



### Food Safety in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges

#### Background

Food safety has become an increasingly crucial public health issue and growing concern across the world. Efforts at government level have been intensified to improve production, manufacturing and delivery of animal originated food to ensure food safety. Although major nutritional improvements have been achieved in the South East Asian region since 1990s, food safety is, however, a major concern in this region. Food safety is seriously threatened due to a number of causes such as foodborne diseases, inadequate access to clean water, adulteration of food with different toxic chemicals, the increased use of pesticides and other chemicals in agriculture and food processing, and the lack of producer and consumer education. According to WHO and FAO, there have been a number of globally significant issues and challenges concerned with food safety. Changes in agricultural production practices along with the expanding markets, global movement of animals and their products, changes in food processing and distribution systems, more ready-to-eat food products through urban food chain are of many reasons triggering new challenges.

In most countries of the South East Asia, laboratories with the capacity to detect common foodborne hazards are rare, and even where they do exist, the high cost of testing makes an obstacle. Food-related surveillance activities are also very limited and inconsistent. Due to inadequate surveillance programs on zoonotic diseases like tuberculosis and parasitic diseases, such disease can be transmitted to the food chain through the milk or meat. Absence or inefficient abattoir monitoring program can also lead to spill-over unfit meat for human consumption. In view of the recent incident at Fukushima in Japan, radiation monitoring of food and animal originated food have been prioritized to be an important and relevant matter regionally.

Food safety is also connected with animal welfare and it is often said that good animal welfare equates to food safety. Due to the negligence of veterinarians to advise their livestock clients regarding the drug withdrawal period in treated animals and the possible risk of drug residual effect on human consumption of animal originated food, public health can be badly affected. Toxin in the animal feed can be absorbed by the animal and then get passed on to the consumer through the milk, meat or eggs produced. Risk analysis (risk assessments, risk communication and risk management) and assessment of hazard analysis and critical control points for internal and external food movements are rarely practiced in South East Asian region. In countries that have a regulatory framework for monitoring food control, enforcement is often weak, owing to inadequate infrastructure and poor resource allocation to bring about effective outcome.

With the above background, the upcoming Annual Scientific Conference of CVASU is organized to facilitate knowledge, foster cooperation among concerned organizations and provide an opportunity for regulators, food industry, food safety professionals, academia, researchers and others to network and discuss a wide-range of food safety issues and challenges and their possible solutions.

#### Announcement and Invitation:

It is my great pleasure to announce that Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) is going to organize its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference during 7-8 March 2012 at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong, Bangladesh. The conference will be financially supported by the Danish International Developmental Agency through the Regional Fisheries and Livestock Development Component and Poultry Research Training Institute, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Now-a-days, food safety is a growing concern for animal and public health around the world because of pandemic avian influenza, sporadic Nipah outbreaks, drug residues, adulteration of food with different toxic chemicals and many more yet to explore. This year, the conference, therefore, aims at those issues and challenges of food safety. In order to project and enumerate an overall scenario of food safety challenges, a wide range of relevant national and international academics, scientists, clinicians and industrial experts are being invited to participate in the event. Latest findings on food safety research in the form of oral and poster presentations are expected to be presented by those invited speakers.

The two-day long program will also encompass the invited keynote presentation. We, therefore, encourage and invite all related professionals and scholars to submit their research abstracts on or before the deadline. This event will definitely create an opportunity for multidisciplinary professionals to gather and thereby share and exchange their views to develop an effective future networking for the pertinent and practical research and academic strategies and approaches to ensure food safety in Bangladesh.

On behalf of the conference organizing committee and CVASU family, I am looking forward to warmly welcoming you to the occasion. Your kind participation and cooperation will make the conference a great success.

With many thanks,

Professor Dr. A.S. Mahfuzul Bari  
(Vice-Chancellor)  
Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and  
Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee

#### Conference Call

It is our great pleasure to announce the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) to be held at the Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong of Bangladesh, from 7-8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The theme of the conference of this year is "Food Safety in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges". This two-day event will feature recent scientific findings relevant to the conference theme from academic, research, clinical, industrial experts in the related fields, in the form of lectures and posters. You are cordially invited to submit your research abstracts and attend the conference. The deadline for abstract submission is 31 January 2012.

Abstracts for consideration as Invited or Session Lectures, and Poster Presentations can be submitted at [ascon2012@gmail.com](mailto:ascon2012@gmail.com) or [md.hoque@my.jcu.edu.au](mailto:md.hoque@my.jcu.edu.au). All submitted abstracts will be reviewed on the basis of relevancy of the theme topic of the conference, scientific merit, novelty and practical application. The abstracts of the conference will be published in the conference abstracts.

