Hanoi, December 27th 2011 – Japan supports Vietnam in controlling multi-drug resistant bacteria which is at risk of expansion. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), National Institute of Nutrition and International Cooperation Department (Ministry of Health) signed today in Hanoi the Record of Discussion on the “Project for Determine the Outbreak Mechanisms and Development of a Monitoring System at Food Administration for Multi-Drug Resistant Bacteria”.

Multi-drug resistant bacteria has been a rising concern in Vietnam where recent abuse of antibiotics in the medical and agro-fishery sector has increased the threat of multi-drug resistant bacteria tolerant to various antibiotic substances. Experts fear the situation may trigger intractable infectious diseases. It’s reported that 42% of the population carry drug-resistant bacteria which is a high rate as compared to other countries.

In this project, JICA will transfer technologies for detecting multi-drug resistant bacteria in clinic, community, and environment; for detecting antibiotic residue in food; and for developing surveillance model and training method. In addition, the project helps construct laboratory and data storage facilities, required for analyzing generation mechanism of drug-resistant bacteria, as well as providing advanced training courses for people in the field.

Beside the main over goal, the project is expected in the future to promote the management of food safety and trafficking agriculture and fishery products, enhance motivation and reputation of related research institutes/ universities, give impact on social administration system, and contribute to international efforts in dealing with multi-drug resistance bacteria issue.

The project will be carried out in 5 years from 2012 to 2017 with total budget of approximately 300 million Yen (about 3.8 million USD) from Japan non-refundable aid. The activities will be conducted in Ha Noi, Thai Binh, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho.

The project partners include National Institute of Nutrition, Thai Binh Medical University, Nha trang Pasteur Institute, Institute of Hygiene and Public Health and Can Tho University.

Japan Science & Technology Agency, JST, will also make ties with JICA to conduct the Project.
Signing ceremony