

Basic Guidelines for Strengthening Measures on Emerging Infectious Diseases
(Provisional translation)

September 11, 2015

Ministerial Meeting on Measures on Emerging Infectious Diseases

Regarding the recent spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, the international community has promoted efforts to prevent it while some people have been infected with the disease in Europe and the United States as well. The Government of Japan also carried out preparations for the case where domestic infection is confirmed or the case where a Japanese national is infected with the disease overseas. The Government of Japan established the "Ministerial Meeting on the Response to the Ebola Virus Disease" that is presided over by the prime minister last October, and made integrated efforts. Moreover, in international efforts, the Government of Japan has also provided support to West African countries directly or through cooperation with international organizations.

Furthermore, regarding the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) whose outbreak was reported mainly in countries in Arabian Peninsula, an infected person was confirmed and the spread of the disease was seen in South Korea in May of this year. The Government of Japan also strengthened quarantine measures against the disease.

Infection with the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa is under control through the efforts of the countries concerned and of the international community. In addition, MERS infection in South Korea is on the road to being contained through the country's efforts. However, these cases not only had a significant impact on people's daily lives and economic activities in the EVD-affected countries¹ but also had a major impact on and caused fear in the international community. There is a possibility that an emerging infectious disease² just like these diseases will occur in the future.

Under these circumstances, the Basic Guidelines is compiled as follows based on

¹ In October 2014, World Bank published "The Economic Impact of the 2014 Ebola Epidemic Short- and Medium-Term Estimates for West Africa." According to it, the amount of loss caused by Ebola virus disease to the GDP of three affected countries, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone is estimated as follows: short-term impact in 2014 amounts to 359 million USD while the medium-term impact in 2015 is in the range of 129 million to 815 million USD.

² Ebola virus disease, MERS, and other infectious diseases that spread beyond national borders and are likely to have a great impact on people's daily lives and economic activities as well as on people's lives and health. Incidentally, measures are separately promoted against a new strain of influenza, new infectious diseases (limited to those that are likely to rapidly spread nationwide), and avian flu (one that has been transmitted from birds to humans) based on the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (Act No. 31 of 2012). However, the Basic Guidelines also contributes to such measures.

lessons learned from the cases of this time and in light of the actions of the international community for the purpose of carrying forward the strengthening of measures against emerging infectious diseases through the integrated efforts of the Government of Japan.

Incidentally, the Basic Guidelines is to be mutually coordinated with the "Basic Design for Peace and Health" approved by the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy.

1. Background and purpose

- (1) Threat of infectious diseases that spread to the entire international community beyond national borders due to the progress of globalization

Last March, Guinea reported the recent outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease to World Health Organization (WHO). The disease spread mainly in West Africa, and infections by the disease were also confirmed in Europe and the United States, including secondary infections. On August 8th last year, WHO declared a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" in relation to this spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, and the situation came to be of international concern.

Moreover, regarding MERS, the outbreak thereof has been reported mainly in countries in the Arabian Peninsula since September 2012. After that, infections with the disease have been sporadically confirmed in Europe, the United States, and Asia. Under such circumstances, a person infected with MERS was confirmed this May in South Korea, and subsequently, MERS spread to those who had heavy contact with the infected person.

In this manner, the risk of acquiring infectious diseases through animals has increased due to forest development, climate change. In addition, the progress of globalization through increased exchange and migration of people and articles along with the development of traffic has caused the increased possibility of occurrence of the situation where a disease does not remain in the limited area but spreads in a country and furthermore spreads to the whole international community beyond national borders. In addition to Ebola Virus Disease and MERS, various emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases are also likely to become of international concern in the future.

