The challenges of the 21st century to provide safe and nutritious food to a growing global population with limited resources remain formidable. The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) is committed to continue our focus on scientific issues of public health significance related to the various aspects of this challenge. Our tripartite approach includes government, academia and industry scientists to work together on these issues to bring understanding and excellent science. Our regional branch, ILSI Southeast Asia Region (ILSI SEA Region) strives to address the regional issues, while maintaining strong global links to global scientific expertise.

Many of the challenges in our region mirror those found globally, but some are unique. We have a great diversity of ethnicities, genotypes and phenotypes, widely varying diets, and various stages of economic development. While excellent science is essential, there is a need for capacity building as well, including collection and analysis of data. ILSI SEA Region has a long history of working on these basic issues, including food composition, food intake data, risk assessment and micronutrient status. We will continue this work while also bringing emerging science to such developments as nutrigenomics, personalized nutrition and whole genome sequencing. Our efforts on Sustainable Food Systems were highlighted at the International Rice Conference in Singapore last October. Our branch will shortly publish our review of food intake data databases for ASEAN, to complement our review of ASEAN food composition databases published in 2017. And we have recently completed our training working on risk assessment of chemicals in food, based on the World Bank and Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) effort. These capacity building efforts will continue.

Scientific Integrity is essential and ILSI is dedicated to ensuring a transparent approach. ILSI has made a fundamental decision to restructure its global organization, to become a federation of non-profit branches, with each branch participating in a global assembly. This will further strengthen the transparency and public health focus of the organization. The global Management Team has been organized consisting of all ILSI branch Executive Directors, and our branch Executive Director Mrs. Boon Yee Yeong is currently the Chair (serving concurrently with her ILSI SEA Region branch duties). This will help to ensure coordination as many issues are common in the global food structure. At the same time, ILSI is leading efforts to examine best practices in scientific integrity for funding, reporting and data availability for research and is publishing its recommendations.

ILSI SEA Region is committed to our continuing effort to bring excellent science to bear on critical food safety and nutrition issues for our diverse region. We would like to thank all of our tripartite partners in governmental agencies and academia, as well as our ILSI SEA Region Members, Board and Scientific Advisors. There is no doubt that the challenges of food and health will continue to need engagement and cooperation on these scientific issues in the future.
2018 marked 2 major milestones in the history of ILSI and ILSI SEA Region. The Global organization celebrated its 40th Anniversary, while ILSI SEA Region celebrated our 25th Anniversary. The year also witnessed key reforms of ILSI Global’s governance system, where it transitioned its Assembly from one comprising its corporate membership to that of a federation network of its 16 geographical branches and the ILSI Research Foundation (together, the ILSI Entities). A Management Team was established, comprising all the Executive Directors of ILSI’s Entities, with the aim of working together for effective collaboration and network communication. The transition is expected to be completed at the next ILSI Annual Meeting in January 2020.

With a year of extensive and diverse work output that demonstrated the value and impact of our scientific program, I would like to thank our members, scientific directors and advisors and our partner institutions who contributed to these important efforts. We had a memorable 25th Annual Meeting in Singapore with an excellent scientific program on Transformation Technologies and Translational Research, and incredible performances of various talents at the celebrative dinner event. We very much appreciate all our staff and stakeholders’ efforts in putting on a great show!

A total of 12 regional symposia and workshops, and 7 country-level seminars were organized; while 4 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 1 monograph report were published. In Nutrition, our worked covered areas from consumer food behaviors, food composition data for intake assessment, importance of gut microbiota, maternal and young children’s health and nutrition status in Southeast Asia, as well as life course approach to healthy aging. In Food Safety and Sustainability, ILSI SEA Region collaborated with international agencies and local authorities to review the safety evaluation of food additives and hosted a workshop on new technologies and sustainable agriculture practices for improved nutritional security for developing nations in Asia.

