

**Abstract of a major presentation at the
International Conference**

Forging Effective Strategies to Combat Iron Deficiency

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ILSI Center for Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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Micronutrient Initiative**

**(Additional information and publications from this Conference can be
found at the website of the International Life Sciences Institute
(<http://www.ilsa.org/>)**

Action Priorities for Asia

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Efforts to control iron deficiency in Asia revolve around three issues:

1. Efficacy trials regarding multiple micronutrient supplementation being managed by UNICEF in three Asian countries, in partnership with others. Results expected in early 2002.
2. Iron fortification effectiveness studies with condiments (soy sauce in PRC and fish sauce in Vietnam) being conducted with the food industry and Ministries of Health: Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine and National Institute of Nutrition respectively, under the sponsorship of International Life Sciences Institute and the Micronutrient Initiative. Results expected in 2002.
3. Regional initiatives on food fortification policy, salt and flour fortification in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and rice plant breeding led by the Asian Development Bank, in partnership with multilaterals, ILSI, MI and bilaterals. The Asian Development Bank's work is described in a separate attachment.

What remains uncertain is how these efforts can be best coordinated, results validated, and potential expansion into programs positioned within the donor community in key Asian countries.