

The Contribution to the Emerging/Re-Emerging Diseases in Asia

Nobuhiko OKABE

*Division of Surveillance and Information, Infectious Diseases Surveillance Center,
National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan*

To consider of the emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases is a global task today. Japan has been requested to contribute actively in the field of dispatch experts to recognize and control an unusual outbreak occurs particularly in the developing countries in the Western Pacific Region, cooperated with WHO. Obviously, such activities will also help to protect unknown or serious pathogen to invade in Japan from occurring and accumulate experiences to control outbreak of emerging and re-emerging diseases outbreak in Japan, however, the system to dispatch Japanese infectious disease experts urgently to outside of the countries had not been established in Japan.

Japan and WHO discussed with this issue and agreed to establish the system to dispatch experts for infectious disease outbreak in developing countries/areas as a WHO short term consultant by the request of WHO in 1997, and Japanese Government (Ministry of Health and Welfare; MOHW) makes the list of the Japanese experts in the field of infectious diseases to select and dispatch promptly. Dispatched experts will advice and cooperate of infectious disease control and prevention in the place of outbreak, in collaboration with the countries/areas and WHO. The activities will be involved laboratory examination and diagnosis, epidemiological surveillance, vector control, health education, plan for immunization etc.