We look forward to another fruitful and impactful year in 2019, working with our colleagues, partners and scientific network in addressing nutrition, food safety and sustainability issues in our unique and diverse region, amidst the challenges and opportunities in changing population needs, adoption of new technologies and evolving regulatory landscape across the Southeast Asia and Australasia regions.
INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE

The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) is a global non-profit organization whose mission is to provide science that improves human health and well-being, and safeguards the environment. Established in 1978, ILSI achieves this mission through the following operating principles:

Science for the Public Good
All ILSI activities have a primary public purpose and benefit.

Collaboration
ILSI fosters collaboration among scientists from geographically diverse regions of the world to address complex science and health issues by sharing their unique skills, insights, and perspectives.

Shared Values
ILSI believes scientists from industry, government, academia and other sectors of society can and should work together to identify and address topics of common interest.

Public – Private Leadership
Prominent researchers from industry and academia jointly lead the organization, guiding its work to conduct research, harmonize the use of science, and encourage scientific dialogue.

Transparency
All ILSI’s activities are conducted in an open and transparent manner and all scientific outcomes are made available to the public to ensure confidence in the integrity of the scientific process. The purpose and funding sources for all ILSI sponsored meetings; symposia; conference; seminars; and workshops are fully disclosed.

Lobbying and Advocacy
ILSI does not lobby, conduct lobbying activities, or make policy recommendations.

ILSI SEA REGION

Established in 1993, ILSI Southeast Asia Region (ILSI SEA Region) is a regional entity of ILSI that initiates and coordinates scientific programs and research among the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam), as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Our activities focus primarily on nutrition and health promotion; food safety and risk assessment; as well as sustainable food systems.

With our Regional Office located in Singapore, ILSI SEA Region oversees a Country Office in Australia, as well as Country Committees in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. ILSI SEA Region also coordinates collaborative programs among ILSI’s Asian branches, including ILSI Focal Point in China, ILSI India, ILSI Japan, ILSI Korea, and ILSI Taiwan.
Sharing of Scientific Knowledge
We organize and facilitate scientific meetings including workshops, seminars, symposia and conferences for local, regional and international audiences. Through these events, ILSI SEA Region provides a credible and neutral platform for the sharing of the latest scientific knowledge and regulatory updates, as well as facilitating the productive exchange of ideas and dialogue among our tripartite stakeholders – industry, academia, and government.

Important outcomes of ILSI SEA Region’s activities and programs are disseminated to our stakeholders and the wider public through our scientific publications, as well as published articles in scientific journals. We also disseminate regular updates of our news and activities through our website, social media platforms, bi-monthly NewsFlash e-news, and Science InSight - our biannual ILSI SEA Region newsletter.

Research
ILSI SEA Region seeks to enhance scientific resources and support scientific research in the region through private-public partnerships between industry, government, academia, research and scientific institutions, as well as nonprofit organizations and foundations. Our research projects aim to identify gaps and potential for future research and investigate and estimate prevalence and determinants of various public health issues relevant to each Science Cluster. We also aim to improve and harmonize data collection and analysis methodologies across Southeast Asia, including developing standardized databases. Our research and collaborations are based on strict principles of scientific integrity, ethics and transparency.

Capacity Building and Training
ILSI SEA Region operates in a diverse and dynamic region, where many countries are at different stages of growth and development. With our global and regional network of scientific resources, ILSI SEA Region organizes and supports programs and activities that increase scientific knowledge, encourage scientific research, as well as strengthen capabilities in applying science-based approaches to public health decision-making. Such programs and activities include capacity building and training workshops organized in collaboration with academic institutions and government agencies.
ORGANIZATION CHART

Assembly of Members
Regional Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Regional Office

