

Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI) contribution to 3rd IAOM Southeast Asia District Conference and Expo in Manila, The Philippines



Flour Fortification Initiative
A Public-Private-Civic Investment in Each Nation

IAOM Southeast Asia District Meeting

The International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM), one of the key partners of the Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI), was founded in 1896 to provide educational and training opportunities for the grain processing industries. The Association further aims to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation among the grain millers and industries and individuals allied or closely associated with the milling industry. Membership of the IAOM is organized in various international regions called districts. Currently 16 of such districts had been established around the world.



Over 180 professionals from the international milling industry attended

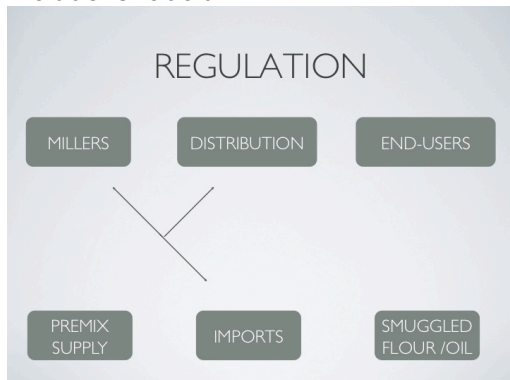
the 3rd IAOM Southeast Asia District's conference and expo at the Marriott Hotel in Manila, the Philippines from 8 – 10 October 2012. The objectives of the meeting were to provide technical and educational opportunities to milling professionals in Asia-Pacific as well as to provide a forum for networking for people working in the milling industry.

The **Flour Fortification Initiative** (FFI) is a network of partners working together to make flour fortification a standard milling practice. FFI builds alliances between governments and international agencies, wheat and flour industries, and consumer and civic organizations. FFI's strategy is to stimulate interaction among the partners so that together we can achieve results that none of us could achieve independently. The goal of FFI is for 80% of the world's industrial flour to be fortified with at least iron or folic acid by 2015.

Flour fortification was also highlighted at the International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM) Southeast Asia District Conference and Expo in Manila.

The conference featured several presentations, including two on wheat flour fortification.

Dr. Juan Antonio Solon from the Nutrition Center of the Philippines made a presentation on the past and future of flour fortification there. The Philippines has fortified flour for several years and is one of the few countries that includes vitamin A in the fortification standard but does not include folic acid.



Dr. Solon said that future plans are to continue fortifying flour with iron, consider adjusting the levels of vitamin A, and consider adding folic acid to the standard.

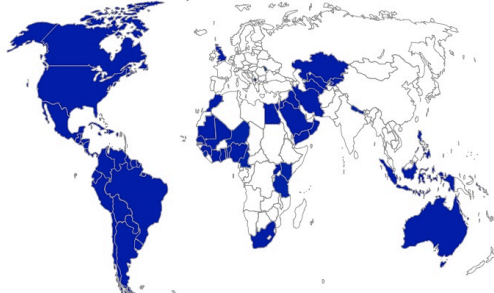
<http://www.ffinetwork.org/about/calendar/2012/Documents%202012/PhilippinesUpdate.pdf>

Annoek van den Wijngaart from FFI gave a presentation on “Millers and Governments Working Together to Reduce Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies”.

<http://www.ffinetwork.org/about/calendar/2012/Documents%202012/AnnoekUpdate.pdf>

Wheat Flour Fortification Legislation

October 2012: 75 countries require iron and/or folic acid in wheat flour



All countries fortify flour with at least iron and folic acid except Australia which does not include iron, and Venezuela, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, and Trinidad and Tobago which do not include folic acid.

Currently there are 75 countries in the world where wheat flour fortification is mandatory.

At the Expo, participants were challenged with a taste test to see if they could determine whether noodles were made with fortified flour. The noodles were cooked without seasoning to not bias the answers. The professional millers attending the meeting determined that fortification did not make any difference in the noodles' flavor.



After the IAOM meeting, Philippine Foremost Milling Corporation kindly offered a tour of its facility to highlight experience with wheat flour fortification in their mill.

