



The GLOBE

Vol. 02

A Monthly Newsletter of Taiwan in Global Health

October 2005



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Establish Global Partnership

DOH Deputy Minister Wang leads a delegation to southern Africa

During a successful trip to southern Africa, DOH Deputy Minister Wang Hsiung held talks with the Malawian Health Minister on future cooperation projects. In addition to strengthening Taiwan's diplomatic ties with Malawi, the Deputy Minister also helped establish a dialogue mechanism with the Department of Health of South Africa in order to create future cooperation opportunities in southern Africa. Malawi has been one of the Taiwan's

most loyal partners in its bid to participate in international health organizations. On July 12, the President of Malawi Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika received the delegation from the DOH at the Presidential Office, demonstrating the close friendship enjoyed by both countries. The Malawian President welcomed Taiwan to provide health assistance to Malawi in the future and expressed continued support for its bid to join the WHO. In addition to discussing opportunities for future cooperation with representatives from all ["sectors of Malawi" is not clear. Do you mean, for example, "representatives from all regions of Malawi and government officials, another major objective of the delegation was to visit the Mzuzu Central Hospital, which is stationed by Taiwan's medical mission and was built under its support. ■

DOH seeks to enhance Taiwan-Malawi health cooperation

The Department of Health (DOH) presented the Minister of Health of Malawi, Dr. Hetherwick Ntaba, with a medal and a decoration in appreciation for his strong support of Taiwan's bid for entrance to the World Health Organization (WHO) during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May of this year (2005), in which Dr. Ntaba took the lead in speaking out for Taiwan's cause and engaging participants in debate on the issue. Dr. Ntaba also spoke enthusiastically about Taiwan's rights within the WHA International Health Regulations (IHR) Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG). ■

DOH and Kiribati's Ministry for Health and Medical Services sign bilateral health cooperation agreement

The Republic of Kiribati has provided continuous and unwavering support for

Taiwan's entrance to the World Health Organization (WHO) in the past decade, voicing strong support for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly (WHA) last May, and at the International Health Regulations (IHR) Conference this February. At the WHA this May, Kiribati's Minister of Health and Medical Services, Natanaera Kirata, gave strong backing to Taiwan's bid for participation in the WHO, demonstrating the strength of the friendship and the importance, which Kiribati places on Taiwan. The minister and deputy minister of Kiribati's Ministry for Health and Medical Services visited Taiwan during August 13 to 17, 2005 and signed a bilateral health cooperation agreement with the Department of Health (DOH) of Taiwan. This agreement will initiate a new era for both existing health exchanges and future cooperation between the two countries, which will promote mutual understanding and strengthen reciprocal relations.

Henceforth, the DOH and Kiribati's Ministry for Health and Medical Services will be collaborating on matters including medical exchanges, participation in international organizations, and programs to promote health

awareness and education. Through the interaction of medical professionals from both countries, Taiwan expects to facilitate bilateral cooperation on health and medical issues and to strengthen ties with Kiribati, while aiming to gradually expand regional health cooperation with other countries in the South Pacific to realize the vision of "medical care without borders". ■

National Taipei Hospital and the Second United Hospital of Mongolia establish partnership

On August 9th, 2005, National Taipei Hospital and Second United Hospital of Mongolia officially established sister hospital relations in Mongolia's capital city, Ulan Bator. This event sets another diplomatic milestone between Taiwan and Mongolia since Taipei City and Ulan Bator became sister cities in 1997. At a press conference, Dr. Hou Sheng-mou, the minister of the DOH, explained that in order to facilitate Taiwan's cooperation and exchanges with Mongolia's health department, the DOH was keen to turn the sister hospital agreement into a reality.