- (2) Major lessons learned from the spread of Ebola Virus Disease
 - Importance of containment of a disease and governance in affected countries in the early stage of an outbreak

Regarding the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, progression of the epidemic became evident after last March due to a delay in measures for containing

the disease taken by international organizations and countries around the world in three affected countries in West Africa. After that, the international community has strengthened intensive local measures, including establishment and dispatch of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in September, since WHO's PHEIC declaration in August. Owing to these measures, the number of newly infected people, which was about 730 per week at the peak in last November, is currently reduced to single digits per week. On the other hand, West African countries have restrained the spread of the disease at great cost and have entered the stage of taking measures to reduce the number of newly infected people to zero. However, the number of newly infected people has yet to be reduced to zero, and continued vigilance is required.³

Various countries' international cooperation through containment of the disease in the three affected countries is conducted not only from the perspective of humanitarian assistance but also to prevent spread from the affected countries to the countries themselves, as well as for addressing a threat to the safety of the international community. The international community should have promptly taken local actions under such recognition from the very beginning. Moreover, it is pointed out by many people that at the time, countries, international organizations, and NGOs which took local actions could not sufficiently coordinate with each other, thus allowing the spread of the disease. This problem with global health governance was also revealed.

- Necessity of international cooperation that promotes the strengthening of vulnerable health systems in the affected countries

In the three affected countries in West Africa where Ebola Virus Disease spread, vulnerable basic health and medical service systems caused a delay in taking action even knowing the spread of the disease. In addition, the spread of the disease caused originally-vulnerable health systems in the affected countries to fail to function properly, and it became difficult to address not only infectious diseases but also other diseases.

Given this situation, at a country level, it is important to support the building of a resilient health system from the medium- and long-term perspective and to strengthen the prevention of infectious diseases through collaboration with international organizations. Specifically, the necessity of cooperating in designing

³ WHO announced a declaration to maintain the PHEIC on July 9th. This PHEIC has not been removed (as of the end of August 2015).

health systems and developing health workers at the country, region, and community levels and of making contributions, such as support for strengthened implementation of WHO International Health Regulations (IHR), was indicated. In addition, in the event of an emergency, it is important to provide effective and efficient support through combination of personnel assistance including dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Team, in-kind assistance, and financial assistance, in coordination with other donor countries, related international organizations, and NGOs.

- Necessity of continued strengthening of infection prevention measures in Japan

In light of the status of the spread of Ebola Virus Disease and WHO's PHEIC declaration, the Government of Japan has taken actions in an integrated manner in Japan by establishing the "Ministerial Meeting on the Response to the Ebola Virus Disease." In addition, the Government of Japan has provided the latest information to Japanese nationals living overseas and alerted them by releasing Travel Advice and Warning on Infectious Diseases, and has also made preparations, such as strengthening of quarantine measures taken at quarantine stations and development of designated medical institutions for specified infectious diseases, as domestic measures. However, the possibility of repeat spread of the disease cannot be denied as there are still many countries with a vulnerable health and medical service system. Moreover, the possibility of a future outbreak of an emerging infectious disease other than Ebola Virus Disease is also undeniable. It is necessary to continuously strengthen domestic infection prevention measures, including quarantine measures, in the future with an awareness of the possibility of such infectious diseases entering Japan in today's expanded range of social interactions.

- Necessity of establishment of testing and research systems in Japan

This spread of Ebola Virus Disease reminded us of the fact that there are no facilities to possess specified Type 1 pathogens in Japan, despite other developed countries having established testing and research systems for Ebola virus and other high-risk pathogens (Type 1 pathogens.).

Under such circumstances, an advanced safety testing and inspection facility (biosafety level 4 (BSL 4)) in Murayama Branch of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases was designated as a facility to possess specified Type 1 pathogens by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare on August 7th of this year based on the Act on Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients Suffering Infectious Diseases (Act No. 114 of 1998; hereinafter referred to as the "Infectious

Diseases Act") by gaining the understanding and cooperation of local residents.

In the future, it is necessary for Japan as a whole to consider desirable full-scale testing and research systems for pathogens of infectious diseases that cause serious symptoms, such as Ebola Virus Disease, mainly from the perspective of crisis management.