Board Committees

Scientific Advisory Committee

Panel of Scientific Advisors

Country Office and Committees

Science Clusters
GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

ILSI SEA Region is governed by a Board of Directors, which comprises an equal number of individuals from the public sector (Scientific Directors) and ILSI SEA Region member representatives (Member Directors), to ensure a balance of scientific perspectives. A Scientific Advisory Committee and a Panel of Scientific Advisors provide the latest scientific knowledge and expertise, as well as general oversight and guidance for our scientific programs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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| **President**       | **Mr. Geoffry Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer, Nutrition Strategies International Pte Ltd, Singapore |
| **Vice President**  | **Emeritus Prof. Aman Wirakartakusumah**  
Emeritus Professor, Food Science and Technology, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia |
| **Co-Vice President** | **Dr. Harvey Glick**  
Senior Director, Regulatory Policy & Scientific Affairs, Asia, Bayer (South East Asia) Pte Ltd, Singapore |
| **Honorary Secretary** | **Dr. Akarat Suksomcheep**  
Director, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, ASEAN, Coca-Cola Southeast Asia Services Co Ltd, Thailand |
| **Honorary Treasurer** | **Dr. Yen Ling Low**  
Area Center Director, Research & Development, Abbott Asia Pacific Nutrition Center, Singapore |
| **Members-at-large** | **Emeritus Prof. Richard Head**  
Emeritus Professor, Health Sciences, University of South Australia / Affiliate Professor, Pharmacology, The University of Adelaide / Honorary CSIRO Fellow, Australia |
| | **Dr. E Siong Tee**  
Nutrition Consultant, TES NutriHealth Strategic Consultancy, Malaysia |
| | **Assoc. Prof. Emorn Udomkesmalee**  
Associate Professor and Former Director, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand |

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<th>Other Members of the Board of Directors</th>
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| **Emeritus Prof. Corazon Barba**  
Emeritus Professor, Institute of Human Nutrition and Food, College of Human Ecology, University of Philippines Los Baños, Philippines |
| **Prof. Sushila Chang**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK |
| **Mr. Oon Teong Ch’ng**  
Director, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, Asia Pacific, PepsiCo International, Malaysia |
| **Dr. Philippe Gallardo**  
NOAC Regional Manager, Asia, Oceania, and Africa, Nestle R&D Center (Pte) Ltd, Singapore |
| **Prof. Christiani Jeyakumar Henry**  
Director, Clinical Nutrition Research Centre, A*STAR, Singapore |
| **Dr. Pichet Itkor**  
Director, Health Policy and Scientific Affairs, ASEAN, Japan and Korea, Reckitt Benckiser, Thailand |
| **Dr. Yu Li**  
Director, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, Asia Pacific, Mars Foods (China) Co Ltd, China |
| **Prof. Paul Teng**  
Managing Director, NIE International Pte Ltd, Singapore |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position, Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Andrew Bartholomaeus</td>
<td>CEO, BartCrofts Pty Ltd, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Sakarindr Bhumiratana</td>
<td>President, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Paul Brent</td>
<td>Director and Principal Scientific Consultant, Global Food and Chemical Risk Assessment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and Risk Management Solutions, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mario Capanzana</td>
<td>Director, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science &amp; Technology,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Lay Ching Chai</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Lynne Cobic</td>
<td>Deputy Director and Science Director, Health and Biosecurity, Commonwealth Scientific</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Dedi Fardiaz</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, Bogor Agricultural University,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Rodolfo Florentino</td>
<td>Resident Advisor and Former Chairman-President, Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Lynn Frewer</td>
<td>Professor, Food and Society, Centre for Rural Economy, Newcastle University, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Alonzo Gabriel</td>
<td>Professor and Chairman, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of the</td>
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<td>Philippines Diliman, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Barry Halliwell</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, Office of the Senior Deputy President and Provost/Tan Chin Tuan</td>
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<td>Centennial Professor, National University of Singapore, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Purwiyatno Hariyadi</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, Bogor Agricultural University,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Le Thi Hop</td>
<td>President, Vietnam Nutrition Association (VINUTAS), Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emeritus Prof. Geok Lin Khor</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Woon-Puay Koh</td>
<td>Professor, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mathew Lau</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Yuan Kun Lee</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology &amp; Immunology, Yong Loo Lin School of</td>
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<td>Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Widjaja Lukito</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer, University of Indonesia, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Hamid Jan Bin Jan Mohamed</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Siti Muslimatun</td>
<td>Head of Study Program, Food Science, Indonesia International Institute for Life</td>
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<td>Sciences, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asst. Prof. Anadi Nitithammyong</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Choon Nam Ong</td>
<td>Director, National University of Singapore Environmental Research Institute, Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emeritus Prof. Andrew Sinclair</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor, Deakin University, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Roy Sparringa</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emeritus Assoc. Prof. Songsak Srianujata</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Dean Stockwell</td>
<td>Director and Principal, Dean Stockwell Consulting Ltd, New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Celeste Tanchoco</td>
<td>Country Coordinator, ILSI SEA Region Philippines Country Committee, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Tran Khanh Van</td>
<td>Vice Head, Department of Micronutrients, National Institute of Nutrition, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc. Prof. Pattanee Winichagoon</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand</td>
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BRANCH MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

