

Report on the GHI meeting on 22 August 2016 14:00-16:00
Dublin, Herbert Park hotel, Lansdowne Suite

Participants (in alphabetical order of first name)

An-I Yeh, National Taiwan University, Taiwan (and Chair Working Group Nanotechnology and Food)
Atef Idriss, MEFOSA, Lebanon (and GHI Ambassador Lebanon)
Benard Oloo, FoSTEP-Kenya and Egerton University, Kenya
Chin-Kun Wang, Chung Shan Medical University, Taiwan (and GHI Ambassador Taiwan)
Fawole Oyeyemi, University of Reading, UK
Frank Busta, University of Minnesota, USA
Hamid Ezzatpanah, Islamic Azad University, Iran (and GHI Ambassador Iran)
Hans Steinhart, University of Hamburg, Germany (and GHI Supervisory Board)
Huub Lelieveld, The Netherlands (GHI President)
Janet Adebiyi, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Magda Krokida, National Technical University Athens, Greece and GHI Ambassador Greece)
Megan Ball, Elsevier, USA
Obadina Adewale, Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria
Oluwafemi Adebo, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Paruchuri Gangadhar Rao, University of Science & Technology in Meghalaya, India
Petros Taoukis, National Technical University Athens, Greece (and GHI Ambassador Greece)
Ruth Oniang'o, IAFoST, Kenya (and GHI Ambassador Kenya)
S.M. Nazmul Alam, Curtin University, Australia (and GHI Ambassador Bangladesh)
Sangsuk Oh, Ewha University, Korea (and Board Member GHI)
V. Prakash, CSIR, India (and Board Member GHI)
Veslemøy Andersen, Netherlands (GHI Ambassador Norway)
Xian-Ming Shi, Sjanghai Jiao Tong University, China (and GHI Ambassador China)
Yan Cui, Sjanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Apologies for absence

Several GHI members could not participate because at the time of the meeting they had to give presentations and/or chair sessions at the IUFOST Congress.

Messages with apologies received from:

Adriana Pavesi Ariseto, Brazil
Bernd van der Meulen, The Netherlands
Jaap Hanekamp, The Netherlands
Jamuna Prakash, India
Kirsten Brandt, UK
Viduranga Waisundara, Sri Lanka

1. Opening, welcome

All participants were welcomed and introduced themselves, mentioning their affiliations

2. Unauthorised contaminants of food additives in food safety

Dr. Chin-Kun Wang of the Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan explained the issues with food additives that may be unhealthy but are unregulated. This may be the case when a substance is added to the food that has never been added to food before, such as in the well-known case of melamine to milk. There may also be additives due to migration of constituents of packaging material into the packaged food. Because these additives are not known, authorities are not checking for their presence or absence. After debating this issue, it was concluded that it would be great if somebody, anywhere in the world, finds out about a (potentially) dangerous addition to food, it is reported to all GHI members who then may alert local authorities, enabling them to take appropriate actions.

It was proposed to form a Working Group "Unauthorised food additives". Dr. Chin-Kun Wang is willing to chair this WG and several of the participants are willing to join the WG. The WG will develop a system to:

- collect relevant information
- inform other members
- alert authorities

- consider how to obtain information anonymously

Action: Chin-Kun Wang to write a proposal for the WG, using the template on the GHI website.

Dr. Hans Steinhart mentioned the **GRAS status** for food additives in the US and wonders whether it would be useful to develop a global GRAS status. *(Comment Huub Lelieveld after the meeting: This is an idea worth considering and perhaps could be mentioned in GHI Matters for members to comment on. Ask Hans Steinhart to write a note to this end).*

Another point raised by Dr. Steinhart is the enormous confusion in the area of recognition of **religious foods** (such as halal) and wonders whether GHI may address harmonization of this. GHI has a WG “Food Safety in relation to religious dietary laws”. Dr. Steinhart will join this group – but cannot play an active role within the coming three months.

Action: Huub Lelieveld to inform the Chairs of the WG Food Safety in relation to religious dietary laws.

