

Memorandum of Cooperation
among
the National Health and Family Planning Commission 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
and Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Common Concern

The National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) 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 (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”);

Guided by their willingness to develop fruitful cooperation among the three countries in the field of public health security related to pandemic influenza and emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases of common concern (hereinafter referred to as “ERIDCC”);

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

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation to minimize damage on public health security and socio-economy caused by an outbreak of pandemic influenza and ERIDCC;

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

Have reached common recognition:

1. The Participants intend to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in pandemic influenza and ERIDCC prevention and control in line with 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; and

(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.

2. The Participants continue to provide for an expansion of cooperation across a broad range of mutual interests related with pandemic influenza and ERIDCC. Efforts are to be directed at developing joint activities addressing their common concerns in the areas of:

(a) Surveillance, early-warning and epidemiological investigation;

(b) Infectious disease control measures;

(c) Development of diagnostics and vaccine;

(d) Clinical management and antiviral resistance;

(e) Development of strategies to minimize outbreaks by using joint simulation and table-top exercises;

(f) Development of public health laws and regulations;

(g) Public risk communication; and

(h) Other areas of cooperation that may be jointly decided upon by the Participants.

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

- (a) Rapid information sharing through the designated focal points for both ordinary times and in the case of outbreak;
- (b) Establishment of a joint working group or program for common concerns and scientific research;
- (c) Exchange of experts and official;
- (d) Sharing information and knowledge in support of activities of mutual interest; and
- (e) Holding high-level meetings, academic conferences/workshops and joint table-top exercises.

4. 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.
5. All activities conducted under this Memorandum of Cooperation are to be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the respective countries and are subject to the availability of personnel, resources, and appropriate funds. Steps for cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation are to be developed through mutual consultations based on mutual priorities following the signature on this Memorandum of Cooperation.
6. Any disputes about the cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation will be settled amicably through consultations between the Participants.
7. 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. The Participants should review whether to renew this Memorandum of Cooperation every five years.

8. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be modified with the mutual consent of the Participants.

Signed in Seoul, on this twenty-fourth day of November 2013, in the English language.

FOR THE NATIONAL
HEALTH AND FAMILY
PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

FOR THE MINISTRY
OF HEALTH, LABOUR
AND WELFARE OF JAPAN

FOR THE MINISTRY
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