

**Memorandum of Cooperation among
the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China,
the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea,
on Response against Transboundary Animal Diseases**

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants");

Noting the growing threat of transboundary animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease, and highly pathogenic avian influenza in East Asia;

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in addition to the efforts of each country to prevent the spread of and to eradicate transboundary animal diseases; and

Considering that the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea have a long history of collaboration in the animal health field, and have had an in-depth discussion on prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases so as to seek ways to solve the current problems in the concerted manner;

Have reached the following common recognition:

1. The Participants intend to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases in line with the following general principles:
 - (a) All activities will be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefits;
 - (b) Joint activities will be conducted in accordance with the WTO/SPS Agreement and the respective domestic laws and regulations and will not affect relations currently established between institutions or individuals of the three countries, rather, the Participants intend to identify new areas for joint activities and avoid unnecessary duplication of current activities;
 - (c) Joint activities, where possible, are expected to be coordinated with, or be supportive of, the goals and activities of other international bodies including the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); and
 - (d) The working-level consultations will be regularly held to facilitate joint activities provided for in this Memorandum.

2. The fields of cooperation under this Memorandum include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Sharing animal health information;
 - (b) Surveillance, notification and epidemiological investigation;
 - (c) Material including virus exchange;
 - (d) Research and development of diagnostic methods and vaccines;
 - (e) Joint research and sharing of information on avian influenza especially in migratory birds and on movement of people;
 - (f) Development of human resources;
 - (g) Control measures; and
 - (h) Risk communication.
3. The methods of cooperation under this Memorandum include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Prompt information sharing through the designated focal points for both ordinary times and in the case of an outbreak;
 - (b) Establishment of a joint working group or program for common concerns and scientific research;
 - (c) Exchange of experts and officials;
 - (d) Sharing information and knowledge in support of activities of mutual interest; and
 - (e) Holding academic conferences/workshops and joint simulation exercises.
4. Any disputes about the cooperation under this Memorandum will be settled amicably through consultations between the Participants.
5. The cooperation under this Memorandum will commence on the date of signature by the Participants and will continue for a period of five years. The Participants should review whether to renew this Memorandum every five years.

6. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be modified by consensus among the Participants.

Signed in triplicate in Tokyo on September 13, 2015 in the English language as a non-legally binding document.

For the Ministry of Agriculture
of the People's Republic
of China

For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
of Japan

For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs
of the Republic of Korea