ILSI SEA Region’s office, based in Singapore, is managed by the Singapore-registered consultancy firm, Food & Nutrition Specialists Pte Ltd. The Regional Office oversees and carries out ILSI SEA Region’s day-to-day activities, including coordination and implementation of the Branch’s scientific programs across ASEAN and Australasia. It also oversees ILSI SEA Region’s Country Office in Australia, and its Country Committees in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The Regional Office, together with the Board of Directors, charts ILSI SEA Region’s growth in organizational development, supports its resource development and forges partnerships with local, regional and international stakeholders.

**Regional Office**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Boon Yee Yeong</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Pauline Chan</td>
<td>Director, Scientific Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Sofia Amarra</td>
<td>Deputy Director, Scientific Programs/Director, Research (Nutrition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Jocelyn Wong</td>
<td>Manager, Scientific Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Hui Key Lee</td>
<td>Executive, Scientific Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Janice Lee</td>
<td>Executive, Scientific Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Li Yuin Yeong</td>
<td>Director, Development and Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Amy Kok</td>
<td>Senior Manager, Branch Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Joycelyn Seah</td>
<td>Assistant Manager, Branch Administration</td>
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**Country Office/Committees**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Christine Dowdall</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Siti Muslimatun</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. E Siong Tee</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Celeste Tanchoco</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asst. Prof. Anadi Nitithamyong</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Tran Khanh Van</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
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The ILSI SEA Region Scientific Program is developed through continuing dialogue between ILSI SEA Region and its stakeholders in industry, government and academia, as well as its Board of Directors and Scientific Advisors, to address on-going and emerging issues in public health, nutrition, food safety and sustainability.

The ILSI SEA Region Scientific Program is organized into 4 Science Clusters. These clusters, illustrated in the diagram below, align with the 4 thematic areas which are the focus of the global ILSI organization.
This Science Cluster focuses on the biological and physiological aspects of nutritional science. The objectives of this Science Cluster are to examine nutritional issues that impact the health of populations and generate scientific information regarding local dietary intakes and disease risk in the region. These objectives are achieved by conducting collaborative primary and secondary research in the different regional countries, and organizing conferences, workshops and expert consultations to share the latest science on public health issues relevant to the region.

**Science Cluster Topics**
- Diet, Health Impacts and Disease Risks
- Macronutrient and Micronutrient Needs and Status
- Physical Activity and Energy Balance
- Biomarkers and “omics” Sciences

**Technical Committee and Special Project***
- Technical Committee on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)
- ONE ILSI Global Project on Healthy Aging (ILSI SEA Region is co-leader)

*These two programs are funded separately

The key objective of this Science Cluster is to promote the development of sound dietary guidance for populations. To achieve this, sound methodologies and tools are required for dietary assessment in order to identify key sources of nutrients as well as potential deficiencies and excesses, and to monitor the effects of nutrition interventions.