- Necessity of strengthening development of human resources who take charge of measures against infectious diseases, including international cooperation

In response to the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, Japan has also dispatched medical experts. However, its personnel cooperation was not sufficient relative to its financial cooperation, and Japan has dispatched around 20 medical experts in total through WHO. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen development of such human resources and secure human resources who can take charge not only of domestic measures against infectious diseases but also of measures against infectious diseases in international cooperation in the medium and long term.

(3) Actions of the international community

Using the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa as a lesson, the necessity of global health governance was recognized again. WHO, World Bank, United Nations, and other international organizations are holding discussions toward building an international health system for ordinary times and for emergencies, and strengthening the ability to address emergencies.

WHO decided to establish a fund to enable quick initial response to an outbreak of an infectious disease or another emergency (Contingency Fund) and also approved its budget for 2016 to 2017, which includes an increase in the amount of budget for strengthening systems in the fields of preparation, surveillance and response. In addition, a third party's provisional appraisal of WHO's response to Ebola Virus Disease was issued this July, and WHO's response will be considered in light of this appraisal.

Moreover, World Bank is considering the launch of the Pandemic Emergency Facility (PEF) in order to develop a mechanism for agile funding at the time of occurrence of a pandemic in a developing country. At the United Nations, the High-Level Panel established under the Secretary-General is also discussing future responses based on lessons learned from response to Ebola Virus Disease, and the report of the discussions is scheduled to be compiled this December.

Furthermore, in the Leaders' Declaration at the G7 Elmau Summit this June,

the leaders confirmed that they are "continuing their engagement in this field with a specific focus on strengthening health systems" and they "will coordinate to fight future epidemics and will set up or strengthen mechanisms for rapid deployment of multidisciplinary teams of experts coordinated through a common platform." At the past G7 or G8 Summit meetings, Japan has actively played a leading role in discussions and efforts in the health field, by establishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) and by publishing the Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health, for example. Accordingly, Japan is expected to further fulfill its role by taking actions in light of the aforementioned trends at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and the G7 Health Ministers Meeting in Kobe next year.

(4) Purpose and positioning of the Basic Guidelines

In light of the backgrounds mentioned in (1) to (3) above, the Basic Guidelines indicates the fundamental direction and priority matters to be strengthened in relation to strengthening of measures against emerging infectious diseases for around the next five years. The Government of Japan will aim at ensuring the people's security and safety by strengthening the efforts of related administrative agencies and coordination among such efforts, and will also fulfill its responsibility and role in the international community.

2. Fundamental direction

(1) Integrated promotion of international response to and domestic measures against emerging infectious diseases

In response to the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, Japan has given international responses, such as financial assistance, in-kind assistance, and personnel assistance, mainly from the perspective of the humanitarian assistance of saving the lives of the people in the affected countries while taking infection prevention measures in the country from the perspective of crisis management.

However, as a lesson learned from the spread of Ebola Virus Disease, the developed countries of the West have taken actions not only from the aforementioned perspective of humanitarian assistance but also from the perspective of preventing the spread of the disease to themselves, and such actions were promoted integrally with their domestic infectious prevention measures.

In light of such recognition, the Government of Japan will recognize international cooperation in relation to emerging infectious diseases that spread

beyond national borders not only from the perspective of humanitarian assistance but also from the perspective of preventing the spread of such diseases to Japan, and will promote this cooperation in organic collaboration with domestic infection prevention measures taken in preparation for the first case in Japan. These measures include strengthening of risk assessment of infectious diseases emerging abroad and development of human resources in charge of measures against infectious diseases who can also take charge of international responses.

- (2) Strengthening of Japan's contribution and role in countries and regions where an emerging disease has occurred

The necessity of strengthening global health governance that enables the international community to promptly address public health emergencies, containing a disease in the early stage of its outbreak, strengthening vulnerable health systems, and strengthening the ability to address other serious infectious diseases was recognized as lessons learned from the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa.

Based on such recognition, for emerging infectious diseases that spread beyond national borders, Japan will strengthen international cooperation in relation to the rebuilding of global health governance that enables the international community to promptly address public health emergencies, the containment of specific infectious diseases in the early stage of their overseas outbreak, strengthening of health systems in developing countries in ordinary times (UHC) and response to other serious infectious diseases. In addition, Japan will consider the development of human resource foundation to make personnel contribution as international cooperation.

