Yao Associate Professor</i>	<i>Rapid Mass Spectrometric Techniques for Food Safety</i>
<i>Professor John Tam Visiting Professor</i>	<i>Influenza Vaccination for Poultry: Ensuring Food Safety at Source</i>
<i>Professor Terence Lau Adjunct Professor</i>	<i>Molecular DNA Technology: Food Safety and Zoonotic Applications</i>



GMI vision

to develop a **global** system to **aggregate, share, mine and use** microbiological genomic data to address **global public health** and **clinical** challenges, a high impact area in need of focused effort.

Such a system should be developed in a manner which promotes **equity** in accordance with the best use of the current technology worldwide, and the most effective improvements in **plant, animal, environmental and human** health.

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Mr. Rayson Chan, from the Innovation and Technology Commission introduced the various support schemes available for the industry and the academia on research and commercialization of their research deliverables. A number of invited technology experts and senior executives from food industry, government and organizations, together PolyU food safety experts shared their thoughts on technical challenges encountered and vibrantly exchange how to facilitate more advanced food safety.



The Industry Actively Engaged in Discussions with Food Experts on Their Needs

(From top to bottom, left to right) Dr. Chuanhong Tu (Asia Pacific Technical Centre of The Coca-Cola Company, Shanghai), Dr. Julia Cai (Nestle Food Safety Institute, R&D Beijing Centre), Mr. Dominic Lam (CMA Testing and Certification Laboratories), and other industry participants proactively exchange ideas on their technology needs with PolyU researchers and Prof. Schlundt.



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The industry also discussed and shared their technology needs with the workshop participants:

<p><i>Dr. Chuanhong Tu</i> <i>Asia Pacific Technical Centre of The Coca-Cola Company, Shanghai</i></p>	<p><i>Screening Food Safety Risks with Modern Analytical Testing</i></p>
<p><i>Dr. Julia Cai</i> <i>Nestle Food Safety Institute, R&D Beijing Centre, Beijing</i></p>	<p><i>Chemical Fingerprinting for Detection of Food Adulteration Issues</i></p>
<p><i>Mr. Dominic Lam</i> <i>CMA Testing and Certification Laboratories, Hong Kong</i></p>	<p><i>Develop and Validate Biosensors for On-site and Rapid Detection of Pesticides Residues / Seafood Toxins in Food</i></p>

Apart from the speakers above, representatives from the industry had proactively commented on their concerns and technical challenges. Professor Schlundt and all PolyU researchers also shared their views on relevant issues based on their unique experience and expertise.

Topics addressed during the discussion included *various aspects of food safety management including risk assessment and management, communication, technology needs of the industry, how to enhance collaboration among local and national stakeholders, successful models in other countries, community education, and others*. All participants were able to benefit from the constructive and comprehensive views. After the interactive technology discussion, the whole-day event concluded with a laboratory visit to the FSTRC which introduced the various facilities available to support food safety research.

Food Safety Consortium - the Way Forward

Empowering Global Food Safety will mark the kick-off of a series of milestones contributing to the inauguration of the FSC, with the concerted efforts from academia, research institutes, industry, government, and other relevant bodies. The Food Safety Consortium, a unique PolyU food safety technology exchange platform, will continue to grow with the ultimate goal of benefiting public food health and all stakeholders.



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Contact us for more information, or if you have any ideas regarding food safety collaborations and technology development, and The Food Safety Consortium!

Food Safety Consortium :: foodsafety@polyu.edu.hk :: +852 3400 2806



Addressing your Unmet Needs through Innovation :: www.polyu.edu.hk/itdo

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About Us

Innovation and Technology Development Office [ITDO] www.polyu.edu.hk/itdo

The ITDO invigorates and materializes the synergies between academia and industry. We spark innovation, turn intractable problems into opportunities, promote and educate the recognition and protection of intellectual property, and encourage technology development of high-impact researches. By bridging the gap in technology readiness between academic research and industry requirements, we address the society's unmet needs through innovation.

Food Safety and Technology Research Centre [FSTRC] www.polyu.edu.hk/abct/fstrc/en/index.php

FSTRC aims to become a world-class food safety and food technology authority and offer one-stop services to safeguard public health. This is achieved through an extensive range of research, consultancy and training programs supported by government grants and funding, allowing FSTRC's development into a hub of food safety in Hong Kong and the Mainland.



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About Professor Jørgen Schlundt



Professor Jørgen Schlundt

*DTU Management Engineering, Technical University of Denmark
Former Director, WHO Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses
Advisor, The Food Safety Consortium, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*

Jørgen Schlundt has a Veterinary Degree (DVM) as well as a Ph.D. from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, Denmark. He worked at national level on environmental and food safety issues from 1983 to 1999, during which period he headed the Bacteriology Department at the Veterinary Research Laboratory in Harare, Zimbabwe for three years. From 1999 - 2010 Dr. Schlundt was Director of the Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses at WHO, Geneva.

Dr. Schlundt has participated in a number of international bodies, including OECD expert groups, WHO and FAO Expert Consultations, EU Scientific Committees, and the FAO/WHO Codex alimentarius Commission. He has participated in the international development of risk analysis principles, including the use of scientific risk assessment as the basis for food safety management decisions. As part of this, he has overseen major new international initiatives, including the creation of the Joint WHO/FAO Joint Expert meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) and the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), the build-up of the Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN), the initiation of the first-ever estimation of the global burden of foodborne diseases, and the development of a major consumer education programme on the Five Keys to Safer Food.



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Photo Gallery

