

Beat: Lifestyle

A NEW ERA OF FOOD SAFETY With The Adoption of Technology

22 Winners For Remarkable Efforts

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USPA NEWS - With the increasing Technologies Deployment in Food Supply Chain, GS1 Hong Kong presented this Year's Food Safety Forum with the Theme "Food Safety in New Era - A Decade for Digital Experience & Innovation in Food Safety Enhancement" on August 30, gathering more than 300 Food Industry Stakeholders to share on how New Innovations strengthen Food Traceability and ensure Food Safety. The Award Presentation Ceremony for Quality Food Traceability Scheme 2018 was also held, where 22 Companies were recognized for demonstrating Excellence in Food Safety and Traceability Practices.

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- Enabling Food Supply Chain Transparency with Technology

According to the World Health Organization, Every Year approximately 600 Million People -- a full One-Tenth of the World's Population -- become ill after Food Incidents, and 420,000 of them die.

In Hong Kong, it is found that a Lot of Citizens are concerned about the Credibility of the Food Product Source, its Information and the Transparency of Food Supply Chain. The Results came from a Street Survey of 1,505 Respondents conducted by GS1 Hong Kong, which shows the Importance of Food Traceability that enables Supply Chain Transparency to Consumers. As a Result, Food Safety and Traceability along the Food Chain are receiving Increasing Focus by Suppliers, Retailers, Consumers and Governments.

Addressing the Food Safety Forum 2018, the Under Secretary for Food and Health, Dr Chui Tak-yi, said, "Information technology is enhancing supply chain efficiency and food traceability from all perspectives. Not only do food producers, traders and logistics providers apply technology to enhance their competitive edges, food safety regulators are also capitalising on technology to enhance their regulatory efficiency."

- Hong Kong Food & Beverage Industry Advisory Board

Ms. Lin also announced the Inauguration of the Hong Kong Food & Beverage Industry Advisory Board, which aims to promote the Importance of Traceability and Transparency in the Food and Beverage Supply Chain to enhance Food Safety. The Board is also dedicated to Fostering Dialogue with the Government, advancing Effective Online and Offline (O2O) Channels that facilitate Trade, and strengthening the F&B Industry Supply Chain Ecosystem by advocating the Adoption of Global Standards and driving Innovation and Technology Development.

Ms. Grace Ho, General Manager of Nestle Hong Kong Limited and Mr. Keith Wu, Executive Group Director and COO of Tsit Wing Group, are the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the first term of the Advisory Board. Other members include senior executives and experts from leading companies, academic circle and associations in F&B industry.

- Increasing Number of Companies on Food Safety

22 Outstanding Food-Related Enterprises are being awarded in the Quality Food Traceability Scheme 2018, which all demonstrated their Vigorous Efforts in upholding Food Traceability. The Majority of the Awardees have joined since the Inception of the Scheme, showing that Companies are putting more Emphasis on Food Traceability to ensures Safety for Consumers.

Initiated in 2015, the Scheme is designed to help Local Food and Food Services Companies to enhance their Track and trace Capabilities along the Supply Chain, and effectively adopt International Standards for their Food Management Systems.

Participating Companies will undergo a Structural, All-Round Assessment based on Global Traceability Standard, with cross reference to GFSI recognized Food Safety Scheme. It defines a Comprehensive Set of Traceability Requirements suitable for Local Food Businesses to achieve Full Chain Traceability. Diamond, Gold and Silver awards are presented to recognised Companies based on the Audit Results.

* Photo cover: (L-R) Mr. Keith Wu, Executive Director of Tsit Wing International Holdings Limited, Ms. Grace Ho, General Manager of Nestle Hong Kong Limited, Dr. Chui Tak-yi, Under Secretary for the Food and Health Bureau, Ms. Anna Lin, JP, FCILT, Chief Executive of GS1 Hong Kong, Dr. Ho Yuk-yin, Controller of the Centre for Food Safety, Ms. Jenny Chen Kilkelly, Senior Director, Regulatory Compliance, Walmart China, GFSI ““ China and Mr. Tejas Bhatt, Senior Director, Food Safety Innovations, Food Safety & Health, Walmart.

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