Through these efforts, Japan will aim to make an active contribution to measures against emerging infectious diseases and play a leading role in the international community as a responsible member of the international community.

- (3) Strengthening of the crisis management system through improvement of the capacity to address emerging infectious diseases in Japan

The necessity of continuous strengthening of domestic infection prevention measures, establishing full-scale testing and research systems for pathogens of Ebola Virus Disease and other infectious diseases from the perspective of crisis management in Japan, and having the research capacity that is sufficient to persuade the international community with evidence was recognized as lessons

learned from the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa.

Based on such recognition, for emerging infectious diseases that spread beyond national borders, Japan will develop testing and research systems on high-risk pathogens in ordinary times and strengthening of human resources development, who take charge of measures against infectious diseases, including international cooperation, as well as continuous strengthening of quarantine measures and measures in preparation for the first case.

Through these efforts, Japan will develop a system for taking actions in relation to measures against infectious diseases in ordinary times and at the time of outbreak in an organized manner, and thereby will improve its capacity to address emerging infectious diseases and will continue to strengthen the crisis management system.

3. Priority matters to be strengthened (including matters that require medium- and long-term efforts)

Based on the lessons learned from the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, and in light of the actions taken by developed countries and the international organizations, Japan needs to intensively strengthen efforts in the future in such fields as strengthening of international cooperation and collection of overseas information, development of domestic testing and research systems, and development of human resource foundation in relation to emerging infectious diseases. In doing so, a new framework for global health governance in consideration of the following matters is also important in preparation for next year's G7 Ise-Shima Summit, and related ministries and agencies will hold discussions thereon.

(1) Strengthening international cooperation and collection of overseas information

The Government of Japan will strengthen measures of international cooperation on containing the epidemics of specified infectious diseases overseas, building health systems in developing countries in ordinary times, and taking measures against other serious infectious diseases. The Government of Japan will also construct a framework for promptly dispatching human resources in emergencies and develop a framework for developing human resources. In doing so, taking into consideration of opinions and wisdom of experts, the Government of Japan will seek to play a leading role in international discussions held at United Nations, WHO, and G7 and strengthen international cooperation in light of such discussions, thereby making contributions to the building of global health

governance. In addition, the Government of Japan will consider enhancement of the capacity to collect and analyze overseas information for the purpose of improving risk assessment for infectious diseases.

- (i) Preventing infection and the spread of infection in affected countries through strengthening of cooperation with international organizations for emergency responses

The Government of Japan will consider strengthening of cooperation with international organizations for emergency responses in order to prevent infection and the spread of infection in affected countries during the epidemic.

- Providing support for securing and strengthening the implementation of WHO's IHR⁴ and strengthening the foundation of GOARN⁵

The Government of Japan will provide technical cooperation relating to development of experts for promoting the security and strengthening of the implementation of the Member States to report to WHO and procedures of quarantine and domestic response at the time of outbreak, which are provided for in WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR). Moreover, the Government of Japan will also carry forward efforts for the development of human resources who contribute to strengthening the GOARN system.

- Considering a way of addressing forming coherent expeditious finance mechanisms for emergency between the Contingency Fund of WHO and the Pandemic Emergency Facility (PEF) of World Bank

The Government of Japan will actively contribute to the development process of the PEF and consider a way of dealing with the Contingency Fund and the PEF in a coherent manner, based on WHO's decision to establish a fund to enable quick initial response to an outbreak or an emergency (Contingency Fund), as well as World Bank's consideration regarding the development of a mechanism for agile funding at the time of a pandemic in a developing country (PEF) while also observing the actions in other countries.

