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FY2010 Overseas Business Support Project for Japanese Food Industry in East Asia “Investigation of Commodity Food Standards and Analytical Methods in Asia” (Ⅱ)

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＜**Summary**＞

This project aimed to investigate commodity food standards and analytical methods in East Asia for the purpose to encourage Japanese food industry to enter into these markets and to enable to start new business. This project was continued since fiscal year 2009, and we investigated mainly methods of analysis for major food categories in Codex Alimentarius Commission and East Asian 8 countries; the Republic of Korea, the People’s Republic of China, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia, with cooperation of ILSI branch offices (ILSI Korea, ILSI Focal Point in China, and ILSI Southeast Asia Region (ASEAN countries). As a results of comparison with food standards and methods of analysis in Japan, Korea and China within three countries, although there’s difficulty to harmonize food standards due to variation of the circumstances of each country, the harmonization of methods of analysis would be possible because the differences of the methods in these countries were thought to simply arise from the technical issues. In Southeast Asia, each country had own regulatory system for food standards that differed from each other. Concerning standards for food products/commodities, many countries had adopted either mandatory or voluntary.

Currently, harmonization of Food Standards in ASEAN countries is in progress up to 2015 to build the concept of “ASEAN Economic Community”. The harmonization of food standards should provide a uniformed level of public health from the point of view of Food Safety, and contribute to the high levels of food safety and consumer protection. However, since apparent disparity is observed in each country, the harmonization may be difficult in progress on schedule reality and many problems should be resolved to achieve this goal.