The superintendent of National Taipei Hospital, Dr. Huang Kun-



Minister Hou Sheng-mou (right) and Natanaera Kirata, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Republic of Kiribati



Mr. S. Yunden (left), superintendent of the Mongolia Second Hospital and Dr. Huang Kun-Chang (right), superintendent of National Taipei Hospital, DOH, participated at the sister hospital signing ceremony

chang stated that since its establishment by the hospital three years ago, the International Medical Training Center has trained dozens of medical personnel in countries around the world including Brazil, Africa, and Mongolia. In the past two years, National Taipei Hospital has received 11 doctors from Mongolia, each of whom received six-months of training, and has formed strong ties with the medical community in Mongolia. The sister hospital agreement is therefore regarded as a natural development. Based on this foundation, the two sides will strengthen exchanges and cooperate on various matters including medical services, public health, hospital management, health checkups, referrals, laboratory diagnosis, and treatment technology. The close interaction and joint efforts of both countries will undoubtedly contribute much to forging a deeper friendship between Taiwan and the people of Mongolia. ■

International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) supports Taiwan's bid to join the WHO

Students from medical and pharmaceutical schools in Taiwan made themselves heard on the international stage by obtaining support from the IFMSA to

make it one of the organization's policies to support Taiwan's entrance into the WHO as an observer. Meanwhile, the annual convention of the IFMSA will be held in Taiwan in 2007. Chang Ting-shuo, a student from the School of Medicine of National Defense Medical Center, participated in the annual convention held in Egypt in August and expressed to participants of the meeting Taiwan's wish to join the WHO as a health entity because medical issues transcend national borders. In addition, Huang Jian-ban, a student of the College of Pharmacy of China Medical University, also successfully won the right to host the biennial meeting of IFMSA in Taipei in 2007 during his participation in the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) Annual Congress in Germany in August. It is expected that nearly 300 representatives from the association of pharmaceutical students from more than 30 nations will attend this event in Taiwan. ■

Taiwan promotes globalization of traditional Chinese medicine-Fourth Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine held in Taiwan

The Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) was founded in December 2003 by Chair Professor Cheng Yung-Chi of Yale University School of Medicine, who is also an advisor of the NHRI and a member of Academia Sinica. The founding organizations include 16 world-renowned institutes from Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the US. The CGCM is a non-profit organization aimed at promoting and advancing Chinese medicine research through collective efforts. One of its main objectives is to promote the globalization of Chinese medicine and its integration into the international healthcare system. It is the hope of the CGCM

that Chinese medicine can transcend beyond traditional and local roles, become a basis of future mainstream medical developments worldwide and provide benefit to the health of all people. The fourth meeting of the CGCM was held in Taiwan in August with member institutes expanding to 51 with the inclusion of new members Australia, Canada, England, Macao and Singapore.

Taiwan has made great efforts in modernizing Chinese medicine. Lin Yi-shin, Chairman of the Committee of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, noted that Taiwan had done its part in developing the databank of Chinese Medicine by building a Chinese medicine website. In addition, Taiwan has made notable achievements in publishing a report by the Committee of the Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy titled the "Clinical trials in Traditional Chinese Medicine: Environment and Regulations in Taiwan", and in establishing thirteen Chinese medicine clinical trial centers responsible for implementing clinical trials. The National Health Research Institutes will also provide the assistance of a research group, known as the Taiwan Cooperative Oncology Group, who will assist in conducting of Chinese medicine clinical trials in Taiwan and serve as a model for the international multicenter clinical trials of the Consortium. The accumulation of a wealth of published research including abundant theses and dissertations in the field of basic Chinese medicine research should enable Taiwan to integrate Chinese medicine into the international community at a fast pace. ■

DOH describes Taiwan's health achievements at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting

The Asia Pacific region's influences on everything from global health safety to economic and trade activities are too great to be neglected. The APEC Health Task Force (HTF)-

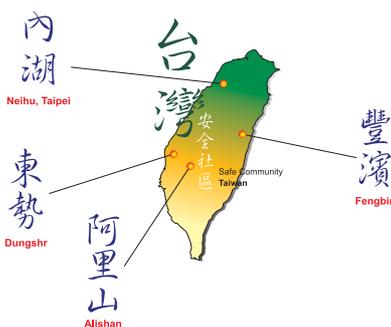


Taiwan's representatives in the APEC LSIF (Life Science Innovation Forum)

PlusMeeting established in 2003 in response to the SARS epidemic was convened in Kyngju, Korea in September 2005. The DOH assigned personnel to the meeting and shared information about Taiwan's experience in response to threats to health safety with other member entities. In addition to providing draft reports of the achievements of three work projects, the APEC Avian Flu Diagnosis Training and International Symposium, the Dengue Fever Detection Training Program and the Electronic Communications Platform in the HTF Work Project 2004-2005 led by Taiwan, DOH personnel, also reported on food safety and disaster contingency plans. As a formal member of HTE, Taiwan has ongoing opportunities to exchange information with other nations as well as share technology and experience with the international community. ■

