

## **Report of the 2nd Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC34/SC16**

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### **< Summary >**

GM crops have been grown worldwide, and about 125 million hectares in 25 countries have produced GM crops in 2008. In the world major producers of maize, soybean, and rapeseed, GM crops dominate most of the output of these productions. When we look at the world trade, the farm products are extensively being traded, so its trade expansion is giving GM crops, crops varieties, and potential pathogens a chance to travel around the world. In contrast, biomarker detection technique has remarkably been advanced for GM crops. For instance, this technique is available for the quality control of agricultural products, bringing worldwide attention to its importance.

Behind these global developments, ISO/TC34 (Technical Committee on Food Products) established ISO/TC34/SC16 “Horizontal Methods for Molecular Biomarker Analysis” as its subcommittee in May, 2008, which promotes international standardization of biomarker detection technique. In this monthly issue, I would like to briefly introduce the 2nd plenary meeting of ISO/TC34/SC16, held in Tokyo, on February 9 to 11, 2010.