**Science Cluster Topics**
- Methodologies and Tools for Dietary Assessment
- Dietary Guidelines
- Nutrition Labeling and Claims
- Functional Foods
- Food Fortification
- Science of Consumer Behavior

This Science Cluster aims to address emerging scientific issues related to microbiological and chemical safety in food and water that are affecting the region; to facilitate capacity building in the development and utilization of risk assessment in the region; to support science-based harmonization of food control measures, such as food safety standards among ASEAN countries; and help to improve hygiene practices and access to clean water through community-based programs.

**Science Cluster Topics**
- Chemical Food Safety Issues
- Microbiological Food Safety Issues
- Water Safety
- Risk Assessment
- Food Safety Risk Management
- Risk Perception and Communication

This Science Cluster facilitates ILSI SEA Region’s engagement in a broader range of increasingly relevant topics related to agriculture, food, and the environment. The objectives of this Science Cluster include facilitating knowledge sharing on sustainable food production technologies, including storage, processing, food safety treatments, and packaging; addressing emerging scientific issues on agricultural sustainability and nutrition security in the region; promoting an environment that enables safe use of new agri-food production technologies addressing food and nutrition security concerns; establishing metrics for sustainable nutrition security (SNS) appropriate for the region; and raising awareness and sharing information on the impact of climate change and other risks to the agri-food production and supply system.

**Science Cluster Topics**
- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
- Sustainable Nutrition Security (SNS)
- Climate Change and other Risks to the Agri-Food Supply System
In 2018, ILSI SEA Region celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Since its inception in 1993, ILSI SEA Region’s programs and activities have grown and expanded to cover the 10 countries of ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand. Through the years, ILSI SEA Region has played a significant role in bringing together the public and private sectors in these regions to address important public health issues through collaboration and partnership.

It has achieved this by providing a neutral and credible forum for international scientists and experts to share their latest research and knowledge with regional audiences. It has also supported scientific research and capacity building, to facilitate the development of strategies and sustainable solutions that aim to improve the health and well-being of populations in the region.

To mark the milestone of its 25th Anniversary, the ILSI SEA Region Annual Meeting held from April 24–25, 2018 in Singapore included several celebratory and commemorative activities. These included a reception attended by ILSI SEA Regions’ Directors, Scientific Advisors, Members, representatives from its partners and stakeholders, as well as friends and colleagues from several ILSI entities. Many had travelled from near and far to jointly celebrate their friendships and achievements with ILSI SEA Region over the past 25 years.
SHARING OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Transformation Technologies and Translational Research: A New Era in Advancing Sustainable Food System and Public Health Solutions

Over the past decade, rapid technological advancements in the areas of biomedicine, agriculture, food and nutritional sciences, and the translational research of these emerging technologies present exciting potential for positive impact on the overall food system, the environment, human health and disease prevention.

Understanding the development of these technologies and their applications, as well as public acceptance and societal impact in the coming era, will be critical in bringing science to market to provide better and more sustainable public health solutions. Acknowledging this, ILSI SEA Region held a symposium in Singapore on April 23, 2018, titled ‘Transformation Technologies and Translational Research: A New Era in Advancing Sustainable Food System and Public Health Solutions’, in collaboration with A*STAR, Singapore and CSIRO, Australia to highlight new technology in various fields ranging from agriculture to biomedical research, and discuss the enhancement of multi-stakeholder partnerships in these technological advances and their applications.

Outcomes and Impact
The symposium shared emerging technological and food innovations which open new opportunities for the improvement of health and food safety, as well as greater efficiency and sustainability in the food system and supply chain. Challenges of harnessing these frontier technologies were outlined, and approaches including formulating evidence-based, supportive policy and regulations were highlighted to be crucial in supporting and extending the benefits of these innovations to the consumers.

