

## **2009全球國際衛生新願景－讓臺灣與世界共同攜手合作**

### **A New World Health Scenario**

### **Let Taiwan Be Part of the Global Solution**

#### **前言**

重返世界衛生組織這個大家庭，是臺灣許多從事公共衛生及醫療領域專家的夢想：一份貢獻己力於國際社會的熱情懷想。在全球化的浪潮下，各國人民的交流日益頻繁，隨著國際經貿、觀光旅遊等活動的增加，公共衛生議題逐漸跨越了國界，成為所有國家共同關注的問題。

#### **衛生防疫無國界**

以禽流感及食品安全為例，從2005年11月開始，臺灣鄰近的國家，都出現人類禽流感(H5N1)病例。隨著候鳥在各國遷徙，各國每年總是備受高病原性禽流感病毒傳播的威脅，根據研究顯示，候鳥通常是禽流感病毒的媒介，每年有將近125萬隻、351種候鳥在冬季南遷，牠們經由中國大陸東南方、日本與韓國飛往臺灣，並繼續飛往菲律賓、印尼、馬來西亞與澳洲。臺灣位於候鳥遷徙頻繁的必經之地，爆發禽流感大流行的風險極高。根據衛生署所做的研究顯示，一旦發生人傳人的禽流感疫情，可能會在臺灣造成530萬人感染禽流感，並使得1萬4千人喪命。因此每到候鳥遷徙季節，臺灣衛生單位總是嚴陣以待，防杜禽流感疫情在臺灣出現。所幸至目前為止，臺灣不曾爆發大規模高病原性禽流感疫情，也沒有禽流感人類病例出現，要有效防範禽流感。必須各國密切合作與聯繫，隨時監控疫情與病例流向，因此各國間的疫情資訊分享及互相討論防疫準備事宜，對各國防疫有專業上的實質幫助。

另外，國際間食品安全問題日益嚴重，快速的運輸工具與進步的保存技術，使得各類食品能跨越距離的限制，在全世界各國流通，不僅食品產品廣泛流通，食品原料也來自世界各地，因此食品原料的來源比以往更加複雜，相對來說食品安全更難管控。唯有透過迅速而確實的資訊流通與密切的跨國合作來監控，各國才有可能掌握各種食品安全的狀況，並在危險的第一時間查明受污染食品的來源與去向。因此，現代化食品安全管理不同於傳統的方式，唯有透過各國通力合作，才能防範危害於未然。

臺灣跟全世界各國一樣面臨了這些重大衛生問題，但是與WHO失之交臂，卻阻礙了我國與各國間合作交流的機遇，在全球化的世界裡，臺灣更需要參與WHO，加入WHO所建立的國際衛生體系，才能確保臺灣2300 萬人民的健康與安全。

#### **臺灣對全球衛生可作的貢獻**

隨著臺灣經濟起飛，我國發展出十分優秀的醫療衛生系統。英國經濟學人雜誌曾評比臺灣為全世界第二健康的國家，顯見臺灣優異的衛生成就。從二十世紀到現

在，臺灣累積了許多耀眼的衛生成就，比如根絕天花、霍亂、瘧疾、小兒麻痺症等、全面施打B肝疫苗，並且開辦了全民健保。如果有機會重返國際舞台，臺灣除了可與各國分享彼此的經驗之外，亦願意為全世界人民的健康作出貢獻。目前我國已經在聖多美普林西比展現抗瘧的成果，也陸續在索羅門群島與馬紹爾群島成立「臺灣衛生中心」提供醫療及公共衛生服務。未來我國十分樂意幫助其他國家解決各種醫衛專業問題，比如說在醫療網的規劃、傳染病防治、健康保險、醫學研究、緊急救難與援助、菸害防制等等，只要能力所及，我們將全力貢獻國際社會，協助提升全球人民的健康。

## **結語**

今年我國希望在兩岸情勢和緩、國際氣氛融洽的情況下，以務實彈性的態度推動成為世界衛生大會觀察員。未來，我國期望以適當的方式擴大參與WHO相關活動、機制、以及各項會議，我們殷切期盼WHO以及各會員國能以善意回應臺灣的專業訴求。我國參與WHO是全世界健康人權的一大進步，並且使得全球衛生安全真正做到零缺口，臺灣非常樂意與全世界分享我方公共衛生之成就及經驗，並且承諾未來將會積極配合WHO的各項政策，參與WHO活動，努力作出貢獻。

Public health and medical experts in Taiwan have long dreamt of the day that Taiwan returns to the World Health Organization (WHO) to contribute directly and most effectively to the international health effort. Now this dream has been realized, as Taiwan is to take part in the World Health Assembly as an observer under the name “Chinese Taipei,” striving alongside each nation in that world body to promote the health of people around the world.