里山), Dungshr (東勢), Fongbin (豐濱) and Neihu (內湖) in Taiwan to join the international safe community network beginning in October. Taiwan became the third Asian nation after Korea and Hong Kong to have safe communities verified by the WHO. The Head of the Division of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Professor Leif Svansson will conduct the official

verification ceremony and bestow safety medals at each of these four communities, to usher them into the international safe community network. The DOH of Taiwan and the Taiwan Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Association have promoted the safe community program since 2002. One of the program's main objectives has been to attain a verifiable level of safety necessary for joining the international safe community network. Taiwan selected four characteristic communities for participation: the urban community of Neihu in Taipei city, the agricultural community of Dungshr in Taichung county, the mountain community of Alishan in Chiayi county and the seaside community of Fongbin in Hualien county to implement different safety plans based on the specific environments in these communities. Achievements in these areas were finally recognized by the WHO this year. The Taiwan Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Association noted that Taiwan was the first nation in the world to concurrently promote a safe community program in four different types of communities. The development model used in this program can help communities focus on promoting injury prevention as well as understanding the types of accidents that may occur in other communities. In 1989, the WHO established the Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, which assists communities around the



Four communities in Taiwan approved by the WHO to join the international safe community network in October

The WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion gave approval for the four communities of Alishan (阿



Scenery of the four International Safe Communities in Taiwan

world in accident injury prevention and awards medals to communities that pass safety verification. So far, a total of 85 communities have received this verification, becoming the members of international safe community network. ■

Reminder on World Heart Day-"Healthy weight, healthy shape"

In recent years, heart diseases have remained number three among the top ten causes of death among our citizens, but in 2004 the ranking for heart disease jumped to second place. Around 35 citizens die of heart diseases every day. The Survey of Health Promotion Knowledge, Attitudes and Behavior of People of Taiwan in 2002 conducted by the Bureau of Health Promotion found that 5.3% of people older than 15 years of age had heart disease and this percentage increased with the age to 6.1% among those between 40 to 64 years old. That is, one in every sixteen citizens had heart disease. For people older than 65 years old, a staggering 21.9%, that is about one in five people, had heart disease. The World Heart Federation established World Heart Day as the last Sunday of September, calling for the attention of people around the world to care and love their hearts. The theme of "World Heart Day" this year brought forth by the World Heart Federation was "Healthy weight, healthy shape." It is hoped that through straightforward messages and educational campaigns, people around the world will become increasingly aware of the need to control body weight and stay in good shape. ■

DOH participates in a videoconference as part of the Pandemic Preparedness Project

In cooperation with the British Royal Institute World Science Assembly (RiSci), the DOH held a simultaneous global videoconference



Experts discussed the related issues via video conferencing

for the Pandemic Preparedness Project at London, New York, Brussels, Atlanta and Taiwan on July 6, 2005. Representatives from Taiwan who participated in this project included DOH personnel and several prominent scholars and experts who discussed related issues with their worldwide counterparts via videoconferencing for two hours. This videoconference has been one of the key events by which Taiwan has participated in global pandemic prevention.

The Pandemic Preparedness Project of the RiSci will continue to cooperate with the WHO and other international organizations to promote preparedness for global pandemic prevention. ■

Taiwan's National health insurance system promoted internationally

To actively promote the internationalization of the national health insurance system, the Bureau of National Health Insurance has recently expanded its participation in international affairs, shared information with other nations about Taiwan's national health insurance experience and presented several related research papers at the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) symposium. The iHEA was founded in 1995 and holds an international symposium every two years. The purpose of the symposium is to encourage academic discussion of the roles and application of economics in the fields of medical