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the development and application of new technologies in the food system. Panelists discussed both the benefits and challenges of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the implementation of new technologies in the areas of agriculture, food safety, nutritional and biomedical science. They also highlighted strategies that could be used to ensure effective communication to the public and other stakeholders on the use and safety of new technologies.
Nutrition labels, as well as nutrition and health claims, are important tools to communicate the nutritional quality and health benefits of a food product to consumers. They provide point-of-sale information and help consumers make informed choices. In Southeast Asia, there is wide disparity between label formats and permitted claims among countries, causing confusion among consumers, and resulting in trade barriers for food manufacturers and distributors. ILSI SEA Region has facilitated a series of seminars and workshops for regulators, researchers, and relevant food industry personnel from the region to discuss issues related to nutrition labeling and claims since 2001.

Continuing this series, ILSI SEA Region and its Malaysia Country Committee organized the **10th Seminar and Workshop on Nutrition Labeling, Claims and Communication Strategies** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August 2018. Co-organized by the Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health, and in collaboration with the Nutrition Society of Malaysia, the meetings served to provide updates and key learnings from international and regional developments in nutrition labeling, nutrition and health claims and related issues in Southeast Asia, and to explore potential areas for harmonization in the region.

**Outcomes and Impact**

The seven identified priority areas for harmonization on nutrition labeling and claims discussed in the workshop were presented to the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality’s (ACCSQ) Product Working Group on Prepared Foodstuff (PFPWG), which is the main ASEAN body for regulatory harmonization in the food sector, for selection and following up facilitation among ASEAN countries. The harmonization of nutrition labeling and claims regulations in the region will help not only with the improvement of consumer understanding of key messages on food labels, but also the reduction of technical barriers to the commercial distribution of foods and beverages in the region. ILSI SEA Region will continue to provide the platform to assist PFPWG and the ASEAN regulators to update on their regulations regarding the nutrition labeling and claims, and to facilitate the harmonization discussion.
RESEARCH

PUBLICATION
Thalassemia and other Hemoglobinopathies among Anemic Individuals in Metro Manila, Philippines and Their Intake of Iron Supplements

Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia worldwide and a public health problem in the Philippines. However, recent studies showed that genetic hemoglobin disorders also contribute significantly to the burden of anemia in Southeast Asia. Such disorders are not amenable to dietary iron intervention, and instead require blood transfusion and iron chelation. Hence, affected individuals are at risk for iron overload which increases risk for organ damage and chronic disease.

Published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition in 2018, this study aimed to estimate the proportion of thalassemia and other hemoglobinopathies versus iron deficiency and other causes in a sample of anemic individuals living in Metro Manila, and to describe the characteristics of thalassemic subjects in terms of severity of anemia, adequacy of iron stores, and hematological profile. The intake of iron supplements among individuals with varying causes of anemia was also examined.

Outcomes
The study revealed that a majority of anemic (62.5%) in this sample was due to other causes and hemoglobinopathy, rather than iron deficiency. Genetic hemoglobin disorders appear to be common among anemic individuals. However, population screening and further investigation are needed to determine the real prevalence of the disease and identify other causes of anemia among Filipinos so that appropriate interventions can be implemented. The government should also re-examine its iron fortification and supplementation programs to avoid excess iron intake in these populations.

PUBLICATION
Adherence of Malaysian Adults’ Energy and Macronutrient Intakes to National Recommendations: A Review and Meta-Analysis

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are fast becoming the major cause of morbidity and deaths in Malaysia, and dietary risk has been identified as the leading risk factor for disease and disability in the country. Responding to these rising concerns, a meta-analysis review was published in the Nutrients Journal in 2018 as part of the ILSI SEA Region’s contribution in the One ILSI Healthy Aging Project to examine the best available evidence regarding energy and macronutrient intake during adulthood (age 19 to 59 years) in Malaysia. The adherence of these intakes to national recommendations was assessed in order to develop recommendations for dietary improvement based on population consumption patterns.