3. Progress – short reports on:

a. Website and membership applications

Most participants had noticed the revamped website, the result of an enormous professional effort of our Executive Director, Julie Bricher, with the equally professional support of GHI’s Webmaster, Gunter Greil. Important aspects:

- The website has much more and easier accessible information than the former one, but still is not complete. It is expected that before the end of this year the site will have most of no all pages on Working Groups and Ambassadors
- The Membership Programme Director, Nila Ghasemkhani, developed an improved database system for the GHI Membership. All members will therefore be invited to update their profiles in the database. This will enable GHI to locate specialists at specific locations earlier when needed and avoid cluttering mailboxes with irrelevant messages.

b. Ambassador programme

Currently GHI has ambassadors in approx. 50 countries. In most countries there is just one ambassador. To make the task of the GHI Ambassadors easier, GHI would like to have more than one ambassador per country, as is the case already in several countries. Ambassadors will be invited to suggest candidate co-ambassadors or, if they prefer, to ask for recommendations from the GHI Board. The objective is to have GHI Ambassadors in all countries with > 1 million inhabitants before the end of this year.

c. Short reports of Working Groups

i. **WG Nomenclature**

This WG lacked a Chair, but in the past year we acquired two Chairs for this WG, Dmitri Chr. Kulyov (Russia) and Roger Fenwick (UK). Since then there is significant progress that soon will be obvious from their webpage.

ii. **WG Mycotoxins**

This WG has been subdivided last year into four subgroups, each with its own Chair, dealing with different mould-sensitive products. They plan to submit a proposal for a book.

iii. **WG Nutrition**

This WG, lead by co-Chairs Prakash and Iuliana Vintila, has produced a draft document “Substantiating Regular, Qualified and Traditional Health Claims” that will soon be circulated to the GHI Membership.

iv. **WG Education**

This WG is lead by Dr. Jamuna Prakash (India), Dr. Amalia Mitelut (Romania) and Dr. Jesus Frias (Ireland). One of the main objectives is to develop training materials for food handlers, globally, (that is) also understandable for illiterate people. During the Congress Dr. Lucia Anelich (South Africa) signed up as a member of this WG and during the meeting Dr. Ruth Oniang'o (Kenya) and Dr. Obadina Adewale Olusegun (Nigeria) also joined the WG.

Action: Huub Lelieveld, to inform the Chairs of the WG.

v. **WG Nanotechnology and Food**

Dr. An-I-Yeh reported that after a period of inactivity, he will prepare a programme for the near future.

d. Publications

i. **Books published**

The first GHI book “Ensuring Global Food Safety – Exploring Global Harmonization” was published in 2010.

The second book “Regulating Safety of Traditional and Ethnic Foods” was published last year.

ii. **Books under development**

Currently under development is a series of 26 books on “Nutrition and health aspects of traditional and ethnic foods”. There will be so many volumes because the series is intended to cover the entire globe and after much discussion(s) within GHI and with Elsevier, the conclusion was that this is what is needed. There are no similar books on the market. The editorial teams of the first three volumes have been put together and are making progress. These volumes will cover the Nordic countries; Western Europe and Eastern Europe. Now, editorial teams for the other books will be put together and everybody interested in becoming an editor or author of chapters is invited to contact the series editors (editors@globalharmonization.net). The audience asked for the list of volumes and their proposed contents.

Action: Huub Lelieveld to email all participants with the requested information.

iii. **Book proposals**

Dr. Vladimir Kakurinov (GHI Ambassador Macedonia) has written a proposal for a book on “Protection of national rights in relation to traditional foods” (working title) and Dr. Bernd van der Meulen has written a proposal on “Harmonization of food standards based on risk analysis”. Anybody interested in contributing to these books, please write to (editors@globalharmonization.net) or contact either Vladimir Kakurinov or Bernd van der Meulen directly.

iv. **Journal proposal**

Dr. Hamid Ezzatpanah proposed a GHI journal on Food Law and Legislation. The proposal is under discussion with Elsevier and will be worked out in detail.

4. **Harmonization of food safety in “Greater MENA”**

Mr. Atef Idriss (GHI Ambassador Lebanon) strongly feels there is a need to harmonize food safety regulations in greater MENA, which is Middle East and Northern Africa together with Iran and Turkey. This harmonization should be as part of the global harmonization, but obtaining consensus on food safety matters in this region may help to work on the greater goal. He would very much like the support of GHI and suggests to set up a dedicated Working Group. Huub Lelieveld is in favour of providing such support, within the capabilities of GHI.

Action: Atef Idriss to write a proposal for the WG, using the template on the GHI website.

5. **Any other topics**

Prakash announced the IUFOST Congress in Mumbai, India, in 2018. He expects a high-quality contribution from GHI and invited everybody to note the dates in their diaries: 26-31 August 2018.

Action: To set up a committee to prepare the GHI presence during the 2018 IUFOST Congress.

Huub Lelieveld, 17 september 2016.