

Promoting Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Countermeasures in the Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2023 Recommendation Background

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AMR Alliance Japan

In February 2022, British medical journal The Lancet reported that in 2019, an estimated 1.27 million deaths worldwide were directly caused by antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This was higher than the number of deaths from HIV and AIDS or malaria. In Japan, it is estimated that about 8,000 lives are lost every year due to AMR bacteria. However, this figure is based on just two strains of AMR bacteria, and the true scale of damage from AMR is thought to be enormous.

Starting in 2016, the Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform has clearly outlined the importance of AMR control every year, with mention of “strengthening efforts to promote AMR control and expanding systems for research, testing, and treatment.” The importance of AMR control was also made clear in the 2022 version of the Basic Policy, which stated, “Japan will also comprehensively examine concrete methods to secure therapeutic drugs for drug-resistant bacteria such as market incentives in measures designed to counter drug resistance, draw conclusions based on these examinations, and then play a leading role in international discussions.”

In response to these developments, AMR Alliance Japan has offered recommendations for the FY2023 version of the Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform in hopes that it will incorporate the following statement to further promote measures for AMR control.

To promote countermeasures for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) with a One Health approach, reinforce each system for surveillance, testing, human resource development, and the secure supply of antimicrobials; rapidly establish a system of incentives for ensuring sustainable innovation in antimicrobial R&D; and serve in a leading role in global cooperation.

In the area of R&D, future actions for AMR described in the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) (NAP) presented in April 2023 include, “Introduce a market incentive mechanism for new antimicrobials under the ‘Antimicrobial Securement Support Program.’” There is also strong recognition toward the importance of maintaining and reinforcing a sustainable, stable supply chain for antimicrobials as well as toward achieving comprehensive innovation in all areas of diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

The One Health approach has been emphasized as an AMR control measure in the Global Health Strategy presented in May 2022, and on the global level, in October 2022, the Quadripartite (which includes the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)) presented the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) for the five years from 2022 to 2026. Looking ahead to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79) in 2024 and beyond, it

will be crucial for Japan to fulfill its commitments to the international community in its capacity as G7 President in 2023 based on the idea that infectious disease control cannot be fully implemented by countries acting alone.

About AMR Alliance Japan AMR Alliance Japan was established in November 2018 as multi-stakeholder, collaborative organization dedicated to the improvement of public health through the promotion of AMR countermeasures. As of May 2023, its members include, in alphabetical order: MSD K.K., The Children and Healthcare Project, Shionogi & Co., Ltd., Shimadzu Diagnostics Corporation, Sumitomo Pharma Co., Ltd., The Japanese Society of Antimicrobials for Animals, Nippon Becton Dickinson Co., Ltd., The Japan Medical Association, The Japanese Society for Medical Mycology, The Japanese Society of Pharmaceutical Health Care and Sciences, The Japanese Society of Chemotherapy, The Japanese Society for Infection Prevention and Control, The Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases, The Japanese Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases, The Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, The Japanese Society of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, The Japan Society of Hospital Pharmacists, The Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, The Japan Pharmaceutical Association, The Japanese Society for Clinical Microbiology, bioMérieux Japan Ltd., Himeji City, Pfizer Japan Inc., and Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd. Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) serves as its secretariat.