We suggest all interested participants to register with a fee of Tk. 300 and submit abstracts as soon as possible. Please submit a short biography along with your abstract. To register, please fill in the attached form and submit at [ascon2012@gmail.com](mailto:ascon2012@gmail.com) or e-mail at [md.hoque@my.jcu.edu.au](mailto:md.hoque@my.jcu.edu.au) or at the address below at your earliest convenience. The registration fee will be received onspot during the conference.

Registration to the conference also includes:

1. Daily refreshments
2. Lunches and dinners during the conference
3. Visit to shopping centres/local attractions

Criteria to prepare and submit an abstract:

1. The abstract should be written within 400 words in English using MS word 2003 or 2007
2. Letter font: Arial
3. Title of the abstract: 12 point (Title case bold)
4. Name of the author(s) with full address, telephone and e-mail (11 point and bold)
5. Presenting author must be underlined and italic (11 point and bold)
6. Affiliation details of the authors should be italic
7. Text: 11 point, single line space

We look forward to welcoming you in Chittagong, Bangladesh

With best regards,

Md. Ahasanul Hoque  
Convener, Conference Secretariat  
The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, 4202, Bangladesh.  
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Note: Please see more details at [www.cvasu.ac.bd](http://www.cvasu.ac.bd)



**THE 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**  
CHITTAGONG VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

**Theme :** Food Safety in Bangladesh: *Issues and Challenges*  
**Venue :** The Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong, Bangladesh  
**Date :** 7-8 March 2012  
**Req. Fee:** Tk. 300 BDT

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name : .....  
Designation : .....  
Organization : .....  
Mailing address : .....

email : .....  
Telephone : .....  
Cell : .....  
Accommodation:  Required  
 Not Required

Sent To  
Conference Secretariat  
The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference  
Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University  
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For online registration: Please visit the link: [www.cvasu.ac.bd](http://www.cvasu.ac.bd)

Conference Secretariat

**Convener**  
Md. Ahasanul Hoque

**Members**  
Md. Ashiqur Rahman  
Mohammad Lutfur Rahman  
Md. Manirul Islam  
Marjina Akter  
Sha Md. Shahan Shahrir  
Amir Hossan Shaikat

**Important dates**  
◆ Deadline for abstract submission: 31 Jan 2012  
◆ Deadline for registration: 15 Feb 2012  
◆ Date of Conference: 07-08 March 2012



**About the Venue: Chittagong**

Chittagong is the second largest city and the commercial capital city of Bangladesh. This port city is located in the eastern part of this country. The port was known to the civilized world by the early centuries AD and was used by Arakanese, Arab, Persian, Portuguese (who called it Porto Grande), and Mughal sailors. Originally part of an ancient Hindu Kingdom, Chittagong was conquered in the 9<sup>th</sup> century by a Buddhist king of Arakan. It was passed (13<sup>th</sup> centuries) by the Arakanese, and again became part of the Mughal empire in the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Around 4.5 million people of different ethnic groups of Muslim, Hindu, Buddha and Christian peacefully live in this city. This is a typical tropical city of Bangladesh, with an average temperature of 26°C (13-33°C).

Chittagong has been considered to be an ideal vacation spot. Its green hills and forests, its broad sandy beaches and its fine cool climate greatly amaze the holiday-makers. A number of historic and scenic places also attract tourists from home and abroad. The World War Cemetery and British colonial Court Building are placed just in the city centre. The Tomb of Baezid Bostami is 6 km away from the city heart where you could visit hundreds of critically endangered Black Shelled Turtles in the adjacent pond. Potenga sea beach is close to Bangladesh Navy Academy and Shah Amanat International Airport. The conference organizer "Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University" (Green arrowed below) is within 1 km outreach of splendid amenities like hilly views of Foy's Lake amusement and water park, Chittagong Zoo, Chittagong Television Centre, the University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute and Poly-technique institute of Chittagong (Google map).



Other resorts of interest include Shah Jame Mosque, Chandanpura Mosque, Portuguese Arsenal, Marine Academy, Ethnological museum, Sitakunda Eco Park, Chandranath temple and Biponi Bitan.

For further details on the venue, please visit the following web site:  
[http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/bd\\_cities\\_chittagong.html](http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/bd_cities_chittagong.html)  
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Chittagong.aspx>



**Food Safety in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges**

**07-08 March 2012**

**Organized By:** Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

**Venue:** The Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong, Bangladesh


