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JAPAN TRANSFERS PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY OF MEASLES – RUBELLA COMBINED VACCINE TO VIETNAM

Hanoi, April 17th, 2013 – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Center for Research and Production of Vaccines and Biologicals (POLYVAC), the institution under the Ministry of Health, have signed the Record of Discussions (R/D) of the technical cooperation project on “Strengthening Capacity for Measles-Rubella Combined Vaccine Production”. The project is expected to be carried out from May 2013 and last for 4 years and 11 months. The total budget is estimated at about 707 million Japanese Yen (equivalent to 7.51 million USD).

In this project, the Japanese experts are dispatched to Vietnam for transferring technology and Vietnamese counterparts are received for training in Japan. The Measles Vaccine Production Facility built by Grant Aid of the Government of Japan (2003-2006) will be provided with new equipment for the purpose of measles-rubella combined vaccine production.

“By this WHO- GMP credited Measles Vaccine Production Facility, and with the Japanese advanced technology, we do believe that Vietnam will be able to produce high quality MR vaccine, responding to the domestic needs and then exporting to neighboring countries. Once this purpose is achieved, we can help to protect children’s health and eliminate the risk of being disabled caused by mother affected from rubella in the first trimester of pregnancy”, Mr. Tsuno Motonori, Chief Representative of JICA Vietnam Office told.

Techinal staffs working in production of vaccine
Completed vaccine products

In accordance with recommendation of WHO, Vietnam has a plan to implement the MR
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Vaccination Campaign in 2013 and 2014, then, the first single dose of measles vaccine in Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) will be replaced by a combined MR Vaccine. It is expected that by the end of 2017, Vietnam will be capable of producing measles-rubella combined vaccine and start providing this vaccine to the EPI from 2018.

POLYVAC received technology transfer for single measles vaccine production from Japan in 2006, by the end of 2009 POLYVAC was able to produce measles vaccine on its own and started providing this vaccine to Vietnamese market. Up to the end of 2012, 9.2 million doses of measles vaccine have been produced by POLYVAC and provided to the EPI.

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