

**Memorandum of Cooperation among
the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China,
the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
and the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea,
on a Joint Response against Pandemic Influenza**

The Ministry of Health (MOH) of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan and the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) of the Republic of Korea,

Guided by their willingness to develop fruitful cooperation among their respective countries in the field of pandemic influenza-related health and medicine

Considering that the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea share a strong tradition in medical and health research and have a long history of health collaboration

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation to minimize the damages caused by pandemic influenza on public health and their economies

Considering the need to pursue a pandemic influenza-free triangle among the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and to make common efforts to develop efficient ways to develop such an area;

Have reached common recognition:

The MOH, the MHLW and the MOHW (hereinafter referred to as the "Participants"), intend to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in Pandemic Influenza prevention and control according to the following general principles:

- (a) all activities will be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits;
- (b) the cooperation provided for in this Memorandum of Cooperation will not affect relations currently established between institutions or individuals of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Rather, the Participants intend to endeavor to identify new areas for joint activities and to avoid unnecessary duplication of current activities;
- (c) joint activities, where possible, are expected to be coordinated with, or be supportive of, the goals and activities of other international health bodies, including the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies.

The Participants plan to provide for an expansion of cooperation across a broad range of mutual interests related with pandemic influenza. Initial efforts are to be directed at developing joint activities addressing their common problems in the areas of:

- (a) health quarantine, surveillance and epidemiological investigation and rapid information sharing
- (b) diagnosis and treatment;
- (c) researches on vaccine development and anti-viral resistance;
- (d) strategies development to minimize outbreaks, as well as joint simulation and desk-top exercises;
- (e) rapid response and containment;
- (f) cooperation in the development of public health laws and regulations; and
- (g) other areas of cooperation that may be jointly decided upon by the Participants

The methods of cooperation provided for in this Memorandum include, but are not limited to:

- (a) cooperation in scientific and clinical programs and basic research projects;
- (b) establishment of a joint working group to deal with issues related to pandemic influenza;
- (c) designation of focal points for emergency contact and mutual cooperation;

- (d) exchanging experts and training professional staff
- (e) information and technology sharing in support of activities of mutual interest;
- (f) information sharing to deal with the media relationship and risk communications in advance;
- (g) meetings, academic conferences and joint desk-top exercises; and
- (h) annual meeting for related senior officials.

The Participants also intend to encourage and facilitate the establishment of direct relationships among other appropriate institutions and individuals in the three countries.

For each area of cooperation, the Participants intend to identify the appropriate entities to take the lead in overseeing the practical implementation of cooperative activities. The appropriate entities of the Participants will be responsible for coordinating communications and activities with their counterparts and will be responsible for fulfilling mutually decided responsibilities.

All activities conducted under this Memorandum of Cooperation are to be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the three countries and are subject to the availability of personnel, resources, and appropriated funds. Steps for cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation are to be developed through mutual consultations based on mutual priorities following the signature of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Any disputes concerning the cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation will be settled amicably through consultations between the Participants.

The cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation will commence on the date of signature by the Participants and will continue for a period of five years. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be modified with the mutual consent of the Participants.

Signed in Seoul, this eighth day of April 2007, in the English language.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH LABOUR AND
WELFARE OF JAPAN

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND WELFARE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA:

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
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