- Considering a way of dealing with the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

⁴ International Health Regulations

⁵ Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

The Government of Japan will consider its contributions to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust from the perspective of support for economic stabilization at the time of a pandemic. The Trust was established by the IMF this February based on the request made at the G20 Brisbane Summit to reduce the debt burdens of countries where a disaster or infectious disease has occurred for the purpose of addressing the economic stagnation in such countries that is expected to arise after a pandemic and alleviating impact on the macro economies.

- Strengthening cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and other implementing agencies and holding policy dialogues with them

UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and other implementing agencies are engaging in assistances in the three affected countries experiencing the Ebola Virus Disease taking advantage of the expertise of each agency. Therefore, the Government of Japan will promote cooperation with these agencies to implement further effective measures against infectious diseases through policy dialogues with these agencies, and will also consider strengthening of cooperation for these agencies.

- (ii) Strengthening cooperation with related international organizations that implement assistances on measures against serious infectious diseases

The Government of Japan will strengthen cooperation with international organizations for measures against serious infectious diseases in terms of public health, as follows in light of the fact that sufficient actions were not taken for such infectious diseases, while the originally vulnerable health systems in West Africa failed to function properly due to the spread of Ebola Virus Disease.

- Support for measures against the three major infectious diseases through the Global Fund⁶

The Global Fund provides support for measures against the three major infectious diseases, AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and measures against these infectious diseases in addition to Ebola Virus Disease also continue to be important. Therefore, the Government of Japan will carry forward necessary support for realizing and promoting appropriate prevention, treatment, and care

⁶ Some 3.6 million die from the three major infectious diseases annually.

of these three major infectious diseases in developing countries through the Global Fund. For example, the necessary support includes purchase and distribution of medicines, diagnostic kits and mosquito nets, educational activities for prevention, training and other human resources development, collection of data, and establishment of a monitoring system.

- Support for vaccination activities by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance⁷

The Government of Japan will provide support for disseminating and promoting the use of vaccines, such as those for measles, pneumococcus, and rotavirus, through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in order to control infectious diseases and reduce the child mortality rate (MDG4) and the maternal mortality rate (MDG5).

- Support for activities for the research and development of new drugs through the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT)⁸.

The Government of Japan will promote necessary involvement in and support for activities relating to the research and development, and support for supply of medicines (medicines for neglected tropical diseases such as Chagas disease and Leishmaniasis) for developing countries through the GHIT.

- Support for the utilization of the results of research and development in Japan in international cooperation

In Japan, universities and private companies are also conducting excellent research and development in relation to medicines and diagnostic agents for Ebola Virus Disease and other serious infectious diseases. The Government of Japan will take necessary actions to ensure such results are also utilized in international cooperation.

- (iii) Support for preventing the spread of infectious diseases and strengthening preventive health systems in developing countries

The Government of Japan will promote health system strengthening for preventing the spread of infectious diseases and building preventive health systems in developing countries since ordinary times, taking into account that

⁷ Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance: An international framework that engages mainly in the promotion of vaccination to children under five

⁸ Global Health Innovative Technology Fund

vulnerable basic health and medical service systems spurred the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in the three affected countries in West Africa.

- Support for strengthening health systems and promoting universal health coverage (UHC) by utilizing development cooperation

The Government of Japan will strengthen health systems and promote UHC in Africa and Asia by synergistically combining grant aid, government loan, and technical cooperation. In addition, the Government of Japan will carry forward support for the activities of World Bank that contribute to UHC in light of the results of studies by the Japan-World Bank Partnership Program on Universal Health Coverage.

- Support for capacity building on inspection, surveillance, and quarantine towards the implementation of WHO's IHR in developing countries

The Government of Japan will make efforts to build the capacities of inspection, surveillance, and quarantine towards the implementation of WHO's IHR in developing countries by strengthening support under the GHSA⁹ framework and through capacity building and networking for research institutions and hub organizations Japan has assisted thus far.

- Support for health systems strengthening through the Global Fund

The Government of Japan will promote its assistances for strengthening of health systems in developing countries through cooperation with the Global Fund, other international organizations and other donors. To that end, the Government of Japan will promote wider utilization of human resources who were developed through the Global Fund's vertical programs that place an emphasis on measures against three specific diseases.

