## JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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## The 30th Anniversary of the Takemi Program in International Health: Harvard School of Public Health

The Takemi Program in International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) is an interdisciplinary program established in the HSPH in 1983. The program is named after Dr. Taro Takemi, a former president of the Japan Medical Association (JMA) and the World Medical Association (WMA), in recognition of his achievements and in admiration of his vision in pointing out the global need to enhance and improve health services along with the world-wide problems arising from limited resources and his advocacy for the development of new, effective health resources and improvement of their methods of allocation.

Dr. Takemi's concept was to invite current and future leading health professionals in government, academia, and industry from around the world, with the purpose of facilitating the effectiveness and global development of health services integrating all manner of natural and social sciences through research and training programs, making use of Harvard University faculty and related programs. The point of research is to study the science of the development, distribution, and use of new health plans and medical resources and the objective is to train health care policy leaders from countries around the world.

There are seven principles that underline the concept and practice of global health, as developed over the past two decades in the Takemi Program. The principles are: research emphasis, policy orientation, interdisciplinary perspective, mutual respect, individual freedom, community spirit, individual capacity building.

The Takemi Program started in the HSPH in September 1984 with five Takemi Fellows. Since

then, 242 people (including 52 Japanese) connected to local universities, public and private research institutes, government health authorities, NGOs, and international organizations from 52 countries have conducted research at the HSPH as Takemi Fellows, and their international network now extends around the world. Geographically, the majority of Takemi Fellows have come from Asia (including CMAAO member countries), Africa, and South America.

This October, Harvard University will hold the 30th anniversary of the Takemi Program commemoration in Boston followed by a commemorative symposium organized by the JMA in Tokyo in November, in order to further develop the program's accomplishments over the past 30 years. Moreover, since Fellow candidates from low-income countries have been abandoning hope of joining the program for economic reasons, a new scholarship program has been established to invite two Takemi Fellows each year.

Today, Takemi Fellows are active in a wide range of global health fields around the world, and it is hoped that they will continue to reinforce their network and cooperate in many ways in the future.

The Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association financially supports the core administrative costs of the Takemi Program. Furthermore, the JMA has supported the Takemi Program since it was first established, and since 1994 it has further strengthened its involvement through the screening of Japanese Takemi Fellows and the provision of scholarships. Marking the program's 30th anniversary, the JMA is committed to more actively supporting the Takemi Program together with CMAAO member associations and hopes to contribute to international health by making effective use of Takemi Fellows.

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