

FOOD SAFETY EXPERTS MEET IN CHILE

Santiago de Chile, July 24 - Food Safety Experts meet in Chile to develop proposals to reduce foodborne illness, promote wellbeing, increase food exports and to promote tourism in the Americas.

The proposals come from the representatives of 15 American countries participating in the sixth meeting of the Pan American Commission for Food Safety (COPAIA), will be considered by the Health and Agriculture Ministers participating in the 16th Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 16), also held in Santiago on 26 and 27 July, convened by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The proposals are the result of the discussions that followed the keynote presentations by leading specialists from Chile, El Salvador, USA, United Kingdom and PAHO. Other attendees included the First Lady of Chile, Ms. Cecilia Morel, with the conference "Choose to live healthy," and a round table "Nutrition with quality", coordinated by Dr. Jorge Diaz, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health of Chile.

COPAIA, created in 2001, includes senior officials from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, and representatives of consumer organizations and producers, the countries of the 5 sub-regions: Southern Cone, Andean, Central America, Caribbean english-speaking and North America. It was chaired by Dr. Nuri Gras, Executive Secretary of the Chilean Agency for Food Safety and served as Secretary ex officio Dr. Marcos Espinal, Area Manager of Health Surveillance Disease Prevention and Control at PAHO.

COPAIA supports the improvement of food safety for domestic consumption and export, by maintaining the political will of the countries in the region, for the organization of integrated programs of food safety as an essential role of the health and agriculture sectors, the implementation of technical aspects of the programs and the promotion of coordination with producers and consumers.

COPAIA advises PAHO in the implementation in the region of the technical cooperation in food safety. PAHO, established in 1902, works with all countries of the Region to improve health and quality of life of the peoples of the Americas. It also acts as the Regional Office in the Americas for the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Pan American Center (PANAFTOSA) is the specialized agency responsible for the OPS organization COPAIA6.

LINKS:

RIMSA 16: <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/rimsa16/>

COHEFA 1: <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/cohefa12/>

COPAIA 6: <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/copaia6/>

INTERAGENCY FORUM: <http://bit.ly/NO6OY2>

PANAFTOSA: <http://new.paho.org/panaftosa/>

PAHO: <http://new.paho.org>

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