

Opening Remark

○ Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for inviting me to this important conference today. My name is Manabu Sumi, Director-General of Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Department, at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, of Japan. It is a great honor to have all the distinguished guests here.

○ The development of antimicrobials is currently facing serious challenges. High development costs combined with limited revenues have resulted in fewer companies remaining in this field and shrinking research and development pipelines.

○ Moreover, skilled researchers capable of advancing antimicrobial R&D are increasingly shifting to other areas, such as oncology. This worrying trend is steadily undermining the very foundation of antimicrobial research and development worldwide.

○To address these challenges, Japan has implemented pull incentives for last-resort antimicrobials, following the initiative of the United Kingdom. Nearly three years have passed since the launch of our pull incentive program, and we remain committed to continuously refining and improving the scheme based on accumulated experience and evidence.

○In parallel, alongside the longstanding R&D support provided through Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, AMED, we have introduced new initiatives such as “Health Tech Challenge”, which aims to foster innovation by supporting healthcare-related startups.

○Furthermore, Japan has developed the MCM strategy, which is expected to be approved by Cabinet soon and designated AMR as a priority infectious disease. We are advancing efforts to strengthen the entire ecosystem—from R&D to utilization—of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics for priority infectious diseases. In order to ensure their

availability.

○I strongly support with the concept behind LEAD , which recognizes antimicrobials as public goods. It is essential to emphasize that this principle should apply the entire chain from basic research to post-marketing activities and that sustained support must be ensured at every stage.

Looking ahead, bold and innovative ideas including intellectual property free, models are awaited to solidify this concept. Such approaches should be strengthened through robust public-private partnership.

○Both the United Kingdom and Japan have reputational pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions with strong capability in R&D.

Under the shared vision promoted by LEAD, I believe we can achieve even greater progress through deeper and more strategic collaboration.

○With these thoughts, I would like to conclude my opening remarks.

Thank you very much for your attention.