



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.



Vision

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.

Mission

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

Risk Analysis

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.

Function

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.

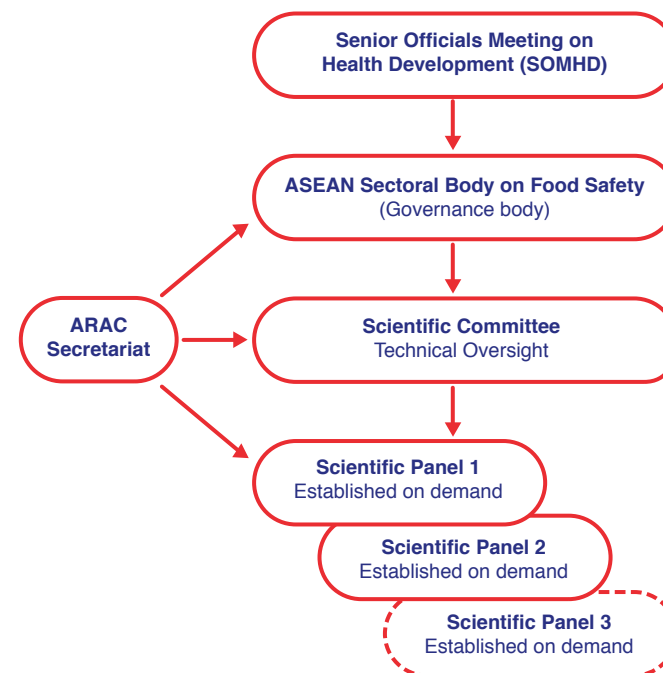
Structure

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.

Scope of Work

- Coordinate the conduct of food safety risk assessment in ASEAN;
- Strengthen the capacity of AMS to undertake risk assessment;
- Facilitate sharing of information and experiences on food safety risk assessment;
- Maintain a register of qualified risk assessment experts on food safety;
- Communicate, coordinate and collaborate with relevant AMS, ASEAN sectoral bodies and international agencies and development partners; and
- Compile and maintain a database on food consumption and other relevant data to support risk assessment.

Operation



Risk Assessment Process

1 Request for Risk Assessment

Any ASEAN sectoral body or individual AMS may submit a request

2 Evaluation by Scientific Committee

The request is evaluated for adequacy suitability

3 Scientific Panel Convened

A scientific panel is established and convened

4 Assess Risk

The Panel undertakes the assessment of food safety risk

5 Provide Scientific Opinion on Risk and Recommendations

The Panel provides its scientific opinion to the Scientific Committee

6 Adoption of Scientific Opinion by Scientific Committee

The scientific opinion is put to the Scientific Committee for adoption

7 Dissemination of Scientific Opinion and Recommendations

The scientific opinion and recommendations are provided to ASEAN sectoral body or individual AMS

How to propose risk assessment request for ARAC?

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:



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