

Working Arrangement
between
the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority of the European
Commission
and
the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

on cross-border infectious disease emergency preparedness and response in the area of
medical countermeasures

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for international cooperation to prevent, combat and contain serious cross-border infectious disease threats. It is therefore of common interest to foster cooperation in the area of infectious disease emergency preparedness and response.

Cooperation, exchange of information, coordination and communication are essential both to combat health emergencies, like the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to prepare for future serious cross-border infectious disease threats.

Recognizing the existence of broad mutual interests in the field of serious cross-border infectious disease emergency preparedness and response, and desiring to further strengthen cooperation in the area of medical countermeasures, the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority ("HERA") and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development ("AMED"), hereinafter refer to individually as a "Partner" and collectively as "Partners", intend to cooperate in the field of development of medical countermeasures.

1. Purpose

The Partners intend to strengthen cooperation across a range of mutual interests with the aim to direct their joint efforts to address preparedness and response to serious cross-border infectious disease threats in the area of medical countermeasures. When relevant, both Partners intend to involve other relevant public entities, services of the European Commission or relevant Union Agencies, and other Japanese counterparts, in the development and execution of joint activities.

2. Domains and Methods of Cooperation

The Partners intend to strengthen cooperation in the area of medical countermeasures. The domains and methods of cooperation under this working arrangement may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Exchange of information and non-personal data in relation to advanced research and development of medical countermeasures for the preparedness and response to serious cross-border infectious disease threats.
- Identification of areas and potential projects to collaborate on priority pathogens of mutual interests.
- Organisation of regular meetings between the Partners to facilitate activities envisaged under this working arrangement and to identify future areas of collaboration between the Partners.

The scope of activities under this working arrangement may be updated from time to time as is deemed appropriate by the Partners.

3. Contact points

- The Partners intend to establish regular contacts between their officials, as appropriate, to foster cooperation, ensuring the participation of the relevant services on both sides.
- Each Partner intends to designate a point of contact for the implementation of this working arrangement.

4. Other matters

- This working arrangement does not entail any financial commitments on either Partner. Any collaborative activity carried out pursuant to this working arrangement is under the condition of the availability of appropriated funds and other resources, including human resources.
- The Partners intend to conduct all their activities contemplated by this working arrangement in accordance with laws, regulations, policies and procedures applicable to the respective Partners.
- Each Partner should observe the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, information and other data received from or disclosed to the other Partner in the implementation of this working arrangement in line with its internal rules.
- Each Partner should prior to any press release or other announcement consult the other Partner and seek a joint decision in writing.
- This working arrangement is not intended to create any legal rights or obligations in respect of either Partner under domestic or international law.
- This working arrangement is intended to be operational for three (3) years from the date of its signature, unless one Partner discontinues its participation in this working arrangement at an earlier point in time. Collaboration may continue until the Partners jointly decide that the objectives of this working arrangement have been achieved or until one Partner discontinues its participation in this working arrangement.

Signed in two originals in English.

For THE HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE AUTHORITY
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

For THE JAPAN AGENCY
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laurent Muschel
Acting Director-General

Dr. MISHIMA Yoshinao
President

Place and date: October 27, 2023

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