

Press Release

April 8, 2013

Global Health Innovative Technology Fund

Announcement of the Establishment of The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund

Japan's first public-private partnership
to advance the development of new health technologies for the developing world

The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund), the first public-private partnership of its kind in Japan, today announced its official launch. The GHIT Fund has been established to advance the research and development of new medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics to fight infectious diseases in the developing world.

The GHIT Fund aims to reinforce Japan's contribution to global health by developing new health technologies, utilizing the highly developed science and technology capacity found at the country's pharmaceutical companies, universities and research institutions. In providing grants for promising research, the Fund will help bridge the gap between basic research and clinical studies, allowing for unprecedented medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics.

It is estimated that over 1 billion of the world's poorest of the poor suffer from HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)¹. To eliminate these diseases, highly effective/low-cost medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics are much needed. The GHIT Fund will facilitate and fund global R&D partnerships that aim to discover and develop new medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics that can help realize the elimination of these diseases in the developing world.

The GHIT Fund was established as a public-private partnership between the Government of Japan, a consortium of Japanese pharmaceutical companies (in alphabetical order: Astellas Pharma Inc.; Daiichi Sankyo Company Ltd.; Eisai Co., Ltd.; Shionogi & Co., Ltd.; and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Ltd.) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation². The GHIT Fund will proactively seek out further investment partners to advance new health technologies for the developing world, and the betterment of healthcare globally.

To learn more about GHIT Fund, please see www.ghitfund.org.

- Contact details -

Global Health Innovative Technology Fund

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- Overview of the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund -

- Name Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund)
- Founded November 2012
- Address Ark Hills Sengokuyama Mori Tower, 25th Floor,
1-9-10 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032, Japan
- Council members
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Takehiro Kagawa, Director-General for Global Issues
 - Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Masato Mugitani, Deputy Director-General
 - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Trevor Mundel, President of Global Health
 - Astellas Pharma Inc.
Yoshihiko Hatanaka, President and CEO
 - Daiichi Sankyo Company, Ltd.
Joji Nakayama, Representative Director, President and CEO
 - Eisai Co., Ltd.
Haruo Naito, President (Representative Corporate Officer) and CEO
 - Shionogi & Co., Ltd.
Isao Teshirogi, President and CEO
 - Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Ltd.
Yasuchika Hasegawa, President & CEO
- Board of Directors
 - Representative Director & Chairman Kiyoshi Kurokawa,
Academic Fellow, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
Chairman, Health and Global Policy Institute
 - Executive Director BT Slingsby
CEO, Global Health Innovative Technology Fund
 - Director Shiro Konuma
Director, Global Health Policy Division, International Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Director Peter Piot
Director, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
 - Director Ann Veneman
Former Executive Director of UNICEF
 - Director Kazushi Yamauchi
Director, International Cooperation Office, International Affairs Division,
Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 - Auditor Hikaru Ishiguro
Board Member and President, Health and Global Policy Institute
 - Auditor Ko-Yung Tung
Senior Counselor, Morrison & Foerster
 - Ex-officio Kim C. Bush
Director of Life Sciences Partnerships, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Activities:
 1. Facilitation of R&D global partnerships between Japanese and non-Japanese private and public research organizations.
 2. Provision of grants to the aforementioned R&D global partnerships.
 3. Advancement and strengthening of Japan's contribution to global health.
- Website <http://www.ghitfund.org/>

<Notes>

1. About Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NTDs blight the lives of more than 1 billion of the world's poorest 2.7 billion people. There are 149 countries and territories where NTDs are endemic, at least 100 of which are endemic for 2 or more of these diseases, and 30 countries that are endemic for 6 or more. These diseases not only survive and spread in conditions of poverty; they also anchor large populations in poverty.

2. About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

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