- Support for the recovery of health systems after an outbreak

The Government of Japan will provide support that contributes to the recovery of health systems after an outbreak through technical assistance, including the dispatch of experts, as well as provision of emergency grant aid, emergency aid supplies, and contributions, and funds and materials to

⁹ Global Health Security Agenda: The Agenda was advocated by the United States to strengthen the implementation of WHO's IHR (International Health Regulations) in cooperation with other countries, FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization), and OIE (UN World Organization for Animal Health) for the purpose of improving each country's ability to take measures against infectious diseases.

international organizations.

- (iv) Considering the construction of a system for the timely dispatch of personnel to affected countries

The Government of Japan will consider the construction of a system for the timely dispatch of personnel requested countries where a pandemic has been occurred through construction of a new system for dispatching Japan Disaster Relief Team, and cooperation with international organizations in light of the status of personnel assistance provided by developed countries to the three affected countries in West Africa experiencing the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease.

- Considering a framework for dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team

Through the experience of the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease, the Government of Japan will consider a framework for dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team as well as the securing and training of human resources and procuring, maintaining, and managing materials and equipment necessary for dispatching the team.

- Promoting cooperation with WHO and other international organizations

The Government of Japan has dispatched experts through the framework of WHO in response to the spread of Ebola Virus Disease. The Government of Japan will also continue to work with WHO and other international organizations to ensure the timely and appropriate dispatch of human resources.

- Exploring measures to develop a system for responding to an infected case of Japanese personnel overseas

The Government of Japan will explore measures to develop a system for responding to an infected case of Japanese personnel overseas, including on-site response and transportation to Japan, in order to minimize their health damage and ensure their safety.

- (v) Enhancing domestic ability to collect and analyze overseas information for the purpose of improving risk assessment for infectious diseases for its own security

Building on the overseas information gathering and analysis by other developed countries and international organizations during the outbreak of the

Ebola Virus Disease, the Government of Japan will enhance the ability to collect relevant information on infectious diseases through strengthening cooperation with international organizations such as WHO and public health research institutes in other countries such as the CDC of the United States. Furthermore, the Government of Japan will consider measures to strengthen the capacity of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases such as on testing and to further improve Japan's capacity of risk judgment concerning emerging infectious diseases.

- (vi) Making contribution to the construction of a new framework for global health governance

In relation to the construction of an international response framework that can immediately respond to emergencies, the Government of Japan will make active contributions and try to lead related discussions through strengthening of collaboration and cooperation with WHO, World Bank, other UN organizations, donor countries and private NGOs and support for implementation of the IHR, taking into account that Japan will host next year's G7 Ise-Shima Summit. In doing so, the Government of Japan will also contribute to discussions at the UN High-level Panel on Global Response to Health Crises and various other related discussions regarding the desirable division of roles, and will use the results of such discussions as a reference.

- (2) Developing testing and research systems on high-risk pathogens of infectious diseases in Japan

In relation to the testing and research systems on high-risk pathogens, the Government of Japan will strengthen a system for implementing testing at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases and develop systems for improving basic research capacity of universities and other research institutes in light of responses to this spread of Ebola Virus Disease. The Government of Japan as a whole will further improve the capability for crisis management in light of discussions concerning desirable future BSL4 facilities in Japan.

- (i) Strengthening the testing system at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases

The National Institute of Infectious Diseases will make efforts to dispel worries and concerns among near-by residents in the back yard by promoting active information disclosure and communication with local communities, and will establish a system that ensures safety implementation of operations at advanced

safety testing and inspection facilities (BSL 4).

- (ii) Strengthening infectious disease research function by developing systems for improving the basic research capabilities and human resources development at universities and other research institutes

The Government of Japan will strengthen infectious disease research function by forming an infectious disease research center with BSL 4 facilities as core installing the latest equipment that enables analysis of pathogens, animal experiments, development of treatment methods and vaccines, and other research and development activities in order to improve basic research capacity of universities and other research institutes and develop and secure human resources who are acquainted with the handling of high-risk pathogens.