Outcomes
Twenty studies (five nationwide, 15 individual) indicated that Malaysian adults generally met or exceeded recommendations for fat and protein but were inconsistent concerning energy and carbohydrates. It concluded that improved dietary assessment methods (including the use of biomarkers), better data analysis, and updated food composition data, will provide more reliable information for policy decisions and recommendations for improvement.
CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

WORKSHOP
2nd National Workshop on Food and Nutrition Labeling & Claims in Myanmar

A follow-up National Workshop on Food and Nutrition Labeling and Claims in Myanmar was co-organized with the Myanmar Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in December 2018. The workshop provided updates on Codex food and nutrition labeling and claims guidelines and recommendations, shared recent development in the discussion on potential harmonization of nutrition labeling and claims, as well as guidelines and regulations on tolerance limit for nutrient declaration on nutrition information panel (NIP).

Outcomes and Impact
The Director General of Myanmar FDA and 55 officials from the various national food and nutrition agencies joined the workshop, with the aim of developing the Myanmar’s nutrition labelling and claim guidelines/regulation. ILSI SEA Region had organized the first national workshop in November 2017, allowing experts and regulators in the region to share their experiences and knowledge which had benefited the participants. In this second workshop, additional roundtable discussion allowed the participants to identify and share potential challenges and solutions regarding drafting of nutrition labeling guidelines/regulations. ILSI SEA Region will continue to assist with this capacity building effort in Myanmar and to provide relevant scientific guidance for the process.

TRAINING COURSE
Development and Evaluation of Quality Food Composition Database

Recognizing the importance of developing good quality food composition databases (FCDBs) in the region, ILSI SEA Region has a longstanding collaboration and support with the ASEANFOODS Network (under FAO INFOODS) over the past two decades. More recently, a new initiative for ASEAN National Food Composition Database (FCDB) Quality Improvement have been initiated, which include two regional roundtable discussions among ASEANFOODS stakeholders to identify priority areas of work, as well as facilitating a national FCDB workshop in Indonesia and Myanmar.

Jointly organized by ILSI SEA Region, ASEANFOODS, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (INMU), Thailand, and the Department of Medical Research, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, a 5-day ILSI SEA Region & ASEANFOODS FOODCOMP Training Course 2018: Development and Evaluation of Quality Food Composition Database took place in September 2018 in Yangon, Myanmar.

Outcomes and Impact
The 5-day training course in Myanmar is the 1st on FCDB being held in the country, utilizing ASEANFOODS experts to impart training techniques for sampling, laboratory analysis and compilation. It emphasized the importance for compilers and users to work together to support each other; and conveyed the importance of quality FCDB for multiple sectors and professions to enable the development of quality food consumption data.
ILSI GOVERNANCE

ILSI GLOBAL GOVERNANCE REFORMS

ILSI is a global scientific organization that presently comprises the ILSI Research Foundation (ILSI RF) based in Washington DC, USA, as well as 16 ILSI Branches located across the different continents of the world.

Since its inception 40 years ago in 1978, ILSI has been dedicated in its mission to provide science that improves human health and well-being, and safeguards the environment. It has pursued this mission through its operating principle of public-private leadership, fostering scientific collaboration among industry, government, academia and other sectors of society to address topics of common concern impacting public health.

In a rapidly changing world, new scientific discoveries and new technologies are having a profound impact on our understanding of nutrition, health, food safety, and sustainability. To ensure that ILSI remains at the forefront of cutting-edge science and new approaches to improving public health, ILSI is committed to strengthening its organizational structure and operational efficiency.

Over the past 2 years, the ILSI Global Board of Trustees and the ILSI Entities (ILSI RF and ILSI Branches) have worked closely together to develop and implement a plan to reform ILSI’s governance system. With key principle changes to the governance system agreed upon, implementation of the transition plan is on-going and will be fully in place by 2020. A brief outline of the governance reforms is shared here.

