

Conference Report

ASEAN FOOD CONFERENCE 1985

The 1985 ASEAN Food Conference was held in Manila, Philippines, from 18 to 23 February. I was privileged to attend the conference as a speaker through the kindness of the organisers and generous financial help from the British Council. Chairperson of the ASEAN Food Conference 1985 Steering Committee was Mercedes R. Soriano, who is also a member of the Editorial Board of *Food Chemistry*.

The Conference was exceptionally well organised and, after opening speeches by Mercedes Soriano, Dr Edwardo R. Magoto (President of the Philippine Association of Food Technologists Inc.), Hon. Minister Emil Q. Javier and Jesus T. Tanchanco, Dr Ang-How Ghee (Professor, National University of Singapore and Immediate Past Chairman, ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology) and Dr Armando B. Aspiras (Immediate Past President, Philippine Association of Food Technologists), the scientific sessions were launched.

Sessions were divided into Food Analysis and Composition, Food Processing and Packaging, Post Harvest Science and Technology, Food Safety and Regulation, Food Marketing, Technology Transfer, Research and Education, Food Waste and By-Products Utilization and Management. There was also a poster session.

What was striking about this Conference was the spirit of dedicated cooperation between the different ASEAN delegates and a positive determination to work together on problems of food processing, storage

and quality affecting all of the ASEAN members. The well-balanced and successful conference was clearly the result of an enormous and enthusiastic effort by Mercedes Soriano and her team, who fostered the spirit of friendliness with an excellent social programme. Manila turned out to be a well chosen, warm and sunny place for the meeting. The next ASEAN Food Conference will be in Bangkok in 1988.

Gordon Birch