- (iii) Considering how to designate BSL 4 facilities in Japan

The necessity of setting up BSL 4 facilities at places where a scientific basis has been established and constructing multiple BSL 4 facilities in geographically distant areas in preparation for the possibility of the facilities becoming inoperable due to an earthquake or other natural disaster, and the need for the national government to take responsibility for the operation and management of BSL 4 facilities was pointed out in the recommendation¹⁰ of the Science Council of Japan last March.

The Government of Japan as a whole will improve its crisis management capacity in relation to infectious diseases by considering desirable placement and roles of BSL 4 facilities in Japan from the perspective of safety at the time of an outbreak of an infectious disease, development of a testing system, and promotion of research and development from a medium- and long-term standpoint in light of the actions of developed countries and the aforementioned opinions of intellectuals in Japan.

- (iv) Promoting research and development relating to infectious diseases

The Government of Japan will collect necessary epidemiological information to protect the people's health and conduct risk assessment based on the "Plan for Promotion of Medical Research and Development (approved by the Headquarters

¹⁰ Recommendation "Necessity of BSL 4 Facilities in Japan" (March 20, 2014; Joint Comprehensive Microbial Sciences Sectional Committee of the Committee on Basic Biology, the Committee on Integrative Biology, the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Basic Medicine and the Committee on Clinical Medicine of the Science Council of Japan)

for Healthcare Policy on July 22, 2014). The Government of Japan will also promote basic and clinical research relating to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with the aim of creating medicines, diagnostic agents, and vaccines in Japan. In addition, the Government of Japan will strengthen the foundation for measures against infectious diseases by promoting international joint research through strategic development of the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development.

- (3) Ways to strengthen the foundation of Japanese human resources involved in measures against infectious diseases who take an active role in the international community

The Government of Japan will study the ways to scale up the quality and quantity of the foundation of human resources involved in measures against infectious diseases who can also take active role in the international community from a medium- to long-term standpoint, in light of the status of dispatch of human resources from other countries in the spread of Ebola Virus Disease.

- (i) Promoting human resources development through the Infectious Disease Emergency Specialist Training Program and other measures

The Field Epidemiology Training Program Japan (FETP-J) provided by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases will be continuously conducted, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will lead the building of a network of organizations related to infectious disease crisis management (quarantine stations, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, the National Center for Global Health and Medicine). The Government of Japan will promote human resources development by training specialists in infectious disease crisis management who have acquired sufficient expertise to conduct management of infectious disease control on an international basis through steady implementation of the Infectious Disease Emergency Specialist Training Program, which was newly set up this April, and other measures.

- (ii) Considering the development of a human resource registration system for Japan Disaster Relief Team

With regard to the system for dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team, which will be newly set up in Japan Disaster Relief Team, the Government of Japan will consider developing a system to appropriately register

members of the Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team, those who registered with WHO's GOARN, and those who completed the Infectious Disease Emergency Specialist Training Program provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, among others.

- (iii) Developing human resources to improve the ability to address emerging infectious diseases at the Japan Self-Defense Forces and establishing a framework including the National Defense Medical College

The Government of Japan will promote the improvement of the ability to address emerging infectious diseases at the Ministry of Defense and the Japan Self-Defense Forces by training human resources who have expertise that is necessary to contribute to the Japan Self-Defense Forces' overseas activities and by accelerating the establishment of a framework including the National Defense Medical College.

- (iv) Studying the ways to scale up the quality and quantity of domestic human resources involved in measures against emerging infectious diseases

Human resources who engage in measures in the case of an outbreak in Japan and human resources who can be dispatched overseas in the case of an outbreak overseas (including those who engage in the arrangement and management of logistics and evacuation) are necessary as domestic human resources to engage in measures against emerging infectious diseases. The Government of Japan will identify the current circumstances of such human resources and will also study the ways and strategies to scale up the quality and quantity of such human resources, as well as the role Japan should play and the training and registration of such human resources, from a medium- to long-term standpoint.