treatment and healthcare systems. During this year's (2005) symposium, the iHEA Congress arranged a Taiwan Breakfast and invited international health economists to participate in a session focusing on the national health insurance system in Taiwan. Professor William Hsiao, who participated in the planning of the national health insurance system in Taiwan, said that Taiwan's national health insurance had made impressive achievements and one of the reasons for its success was its use of a single payer system, which can lower administrative costs and control prices; nevertheless, its future challenges lie in medical system reform. If the whole medical system is not reformed, it will still face great pressure caused by the rapid rise of medical expenses. Professor Alan Maynard at York University, a former advisor to the British Health Department and the World Bank, noted amazement that Taiwan's national health insurance system could provide 14.5 outpatient services per person every year and considered that the people in Taiwan must be rather satisfied with such a system. Therefore, he suggested the current emphasis should be placed on quality of care and health promotion. Dr. Alex Preker, incumbent principal economist to the World Bank, expressed that the World Bank aims at assisting developing nations in areas including the introduction of a health insurance system, but they faced problems of inadequate financial resources and a shortage of medical services when promoting health insurance systems in many nations. Consequently, Taiwan represents a rare case of successful establishment of a comprehensive national health insurance system and its operation for more than ten years. Professor Uwe E. Reinhardt from Princeton University also recognized the tremendous achievement of Taiwan's health insurance system in the meeting, noting its impressive achievements. ■



Prevention and Control of Pandemic Avian Influenza

Taiwan Influenza Research Group Holds Global Influenza Pandemic Seminar

In August 2005, The National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) invited influenza experts, scholars and researchers from other nations with specialized knowledge in the H5N1 virus to join in a seminar in Taiwan with the purpose of strengthening Taiwan's role in preventing the pandemic. Topics covered included clinical symptoms of influenza and H5N1 avian flu infections, virus strain identification and evolution, effects of immune pathology, treatment, vaccine research and



The "Year 2005 Avian Flu Prevention Rehearsal" was held by Council of Agriculture this October, Incorporation with the DOH and related departments.

pandemic prediction.

Based on the findings of the seminar, the NHRI drew attention to the need for future research projects. The clinical research division of the NHRI will be responsible for research areas including H5N1 pathological emergence and pathogen city, and

developing consensus guidelines for the clinical treatment of patients. The Division of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Research will perform simulations of the production process of anti-viral drugs to prepare domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers to produce them in a future emergency, and also research alternative medicines including Chinese herbs which may be of therapeutic value should a pandemic outbreak occur. The Vaccine Research and Development Center will research and develop a H5N1 vaccine. The NHRI will also cooperate with the prevention and control policies of the CDC to monitor and diagnose viral infections, hold related educational seminars and develop related policies.



Taiwan to test influenza vaccines with GlaxoSmithKline in cooperation with DOH by year-end

The National Health Research Institutes of the DOH said it would cooperate with GlaxoSmithKline this year on testing vaccines for novel influenza. European nations and the US are currently focusing on the research and development of vaccines against the novel influenza. However, due to the highly unstable nature of influenza viruses, no effective vaccines are yet available and the vaccines currently being researched do not yet offer sufficient protection for humans. According to Director Su Ih-Jen of the Division of Clinical Research of the NHRI, there should be an approximate six weeks window for the mass production and distribution of medicine before the influenza pandemic outbreak would escalate from small scale to large scale. Currently, the WHO and advanced nations have been stockpiling medicines and European nations, the US and Japan have been developing vaccines. Taiwan is not a member of the WHO, and must therefore have the ability to produce medicine and vaccines on its own, said Dr. Su. ■

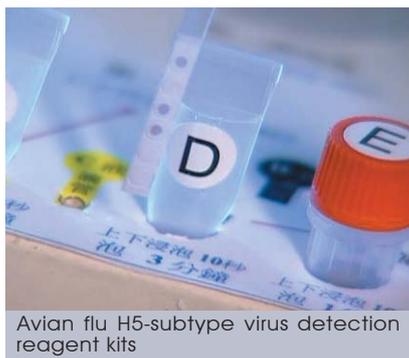
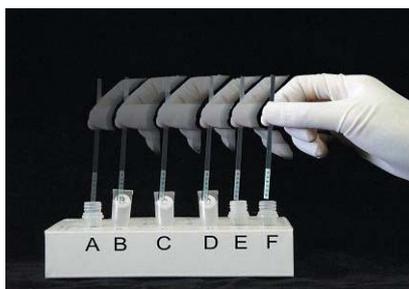
About 1 billion USD to be used over four years to stockpile vaccines and medicines to prevent avian flu

President Chen Shui-bian convened the National Security Council to discuss policies to prevent and control bird flu. The soon-to-be-issued National Security Report has listed bird flu as one of the major threats to national security. The DOH has begun to draw up an Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan. It is expected to invest in about 1 billion USD over four years to acquire preparedness materials including vaccines and medicines that are in short supply worldwide.

