

Symposium on Biotechnology & Nutritionally Enhanced Food and Crops

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< Summary >

“The Symposium on Biotechnology and Nutritionally-enhanced Food and Crops” was held in Cebu, Philippines for 2 days from the 3rd to 4th of November, 2008. This symposium was conducted as a satellite symposium of “the Asian Conference on Food and Nutrition Safety” which has been organized by the International Life Sciences Institute Southeast Asian Region (ILSI SEA Region), every four years since 1991. The symposium had a varied repertoire of sessions dealing with issues surrounding the biotech crops, such as social impact, consumer attitudes, communication, safety assessment, regulatory rules, and developmental status of biotech crops, and provided participants a good opportunity to understand the issues from various perspectives. It was emphasized in the symposium that the potentials of biotechnologies have to be urgently harnessed to address global challenges, such as population growth and global warming issues, and to address local challenges, such as disease- and insect- damaged crops in each individual region. To do this, it is required to fully evaluate the potential contribution of all appropriate technologies. In parallel, communication of science-based information is also required to promote consumers’ understanding. Regarding biosafety and safety assessment of biotech crops, there have been legal frameworks established in some countries and guidelines provided by international bodies, such as the Codex. It would be necessary to understand global status surrounding biotech crops through this kind of symposium because the globalization of food has been progressing. Furthermore, this kind of measure would help to address issues regarding foods and environment which we, human beings are facing, and to develop a better cooperation and understanding among nations.