

KEYNOTE SPEECH

食のハラール性と食習慣・認証・技術
—グローバル化と近代化のさなかで—
**Food Halalness in Globalization and Modernization: Food Habits,
Authentication and Technology**

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Abstract

The globalization of the world economy and improvements in food processing technologies have made the issue of halalness so complex that even Muslims have difficulties in distinguishing what is halal and what is not. The rules concerning halalness of foods are seemingly clear according to Islamic law. However, the border line between halal and haram is sometimes obscure, and people often have different opinions and different attitudes toward certain foods according to their sects, schools of law, personal beliefs, and backgrounds. Amid growing interest in Muslim markets in Japan, an overview of food halalness encompassing a broad range of perspectives is urgently needed.

Nowadays, there are many halal certification bodies that check and certify the halalness of commercial products in response to requests from Muslim consumers who want to use modern factory products or eat in various restaurants without hesitation. Especially in South-East Asian countries where many Muslims are living in multi-religious environment, there have occurred many problems concerning interfusion of non-halal material to so-called "halal" products, both intentional and unintentional. Therefore, it is also necessary to develop new food analysing technologies to detect non halal materials.

However, it is difficult to integrate definition of religious term 'halal' globally because Muslim consumers' recognition toward halalness is not uniform. There are also non-muslim people who need precise information of ingredients, such as vegetarians, Hindus, Jewish and those who have food allergy.

What is urgently needed is a synthetic information system to provide precise information on critical ingredients in a food in both religious and physical terms, so that consumers can choose themselves depending on their own needs.

Keywords: food habits, halal certification system, food analysing technologies, information system