Director Su Ih-Jen of the Division of Clinical Research of the NHRI estimated that in a novel influenza pandemic, Taiwan would need at least 800,000 doses of anti-viral drugs for use at medical facilities, as prophylactic medication to flight passengers and for treatment and isolation during a community outbreak. The DOH reported that Taiwan has a stockpile 2.3 million doses of anti-viral drugs at present (which will allow treatment of 230,000 people) and has placed more orders from pharmaceutical manufacturers. Taiwan has also actively prepared for the establishment of a vaccine pioneer factory to enable local production of vaccines should the supply of foreign vaccines become limited or if other nations refuse to sell drugs to Taiwan. ■

Avian flu test results within 50 minutes-locally developed reagent kit completes sample testing and will soon be commercially available

An avian flu H5 subtype virus detection reagent kit developed in Taiwan has completed actual sample testing and



Avian flu H5-subtype virus detection reagent kits

will soon be available commercially. The detection reagent kit is easy to use. When applied in animal epidemic prevention and control examinations, front-line personnel will be able to detect whether poultry are infected by bird flu H5 subtype virus within fifty minutes thereby enabling epidemiological data to be obtained and control measures to be taken early. According to the Bureau of Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine, the highly pathogenic avian flu H5N1 virus poses a tremendous threat to the poultry industry and to human health worldwide. The H5N1 avian flu virus outbreak in Southeast Asia has already resulted in the destruction of billions of poultry and has taken the lives of more than 60 people. ■

DOH establishes the Novel Influenza Prevention and Control Office

The DOH established the Novel Influenza Prevention and Control Office today to step up liaison, coordination, and negotiation between related governmental agencies and local governments as well as strictly control the research and development of anti-viral drugs and vaccines. According to CDC estimates, once human-to-human transmission influenza cases occur in Taiwan, a 25% invasion rate would result in around 5.3 million people becoming infected, 640,000 hospitalizations, 3 million outpatient medical service visits and as many as 13,000 deaths. The DOH has instructed the CDC to implement influenza preparedness based on the National Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic and has instructed the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Affairs and the NHRI to strengthen its research and development of anti-flu drugs as well as teamwork and communication between agencies with a role in bird flu prevention. ■



Frontiers in Medical Development

The first new Chinese medicine researched and developed in Taiwan is available

The first Chinese medicine clinical trial performed under the Guidelines on Examination and Registration of New Chinese Medicines was announced by the DOH to have passed all required verification for a Chinese Medicine New Drug Application (NDA) and will soon be commercially available. The major ingredient of this new Chinese medicine is red yeast, which is a fermentation product from rice. Domestic pharmaceutical companies have already commissioned domestic GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) pharmaceutical manufacturers to produce red yeast capsules. The clinical trial application for this medicine has also passed the clinical

test effect assessment and clinical testing by teaching hospitals., Approval by the DOH and GCP (Good Clinical Practice) verification have all been completed. The DOH has issued a pharmaceutical license for this medicine for use to reduce hypercholesterolemia and its traditional characterization of effects as "to aid digestion, facilitate the flow of blood, invigorate the spleen and warm the stomach." This is the first



Traditional Chinese herbal medicine

new Chinese medicine produced in Taiwan, which has qualified under IND and NDA guidelines. The development of this new drug highlights our bio-tech industry's ability to research and develop new Chinese medicines, and that Chinese medicine quality can be guaranteed through modern and scientific technology. ■

Taiwan will be the first nation to establish limits for aflatoxins in Chinese herb medicines

