IFPMA International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations | Fédération Internationale de l'Industrie du Médicament | Federación Internacional de la Industria del Medicamento | FIIM

IFPMA Statement

Launch Event for First WHO NTD Report, Geneva, 14 October 2010

Remarks by Mr. Haruo Naito
President, IFPMA & President and CEO, Eisai Co., Ltd.

Madam Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

My name is Haruo Naito, and I am the President of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, the IFPMA.

The world is rapidly changing now. I know that growth in the developed world will be impossible without the further strong economic growth of developing countries. We are in the midst of a new round of globalization, and the development of low and middle income countries cannot be separated from global growth.

Health is a major political and economic challenge in all countries. I believe that there are many ways in which the IFPMA and its member companies can make a contribution towards improved health across the world.

In this new global economy, the pharmaceutical industry and others must show flexibility to improve drug access. This requires a holistic approach to tackle global health system issues. It will also require the sharing of scientific knowledge to foster research and development into NTDs. I trust that an open innovation approach, which is fully compatible with the current Intellectual Property Rights regime, will be adopted in this context and that many parties will join it.

The fight against NTDs has seen several successes in the recent years. IFPMA member companies are helping to defeat NTDs, through programs to increase R&D, improve access and strengthen local healthcare capacity. Many of these programs take the form of Public Private Partnerships, and I hope there will be more of these.

Three new NTD therapies have been approved since 2005, including one which shortens treatment of severe sleeping sickness. IFPMA member companies currently have 25 NTD R&D projects underway, including two vaccines in clinical trials for Dengue fever, for which no treatment currently exists. Nearly three-quarters of this R&D is via collaborative ventures.

Today, IFPMA member companies run 213 partnership programs to improve health in developing countries, compared to 36 in 2003.

I wish to say that industry cannot do this on its own. Those broadly shared commitments have to be replicated in the field of NTDs. We want to work with relevant partners to ensure that new medicines are in development and will reach those most in need. A high level of commitment from governments in developing countries and financial support from other funding bodies is essential.

Through our experience, we know that it is crucially important to strengthen quick and efficient means of capacity building and technology transfer, for which facilitation of good education and the establishment of basic infrastructure are essential. For instance, our industry has 12 TDR fellows from developing countries in training at our member companies, this progress will continue in the coming years.

Together, the research-based pharmaceutical industry, the WHO and other stakeholders gathered here today will defeat NTDs.

Thank you.

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About the IFPMA:

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing the research-based pharmaceutical industry, including the biotech and vaccine sectors. Its members comprise 25 leading international companies and 46 national and regional industry associations covering developed and developing countries. The industry's R&D pipeline contains hundreds of new medicines and vaccines being developed to address global disease threats, including cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and malaria. The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal (www.ifpma.org/ClinicalTrials), the IFPMA's Ethical Promotion online resource (www.ifpma.org/EthicalPromotion/) and its Developing World Health Partnerships Directory (www.ifpma.org/HealthPartnerships) help make the industry's activities more transparent. The IFPMA supports a wide range of WHO technical activities, notably those relating to medicine efficacy, quality and safety, and coordinates industry participation in the WHO IMPACT initiative to combat counterfeit medicines. It also provides the secretariat for the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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