ILSI’S NEW GOVERNANCE SYSTEM
ASSEMBLY
ILSI’s Assembly has been reformed into a federation of its Entities, namely ILSI Research Foundation and the ILSI Branches. These ILSI Entities are now the members of the Assembly, and they will be making decisions collectively to ensure that ILSI continues to achieve its mission.

Each ILSI Entity will be represented in the Assembly by 2 delegates - one public and one private sector representative nominated from the respective Entity's Board (except that the ILSI Research Foundation may select two delegates who are affiliated with Public Sector Organizations). The ILSI Assembly will be responsible for and be able to vote on matters that are fundamental to ILSI, including strategic goals, changes to the bylaws, standards of scientific integrity and other mandatory policies. The Assembly will also be responsible for membership eligibility and criteria, and the election of the ILSI Board of Trustees.

The transition of ILSI to a federation of ILSI Entities at the global level does not affect the Assembly of each ILSI Branch. The Assembly at ILSI Branch-level remains an Assembly of its Members.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The ILSI Board of Trustees (Board) previously comprised 32 members, representing the various entities and geographical regions in which ILSI operates. This will be streamlined and reduced to a core of about 10 members for increased efficiency. The Board members will serve the ILSI Assembly as a whole, and will not act on behalf of any specific Entity. Resource contribution and geographical spread are among considerations of the Board composition, which will be led by public and private co-chairs.

The Board as with the Assembly, will maintain an equal balance of members from the private and public sectors, with co-leadership by the Chair and Co-chair drawn from the two respective sectors. The key roles and responsibilities of the Board are to ensure the effective working of the governance system, perform fiduciary duties, develop scientific, strategic goals, as well as to approve ILSI Global's budget, strategic management of relationships with key stakeholders and termination of membership of a member entity by 2/3 vote of Trustees. The Board will be supported by the Management Team and ILSI Global (ILSI GC) staff.

MANAGEMENT TEAM
The ILSI Management Team was established in January 2018, and comprises the Executive Directors of all ILSI Entities. The Management Team serves to coordinate the development and implementation of policies and practices relating to fundamental operational matters affecting the global network of members. The Executive Directors of the ILSI Entities are key to the successful implementation of the strategic plan and goals of ILSI Global through each of their entities. The Management Team plays an important role in ensuring effectiveness of collaborative and network communication.

ILSI GC STAFF
ILSI Governance and Coordination (GC) Staff comprises the Director of Operations, the Director of Communications, and the Director of Publications, with Financial and Legal staff support. They provide a secretariat function that is critical to ensure the effectiveness of the governance system. They will manage the everyday operations of ILSI Global and support the functioning of the Assembly, Board and the Management Team, providing effective communication across the ILSI global network.

In 2019, ILSI will continue to implement and complete the transition to the reformed governance system. ILSI SEA Region will provide timely updates and information to its Members, Board of Directors and Scientific Advisors throughout this transition process.
Abbott Nutrition R&D
Ajinomoto Co, Inc, ASEAN Headquarters
BASF East Asia Regional Headquarters Limited
Bayer (South East Asia) Pte Ltd
BENEVO Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Coca-Cola Southeast Asia Services Co Ltd
Danone Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Ltd
DSM Nutritional Products Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Fonterra Brands (M) Sdn Bhd
FrieslandCampina Development Centre AMEA Pte Ltd
General Mills
Glico Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Herbalife International Singapore Pte Ltd
MARS Incorporated
Mead Johnson Nutrition (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd (Reckitt Benckiser)
Mondelez Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Nagase & Co, Ltd
Nestle R&D Center (Pte) Ltd
Nutrition Strategies International Pte Ltd
PepsiCo Asia Services Ltd
PT Nutrifood Indonesia
Suntory Beverage & Food Company Japan
Syngenta Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Tate & Lyle
Unilever South East Asia and Australasia
U.S. Dairy Export Council
Yakult Singapore Pte Ltd