The Bureau of Food and Drug Analysis of the DOH has routinely investigated levels of contaminants in Chinese herb medicine since 2002 and instructed the Committee of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy in June 2004 to collect regulations regarding Chinese

medicine standards from other nations within three months and identify those Chinese medicines that are prone to contamination. The current lists comprises 15 medicines or ingredients including Huang Chi, Yi Yi Ren, Yen Hu Suo, lotus seed, star anise, red jujube, Da Fu Pi, Nu Jen Zi, cumin, hawthorn, Cornus officinalis, medlar, pepper, yeast and tangerine peel. The standard upper limit for contaminants is now 15ppb. Adopting this criteria will make Taiwan the first nation to set a standard for limiting aflatoxins in Chinese medicines. This limit will effectively prevent contaminated Chinese medicine from being imported in Taiwan and allow citizens to use Chinese medicine with greater assurance. Aflatoxins are secondary metabolites known to be produced by the members of the Aspergillus species, A. flavus and A. parasiticus. The four types of aflatoxins currently known are B1, B2, G1 and G2. They are toxic and carcinogenic chemical compounds of low molecular weight. Ingestion of massive amounts of food contaminated by aflatoxins will result in acute hepatotoxicity and even death. ■

Taiwan's Launch of the bio-tech island project

The Bio-tech Island project was officially launched, including its three major infrastructure components of structural information, genetics and clinical research. The project is expected to achieve the three major objectives established by the government within a five years starting period beginning in the second half of this year. These three major objectives include development of National Health Information Infrastructure (NHII), Taiwan Biobank and the Clinical Trial Research System. Taiwan Biobank is expected to collect genetic data for analysis from 15,000 people in Taiwan every year. The long-term objective of this project is to collect

and analyze genetic data from 200,000 people. The DIH has planned to establish a national clinical trial center which will be operated at National Taiwan University Hospital, while the Tri-Service General Hospital, National Cheng Kung University Hospital and WanFang Hospital were chosen as special clinical trial centers. Deputy Minister of the DOH Chen Tzay-Jinn noted that three priorities of the national clinical trial center included strengthening clinical trial infrastructure, enhancing translational medicine and setting up an evidence-based medical center. The purpose of establishing special clinical trial centers is to investigate clinically useful relationships between genotypic and proteomics data as well as to provide health information and examination data rapidly. ■

Taipei Veterans General Hospital establishes custom made wheelchairs services

The Rehabilitation and Technical Aids Center of Taipei Veterans General Hospital reported on the very limited variety of ordinary wheelchairs sold in the marketplace in Taiwan. Patients who use unsuitable wheelchairs may develop secondary injury and their rehabilitation may also be adversely affected. The report found that 10 to

20% of outpatients used improper wheelchairs, and suggested the establishment of a wheelchair outpatient service to solve problems ranging from finding a new suitable wheelchair to repairing wheelchairs that are currently being used. The Rehabilitation and Technical Aids Center has cooperated with domestic professional wheelchair manufacturers in the development of fourteen different of modules which can be used in designing custom made wheelchairs, with sizes ranging from width 14 inches and depth 14 inches to width 20 inches and depth 22 inches. Based on the evaluation of wheelchair requirements by doctors,



Application of customer-made wheel-chairs



professional staff will design a customized wheelchair based on one of the 14 available modules based on the patient's body shape and weight. After being given recommendations on the most suitable modules for use, patients can make further adjustments to the wheelchair according to their preferences. The whole process usually requires only one to two hours. Whether patients are of large or small build, they will be able to find a suitable wheelchair using this service. Ordinary wheelchairs cost from 60 to 6,000 USD with huge price difference. A modular custom made wheelchair only cost about 500 USD not including the hard cushion. ■

Shih Hsin develops medicinal products derived from human blood or its components

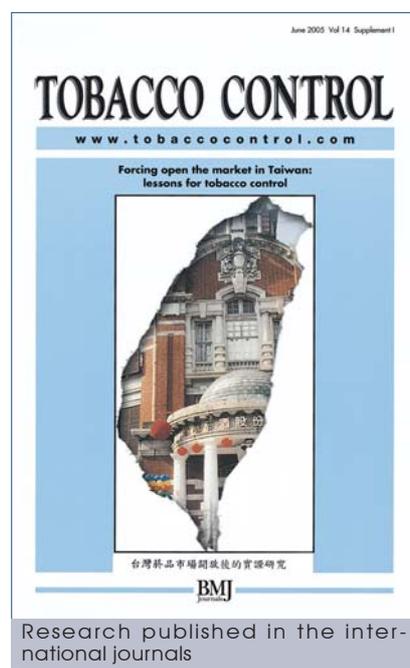
The government of Taiwan has long promoted the policy of "Domestic blood for domestic use". In early 2005, the Legislative Yuan passed a draft regulation on medicinal products derived from human blood or its components, regulating that blood or its components used in the manufacture of medicinal products should come from domestic donors. The governing authorities will approve the importing

