

Rising to the Challenge Together!

Institutions such as international organizations, companies and NGOs play a crucial role in preventing infectious diseases on a global scale. Here are our partners who are working together with JICA to solve health care problems.



Bringing measles-rubella combined vaccine to Vietnam

Kitasato Daiichi Sankyo Vaccine Co.,Ltd.

Vietnam has been promoting vaccination against infectious diseases as part of the National Immunization Promotion Plan since 1981. The Center for Research and Production of Vaccines (POLYVAC), Vietnam's public corporation, has been receiving Japanese assistance since 2003 and established a measles vaccine production facility. Production started in 2009 in cooperation with The Kitasato Institute (now Kitasato Daiichi Sankyo Vaccine Co.,Ltd., a group company of Daiichi Sankyo Co.,Ltd. Hereinafter, Kitasato Daiichi Sankyo Vaccine).

On the other hand, many people were not vaccinated against rubella, which led to an epidemic in 2011. Establishing domestic vaccine production became urgent. Having previously completed the technical transfer for measles vaccine, JICA then started technical assistance to produce a measles-rubella combined vaccine in cooperation with Kitasato Daiichi Sankyo Vaccine in May 2013. Kitasato Daiichi Sankyo Vaccine dispatched specialists from Japan, and also welcomed Vietnamese participants to Japan and conducted training on production and quality control. Dr.Tomio Lee, the project's vice director, says, "Participants' enthusiasm to acquire new technology and their diligence made the training go

smoothly."

Last year's measles outbreak in Vietnam was contained thanks to the quick and high-volume provision of high-quality and safe measles vaccine produced by POLYVAC as a result of the previous technical transfer. "We are glad that a domestically-produced vaccine could contain the outbreak, in cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO). We wish to further strengthen the relationship with the Vietnamese government and POLYVAC and contribute to preventing infectious diseases and developing Vietnam," emphasizes Dr.Lee.

The technical transfer project for the first domestically-produced measles-rubella combined vaccine is moving forward for its implementation in Vietnam. Through public-private partnership, Japanese technology is helping Vietnam to prevent infectious diseases.



Training on aseptic manipulation, a method to keep the tools aseptic



The project's progress and problems were discussed at a meeting with related organizations from both countries



Innovation and polio eradication

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Polio, also called polio or infantile paralysis, primarily affects children under five years old and paralyzes one out of 1000, sometimes leading to death. Effective treatment still awaits discovery and vaccination is important to prevent polio.

The World Health Organization (WHO) encourages polio eradication and the number of polio patients in the world has been decreasing. The number of polio-affected countries, which was 125 in 1988, is now three: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Japan has been providing vaccines and related materials around the world, including for these three countries.

Considering the large amount of funds required for this kind of assistance and infusing private sector money in developing countries, JICA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation established Loan Conversion. Through this system, Japan supports polio eradication in affected countries with Japanese ODA Loans. If the results are successful, the Gates Foundation repays the loans in place of the affected countries' governments.

The first assistance started in 2011 in Pakistan where the

infection was then spreading. Japan made a limited loan of 500 million yen and assisted in providing vaccines and conducting wide vaccination campaigns. As a result, the vaccination rate increased and the affected area became limited. The Gates Foundation then decided to repay the loan.

Since last year, Nigeria has been receiving support. In addition to financial assistance for vaccination campaigns, Japan is also dispatching experts to provide training on maintaining inspection equipment at the Nigeria National Polio Laboratory. No new infections of the natural strain poliovirus have been confirmed in Nigeria between January and the end of August 2015; the fight against polio is entering the final phase.



Marking the finger with a special marker to distinguish vaccinated children



Child being vaccinated against polio in Pakistan