APEC NUTRIGENOMICS 2016: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN NUTRITIONAL GENOMICS TOWARDS NUTRITION, HEALTH, AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

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BACKGROUND

As an innovative approach towards health and nutrition, Nutritional Genomics (or Nutrigenomics) offers a new perspective to address the intensifying problem of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Nutritional genomics provides insights on the interaction between nutrients and susceptible genes associated with NCDs and affected by diet. The potential of Nutritional Genomics in combating NCDs is starting to be realized in developed nations while technological advances that pushed these benefits are still scarce in developing economies.

OBJECTIVE

To this end, a workshop was held in June 2016 to provide a platform for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member economies and other relevant international organizations to share information and insights on the application of Nutritional Genomics on health and nutrition research, particularly in addressing NCDs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A workshop titled “APEC Workshop on Strategies to Address Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) through Science, Technology, and Innovation: Nutrigenomics Approach” was held on June 15-16, 2016 in Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. It was attended by 16 international delegates and 66 local participants from the academe, government sector, and private industries. Key topics that were discussed during the workshop included: (1) best practices in Nutritional Genomics research, (2) industry and economic perspectives in Nutritional Genomics and, (3) plans for the creation of the APEC Virtual Center for Nutritional Genomics.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The workshop was concluded with the formulation of an eight-point policy recommendation that will lead to the development of nutritional genomics-based research strategies and collaboration in support of the goals of the APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation (APEC PPSTI).

The cooperation amongst the APEC member economies in advocating Nutritional Genomics as an innovative approach will contribute to the region’s thrust towards socio-economic prosperity which can only be achieved if its people thrive in the most favorable state of nutrition and health.