ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC) aims to be a regional coordinating centre for independent food safety risk assessment in enhancing the health of the ASEAN Community and facilitate its food trade.

ARAC’s mission is to carry out independent food safety risk assessment in a timely and transparent manner utilising available scientific resources.

It is internationally recognised that the complex and varied threats to food safety can only be effectively addressed if national competent authorities base their food control systems on risk analysis to carry out science based analysis and to reach sound, consistent solutions to food safety problems. Risk Analysis provides systematic approach to national competent authorities for risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Risk assessment provides the scientific basis for risk management decisions on appropriate measures needed to ensure food safety and protect human health.

ARAC was established pursuant to a decision of the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held on 18 September 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam with a declaration stating:

“We commit to strengthen national food control systems and work together to contribute towards safe and quality food in the ASEAN Community. We recognise risk assessment as an important tool to provide scientific input in developing evidence-based food safety measures, and shall build capacity for integrated ASEAN risk assessment through the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC).”

ARAC is established as an ASEAN institution under the authority of the ASEAN Ministers of Health through its subsidiary body on food safety. Thanks to the generosity of the Ministry of Health Malaysia, ARAC has been provided with an office and its secretariat housed within the Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia.

The primary function of ARAC is to provide independent scientific opinion on food safety issues of common interest in ASEAN including during any potential food safety crisis. ARAC through its collaborative operational arrangements will facilitate the pooling and utilising of all available scientific expertise across ASEAN to provide the much needed scientific advice to decision makers.

The technical work of ARAC is overseen by its Scientific Committee which comprises of eminent experts nominated by each ASEAN Member State (AMS). The Scientific Committee will establish Scientific Panels as and when these are needed to deal with specific request to assess any risk pertaining to food safety that any AMS or relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies needs to address. Recognised specialists will be invited to serve on the Scientific Panels. The ARAC Secretariat has the critical role of coordinating and enabling the operations.
ARAC is a regional facility available to food safety regulatory bodies from all AMS and all relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies under the ASEAN Health Ministers, ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Ministers and the ASEAN Economic Ministers.

Request for risk assessment work should be submitted to ARAC. Please email to arac@moh.gov.my for required form or download from the ARAC website www.arac-asean.org.

For more information, please contact as details shown below:

ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC),
Food Safety and Quality Division,
Ministry of Health Malaysia,
Level 4, Menara Prisma,
No 26, Persiaran Perdana, Presint 3,
62675 Putrajaya, Malaysia.
Phone +603-88850797
Fax +603-88850798
Email arac@moh.gov.my
Website www.arac-asean.org

This is supported by the European Union through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE).