

## **SELAMAT; EU – ASEM cooperation on Food Safety**

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Food safety incidents as encountered the last decade have clearly shown that food safety problems are not limited to certain countries and/ or geographical areas. Hence, to deal with these problems adequately international cooperation is essential, in particular among important trade regions such as EU and Asia. The EU 6th FP project SELAMAT, which is coordinated by RIKILT, was initiated (July 2004) to promote open communication, cooperation in regard to setting research agenda's and initiate joint activities and training courses between EU and Asia. The major objective of this project is to create a ***permanent*** network for international cooperation on food safety issues between Europe and ASEM. To enable such developments, workshops, discussion meetings and training courses are organised for scientists, regulators and industry from EU and Asia. The SELAMAT network consists of representatives from 10 ASEM countries (e.g. China, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam) and activities are ongoing to extend further. More information on the project can be found on the web side: [www.selamat.net](http://www.selamat.net)

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Businesses shall not place on the market unsafe food and feed (Regulation (EC) 2002/178). In the Netherlands there is now an independent authority – Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) - responsible for ensuring safety of food, feed and consumer products at all stages of production chains. Moreover, VWA is focal point for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) including the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The Office for Risk Assessment VWA is responsible for managing risk assessment and national research programmes. Among others, emerging risk identification is a key priority area (e.g. projects like PERIAPT, EMRISK, SAFEFOODS, SAFEFOODERA). Because food and feed should be immediately withdraw from the European market if businesses have reasons to believe that it is not safe. Thereto, competent authorities including RIKILT and food businesses co-operate in actions taken to prevent risks. SELEMAT and Go-Global are therefore fully consistent with the corporate aims of European food safety policy and control.

*Keywords:* emerging risks, global co-operation, food safety policy, risk assessment, food incident prevention