

**LETTER OF INTENT
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LABOUR AND WELFARE OF JAPAN
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (MHLW), and the The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of the United States of America hereafter referred to collectively as “the Participants,” and individually as a “Participant”, intend to continue to work on emergency preparedness and response and medical countermeasure planning, development, and deployment. This work has grown under the auspices of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Department of Health and Human Services signed May 3, 2017, [and the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America on Cooperation in Research and Development in Science and Technology, with annexes and exchange of letters, signed at Toronto June 20, 1988, as amended and extended,] and the intent is for this work to continue.

Events of the last few years have emphasized the importance of tangible results from the sustained technical level collaboration between Japan and the United States on health security, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. The Participants recognize that the Japan-U.S. alliance is rooted in our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and intend for collaboration to expand this vision.

I. OBJECTIVES

The Participants intend to continue and expand the existing collaborations with the following objectives:

- To continue the strong partnership between the Participants for the mutual benefit of the Participants, their countries, and the world;
- To improve the ability of the Participants to collaborate during health emergencies; and
- To advance the health security of both countries.

II. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The Participants intend to collaborate in the following areas:

1. Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Strategy, Planning, Research and Development, and Stockpiling

- o Identify specific potential projects for joint collaboration in medical countermeasure research and development;
- o Share information on portfolio and pipeline of existing MCM Research and Development strategies;
- o Share information on existing MCM stockpiles and stockpiling strategies, to the extent permitted by law; and

- o Share processes on the assessment of health threats, MCM planning, MCM characterization, and MCM quantification.

2. Health Emergency Management

- o Share best practices, capacities, and response lessons learned;
- o Continue collaboration working to develop ability for joint Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) operations, including the development of standard operating procedures and expand this collaboration to work with other like-minded partners;
- o Conduct a joint DMAT emergency response exercise;
- o Collaborate to conduct Regional and Country focused Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) capability development in appropriate areas;
- o Coordinate training and exercise activities for performance enhancement within the region and key countries; and
- o Collaborate on operational features, training, clinical management, and research on high-consequence pathogens through the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC).

3. Strengthening Global Health Security

- o Work jointly in the East Asia region to promote assessment of health security status in countries in the region;
- o Facilitate joint trainings and after-action reviews to identify strengths and weaknesses in the response to outbreaks and emergencies in countries in the region; and
- o Assist countries in the region to engage in effective planning processes to implement activities to strengthen health security.

4. Information Sharing

- o Conduct regular engagement between the Participants to share information; and
- o Develop any necessary additional arrangements related to sharing of information to further advance the U.S.-Japan health security collaboration.

The Participants recognize these issues are global and intend to collaborate with like-minded partners to strengthen the multilateral system to better enable it to meet health challenges. The Participants intend to build on existing collaborations where possible including the work under the U.S.-Japan Medical Biodefense Research Symposium, renamed the U.S.-Japan Health Security Committee.

III. METHODS OF COOPERATION

The methods of cooperation provided for in this Letter of Intent (LOI) include but are not

limited to:

- Exchanges and training of experts, scientists, etc;
- Joint Projects;
- Information Sharing; and
- Consultations, meetings, symposiums, scientific conferences, and webinars.

IV. LIMITATIONS

All proposals made by the Participants under this LOI are subject to the availability of appropriated resources including funds. Nothing in this LOI, in and of itself, obligates MHLW or HHS to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur any financial obligations. All activities related to the implementation of this LOI are intended to be handled in accordance with the applicable laws, regulations, and procedures of the Participants. This LOI does not create binding obligations under international or domestic law.

V. COMMENCEMENT / MODIFICATION/ DURATION

This LOI is intended to commence upon signature by the Participants and continue for a period of five (5) years. This LOI may be modified through mutual written consent of the Participants. A Participant may discontinue its participation in this LOI, at any time, and should endeavor to provide at least thirty (30) days written notice to the other Participant in advance of the desired discontinuation date.

Signed in _____ on the ___ day of _____ 2023, in the English language.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH, LABOUR AND
WELFARE OF JAPAN**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**