- (4) Strengthening the domestic measures on infection prevention and the safety measures for Japanese nationals overseas

Given the spread of infectious diseases such as the Ebola virus diseases in West Africa, the Government of Japan will continue to strengthen the domestic measures on infection prevention and the safety measures for Japanese nationals overseas from the perspective of crisis management.

- (i) Promoting provision of information on infectious diseases in Japan to the people

The Government of Japan strengthened the system for collecting information on infectious diseases by stipulating in the revised Infectious Diseases Act

enacted last November that prefectural governors may request all infected patients to agree on the collection of specimens, etc. and may also request medical institutions to submit the specimens they possess. Taking into account that this revised Infectious Diseases Act will come into force on April 1, 2016, the Government of Japan will collect and analyze information on infectious diseases in Japan and will also promote provision of information, including measures to be taken in the case where an infection is confirmed, to the populace by utilizing various media.

- (ii) Improving the ability to address emerging infectious diseases of quarantine stations and other related organizations

In light of the spread of Ebola Virus Disease, the Government of Japan will continuously promote the improvement of the ability to address emerging infectious diseases of quarantine stations, local governments, public health centers, prefectural and municipal public health institutes, medical institutions, the police, fire departments, and other organizations by continuously implementing training and by developing necessary equipment.

- (iii) Developing designated medical institutions for specified infectious diseases

It is important to develop an appropriate medical system in order to address infectious diseases that occur in Japan. Therefore, the Government of Japan will continue to aid the operations of designated medical institutions for Type I infectious diseases and designated medical institutions for Type II infectious diseases, and will also promote elimination of cases where prefectures have not yet established a designated medical institution for Type I infectious diseases.

- (iv) Developing policies for responses to Type I infectious diseases at medical institutions and administrative agencies.

As Japan has almost no experience in relation to Type I infectious diseases, it is necessary for healthcare professionals to share guidelines for diagnosis and treatment in advance. Therefore, the Government of Japan will develop policies for responses to Type I infectious diseases at administrative agencies in light of Japan's response to the spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa.

- (v) Securing the quarantine system at quarantine stations and responses in the case where an infection (including a suspected infection) has been confirmed in Japan

The Government of Japan will continue to secure the quarantine system as measures based on its past experience and in responses when a suspected patient was confirmed in Japan. In addition, the Government of Japan will promote securing of related organizations' coordinated responses, including transportation of a patient to a medical institution and delivery of a specimen, through implementation of training in preparation for the case where the first case will be confirmed in Japan.

- (vi) Ensuring to provide timely and appropriate information and travel advice/warning on infectious diseases to Japanese nationals overseas

The Government of Japan will advise/warn Japanese nationals abroad by providing timely and appropriate information through websites and consular e-mails of overseas establishments. Depending on the situation of the outbreak, the Government of Japan will issue the travel advice/warning on infectious diseases to suggest to take safety measures and to consider evacuation, as well as to call upon future travelers to postpone their travel in order to assure their safety.

- (vii) Strengthening safety measures such as medical evacuation

In case of infection, relevant Ministries and Agencies will coordinate and strengthen cooperation to assure safety of Japanese nationals through every measure possible such as treatment on site or medical evacuation to a third country or Japan, in order to provide Japanese nationals abroad with the best medical treatment, taking into all account the doctor's judgment and the preference of the patient.

4. System to promote next step

Regarding the matters advocated in the Basic Guidelines, the Government of Japan will promote efforts by strengthening cooperation among related ministries and agencies through establishment of a framework for liaison and coordination among them under this Ministerial Meeting. In addition, this Ministerial Meeting will formulate an action plan, including a process schedule chart, based on the Basic Guidelines in the future.

This Ministerial Meeting will strategically carry forward formulation of an action plan while obtaining advice and wisdom of experts from a technical perspective.

In addition, in formulating an action plan in the future, the government of Japan will consider the content thereof in anticipation for next year's G7 Ise-Shima Summit.