of blood or its components from other nations only when there is an insufficient domestic supply. The passage of this law would allow Shih Hsin Biotech Company, a joint venture of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and Yung Hsin Pharmaceutical Company, to produce medicinal products derived from human blood or its components. Shih Hsin plans to cooperate with CSL, the world's largest manufacturer of related products before the end of this year by obtaining a commission from CSL to mass produce these medicinal products locally. Shih Hsin Biotech Company has noted that in the future, in addition to satisfying domestic needs, they may consider mass production of these medicinal products on behalf of foreign companies. Therefore, it has chosen to work in an international partnership with CSL. ■

Research papers about tobacco-related detriment from Taiwan were collected for publication as a supplement by Tobacco Control

Fourteen papers about the detrimental effects of tobacco use by researcher Wen Chi-bang at the National Health Research

Institutes were accepted by journal Tobacco Control, which is owned by the world-renowned British Medical Journal (BMJ), for publication as a supplement dedicated to Taiwan in June 2005 (Wen CP, et al. Forcing open the market in Taiwan: lessons for tobacco control. Tobacco Control June 2005, Vol 14 Supplement I). BMJ (see <http://bmj.bmjournals.com>) made a further in-depth news report based on data from one of these papers in July in an article titled. The tobacco industry deliberately targets young people in Taiwan by Roger Dobson. (BMJ July 2, 2005; 331:10). The report by Roger Dobson notes that smoking population between 18 to 24 years old in Taiwan had increased from 36% to 42% in the first five years after the opening up of tobacco markets due to the appealing advertisements and campaign policies of foreign tobacco companies targeting young people. This is the second time that the BMJ has published a special news report about tobacco related issues in Taiwan after publishing the Taiwan Supplement, thus attracting global attention via its Taiwan Supplement. (The first news report was about the benefits of increased tobacco tax to Taiwan.) ■



Research published in the international journals

Events and Announcement

37th Conference of the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH)

The theme of APHF 2005 is Health Security and Emerging Disasters in Asia-Pacific. Inviting public health policy makers to share their experiences in dealing with disasters, such as the tsunami and avian influenza, provides an invaluable opportunity to explore health sector disaster response preparedness and disaster re-duction.

Time: November 19 to 23, 2005

Venue: Grand Hotel Taipei 1, Chung Shan N. Rd., Sec. 4, Taipei, Taiwan

Or visit: <http://www.apacph2005.org> for further information.

The 2005 Global Forum for Health Leaders (GFHL)

The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity for sharing experiences on current international public health issues. It is open to all interested parties including government officials, scholars, NGOs and concerned individuals. We cordially invite you to join the conference.

Time: November 28 to December 3, 2005, in Taipei, Taiwan.

Venue: Taipei, Taiwan.

Contact information: Secretariat of GFHL

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For further information please visit the website at

<http://www.doh.gov.tw/EN/Webpage/index.aspx>

2006 International Hospital Federation Asian Pacific Regional Conference

Many important topics will be covered, for example, the applications of information technology, which appropriately applied has great potential in medicine, nursing and management. The topics mentioned above and much more will be discussed at the conference and there will be space given in the program for dialogue and debate. We are looking forward to see you in Taiwan in April 2006.

Time: April 2 to 5, 2006

Venue: Taipei International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan 1, Hsin-Yi Rd., Sec. 5, Taipei 110, Taiwan

Or Visit: www.ihftaiwan2006.org

28th World Congress of International Medicine / Taiwan Society of Internal Medicine

We have been designated the theme as "Internal Medicine in IT (Information Technology) Era", from medical research, education, clinical service, as well as various subspecialties, geriatric, medical ethics, neurology, critical care and emergency medicine for the congress. We cordially invite you to join the congress.

Time: November 10 to 14, 2006

Venue: 22F-26, No.50, Sec. 1, Jong Shiao West Road, Taipei 100, Taiwan

Or Visit: <http://www.icim2006-taipei.org.tw/>

Bureau of International Cooperation, Department of Health

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