

Appendix 1

BACKGROUND OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL HEALTH AND JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

A working group on Challenges in Global Health and Japan's Contributions (informally referred to as the Takemi Working Group) was launched in September 2007 to look at global health in the context of human security—a pillar of Japan's foreign policy—as Japan was gearing up to host the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) and the G8 Summit in Toyako, Hokkaido, in the spring and summer of 2008. The Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) facilitated the launching of this group and has served as secretariat.

At the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, the world leaders proposed the Toyako G8 Common Framework for Action on Global Health, a framework for strengthening health systems around the world but particularly in developing countries. But, in order for the many stakeholders in global health to come together to create that common framework, the stakeholders in the global health field need to develop a shared understanding of what “health system” means and a shared agenda for building its architecture. Growing momentum among the major Japanese stakeholders in global health to begin to address these questions led to the formation of a task force on “Global Action for Health System Strengthening” under the Takemi Working Group in September 2008.

The first phase of the working group's activities focused on ensuring that global health and human security remained high on the agenda of the Toyako Summit. During that phase, the working group members conducted site visits to learn more about the challenges and that developing countries face in improving health and some of the ways they are dealing with those challenges. Through an intense process of research and dialogue, the working group members developed policy recommendations for the Japanese government as the summit host. The recommendations were discussed in seminars in Geneva, Washington DC, and New York and at a major conference in Tokyo. The working group

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also talked extensively with the key people in the government ministries and prime minister's office who were developing the summit agenda.

Human security, which has grown to be a central pillar of Japan's foreign affairs, offered a useful framework for the working group's exploration of global health. As a demand-driven approach that attempts to address the interconnected challenges that threaten the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of individuals and communities around the world, human security seemed to be a natural framework for health issues, which go to the very core of human existence.

The working group, which is led by Keizo Takemi, former senior vice minister of health, labor, and welfare, is unique in Japan in that it takes a participatory approach to impacting the summit agenda. The working group itself represents representatives from the three relevant ministries (foreign affairs; health, labor, and welfare; and finance), government aid agencies, academia, and NGOs. Just bringing together representatives from the three ministries for substantive discussion is rare in Japan, let alone bringing representatives from other sectors in to take part in the dialogue on an equal footing. The further discussions with experts and practitioners from around the world made it even more of a global and inclusive dialogue.

The Toyako G8 Common Framework for Action on Global Health demonstrates that the G8 countries still take their commitments to improving the health of individuals and communities around the world seriously. The framework emphasized health system strengthening as a complement to the crucial disease-specific programs that are already saving countless lives. The Takemi Working Group chose to explore ways to implement the common framework by looking in depth at the three entry points for health system strengthening that were proposed at the summit: the health workforce, health system monitoring and evaluation, and health financing. The Takemi Work Group is also exploring the overall question of building integrated health systems that are able to respond to the challenges of providing primary healthcare while also tackling individual diseases, to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals, and ultimately to enhance the health and human security of people around the world. The papers presented in this volume are the result of the first stage of that exploration.

As a follow-up to the G8 Summit, this group has been reorganized to pursue four primary goals. The first goal is to identify concrete activities for health system strengthening based on the Toyako G8 Common Framework for Action on Global Health. A second goal is to ensure that the political momentum on health system strengthening that was achieved over the past year under the leadership of Japan is transformed into concrete action and to

ensure continuity in the process of moving toward the 2009 G8 Summit, to be hosted by Italy, and beyond. Third, this project aims to identify ways in which the many stakeholders in this field around the world can reach consensus on concrete actions to be taken for health system strengthening and develop partnerships for joint implementation. Finally, the project aims to explore ways in which the G8 itself can play a catalytic role in global health policy making. In all of its activities, the Takemi Working Group acts as a catalyst to synthesize existing initiatives for health system strengthening around the world within the framework of human security.

An international task force of 22 global health experts from various sectors from around the world was launched in September 2008 to further explore the three building blocks and offer policy recommendations, guided by an international advisory board comprising some of the world's top scholars and practitioners in this complex field. Three research teams were created within the task force, one for each of the entry points discussed above. Each research team was tasked with preparing concise, action-oriented policy papers, which were discussed at a workshop on October 4 and a major international conference in Tokyo on November 3–4 on Global Action for Health System Strengthening. Discussion at both events was enriched by the participation of many of the top experts in this field representing a diverse range of organizations and sectors. The product of this intense process of research and dialogue, contained in this report, was submitted to the Japanese government in January 2009, which in turn presented the paper and its recommendations to the Italian government.

JCIE and the Takemi Working Group are working in collaboration with the government of Japan (Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Health, Labour and Welfare; and Finance); the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; the Rockefeller Foundation; the World Health Organization; the World Bank; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and other stakeholders.

Appendix 2

WORKING GROUP ON “CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL HEALTH AND JAPAN’S CONTRIBUTIONS”

List of Members

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as of January 1, 2009

Appendix 3

GLOBAL ACTION FOR HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

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Appendix 4

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* Michael R. Reich and Keizo Takemi, "G8 and Strengthening of Health Systems: Follow-Up to the Toyako Summit." *Lancet* 2008; published online January 15. DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736(08)61899-1.