



AMR action fund

Pharma-led fund launch to save antibiotic pipeline, prompts policy-makers to look at incentives

Global launch highlights from Tokyo, 10 July 2020

On Thursday, July 9 and 10, the [AMR Action Fund](#), a ground-breaking partnership that aims to bring 2-4 new antibiotics to patients by 2030, was launched during a live, virtual events in Berlin, Washington DC and Tokyo.

Novel antibiotics are urgently needed to address the rapid rise of antibiotic-resistant infections – also called antimicrobial resistance, or AMR. **More than 20 leading biopharmaceutical companies have stepped up to the challenge and raised nearly US\$1 billion in funding** to support R&D of innovative new antibiotics to address the most resistant bacteria and life-threatening infections.

The concept of the AMR Action Fund was developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), European Investment Bank (EIB), and Wellcome Trust. The AMR Action Fund will bridge innovative candidates in the pipeline through the most challenging later stages of drug development, ultimately providing governments time to make the necessary policy reforms to enable a sustainable antibiotic pipeline and safeguard our future.

The AMR initiative global launch events, led the by International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) and in partnership with national and regional industry associations, took place in Washington, DC and Berlin simultaneously on July 9, with an event in Tokyo on July 10.



Visit AMRActionFund.com for more information on the Fund.

Highlights

The Tokyo event featured how one must prepare for AMR based on the recent lessons learnt from COVID-19 (programme link here). **Thomas Cueni, Director General of IFPMA**, kicked off the event with [opening remarks](#). Thomas briefly explained the background and summary of the Fund. Then **Takesi Kasai, Regional Director of WHO WPRO**, followed and applauded the establish of the Fund. He explained his hopes, based on COVID-19 pandemic: “The coronavirus pandemic showed that we need solidarity to address major public health problems. The Fund is a demonstration of such solidarity”, adding “Today is a turning point. The Fund can set us on a course toward better and safer future.”

The keynote speech was delivered by **Professor Dame Sally Davies, UK special Ambassador on AMR**. She explained the threats of AMR to individuals as well as to the economy. She highlighted the importance of addressing this global issue by working together and was thrilled by industry’s new investment in AMR, through

the newly launched AMR Action Fund. From academia, **Norio Ohmagari, NCGM Head of AMR Reference Center**, spoke about the link between COVID-19 and AMR in Japan. In his speech, he explained the threat of AMR referring to the Jim O'Neil report and his study showing more than 8,000 people die of AMR every year in Japan. Finally, he said "infectious diseases caused by AMR are threats. However, drug-resistant bacteria have been identified and the mechanisms of resistance are well-defined. Therefore, we can address these in advance. We hope the Fund will provide a further boost to R&D for AMR."

From industry, **Isao Teshirogi, CEO of Shionogi**, said "While the number of research and development venture companies going out of business or pulling out of business is increasing, while the number of academia researching antimicrobial drug is decreasing. We have to take the first step as a pharmaceutical industry to break the gridlock". He added, "We will keep the AMR Action Fund running for about 10 years. This will buy time to create new sustainable ecosystem for antimicrobial R&D. The Fund will start to row the boat out with two to four novel antibiotics while there is still time to respond to the threat of AMR. It is a very real threat and is predicted to increase over the next decade." Moreover, representatives from **Eisai, Daiichi Sankyo, Takeda and Chugai** mentioned their contributions.



In the last session, **Yasuhiro Suzuki, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) Chief Medical Officer**, expressed gratitude for the launch of the Fund and strongly emphasized the need for new antibiotics in light of the situation in Japan. Especially, he praised the establishment of the AMR Action Fund in three respects: the efforts made in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic to combat infection, the collaboration between companies, and the partnership between the public and private sector. He said "we recognize that new pull incentives such as market entry reward and subscription model are necessary in order to promote R&D of antimicrobials. We would like to create a win-win situation between the public and private sectors and solve problems together with the public and private sectors."

In the closing remarked by **George Nakayama, JPMA President**, he said "Even if the investments produce two to four new antibiotics in 10 years, this does not mean that new antibiotics will be developed continuously. Creating an attractive investment environment is a prerequisite for building a cycle in which new antibiotics are continuously launched."

Attendance and Media Coverage

Over 20 top-tier Japanese media and about 200 people attended the AMR Action Fund launch on 10 July, 2020 in Tokyo. The audience included a wide range of stakeholders including representatives from the Government of Japan, Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) fund, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), DNDi Japan, National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), WHO, AMR alliance Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), BMGF, academia.

After the event, Nikkei published the event on the front page. And numerous other media wrote about the event: Yakuji-news, Nikkan Yakugyou, Yakuji Nippou, Jiji press, RISFAX, Mixonline and Kagakukougyou Nippou.

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