## **Pandemics Respect No Borders**

With continuing growth in global trade, tourism and business travel, national borders appear increasingly irrelevant in dealing with public health threats, as all nations must pull together for the common good. Recent efforts to keep influenza viruses under control and to assure food safety offer concrete examples. Cases of avian influenza, or “bird flu,” afflicting humans appeared in countries neighboring Taiwan in November 2005. Transnational movements of migratory birds during the migration season each year pose a threat of transmitting the highly pathogenic avian flu virus beyond its original sources, as research indicates that migratory birds are generally carriers of the virus. Each year, nearly 1.25 million birds comprising 351 migratory species fly southward from the Chinese mainland, Japan and Korea to Taiwan, before continuing onward to the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia. As Taiwan is a location that migratory birds must transit, the risk of an avian influenza outbreak is

considerable. Research by this Department indicates that, should an outbreak of avian flu transmissible between human beings occur, up to 5.3 million people could become infected, with fatalities of as many as 14,000 people. Therefore, every year when the migratory season arrives, public health agencies in Taiwan go on alert to prevent the appearance of the disease on the island. Fortunately, up to the present, Taiwan has not yet experienced an outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, nor have any human cases of the disease appeared here. Effective prevention of avian influenza requires that various countries work together closely and communicate to monitor the epidemic situation and spread of cases. Clearly, sharing information between countries about the state of virus transmission and international technical assistance is hugely important for global pandemic prevention.

Similarly, there is an urgent need for every country to cooperate and exchange information to prevent the spread of this year's new H1N1 virus. As a member of the international community, Taiwan will closely participate in the international pandemic prevention effort. It will exchange information with each country, jointly strive to prevent the transmission and spread of the disease, actively work to develop and manufacture a vaccine and stockpile pertinent medical treatment materials to deal with any potential outbreak. When necessary, Taiwan will also extend a helping hand to assist other countries with disease prevention, providing the necessary medical treatment resources and working in step with the world to resist incursion of the influenza virus. The other example involves global food safety, which is an increasingly serious problem. Rapid means of transportation and advanced preservation techniques are allowing various kinds of foodstuffs to transcend limitations of distance and be consumed all around the world. Finished food products now circulate widely, and their ingredients can come from any part of the world. As the complexity of sourcing ingredients grows, food safety is more and more difficult to manage and control. Only swift circulation of accurate information and close cross-border cooperation in monitoring and controlling such foodstuffs can allow each country to stay abreast of the safety situation for each kind of food, and at the moment that a threat is uncovered, trace the source and destination of contaminated foods. Modern food safety management differs from traditional approaches—prevention requires concerted cooperation between countries.

Like other countries, Taiwan is confronted with these major public health issues. Facing the challenges of a globalized world, Taiwan will actively participate in WHO activities. Joining the international health system of that world body will assure the health and safety of Taiwan's 23 million people.

### **Contributions Taiwan can make to global health**

In the midst of rapid economic growth, Taiwan has set up an outstanding health system. The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked Taiwan second worldwide in terms of health system performance, underscoring the island's distinctive health accomplishments. From the 20th century to the present, Taiwan has amassed many dazzling health accomplishments, such as eradicating smallpox, cholera, malaria and polio; comprehensively undertaking hepatitis B inoculations; and launching a universal national health insurance program. The return of Taiwan to the international mainstream, as we now have the opportunity to take part in the World Health Assembly as an observer, will allow us to share our experience with other countries and contribute to the health of everyone in the world. Taiwan has demonstrated malaria-fighting results in São Tomé and Príncipe and has set up Taiwan Health Centers, respectively, in the Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands to provide medical treatment and public health services. Taiwan is more than willing to help other countries solve various medical and health profession problems, such as medical network planning, infectious disease prevention and treatment, health insurance, medical research, emergency relief and aid, as well as tobacco hazard prevention. We will do everything in our power to contribute to the international community and help upgrade the health of people around the world.

## **Conclusion**

The international community has positively affirmed this pragmatic and flexible attitude with Taiwan becoming an observer in the World Health Assembly this year. Taiwan's participation in the WHO will be a great step forward for global health-related human rights and will bridge the last gap in the international health security network. We hope to achieve greater participation via an appropriate method in future WHO-related events, mechanisms and meetings. We ardently look forward to Taiwan's participation, which will allow us to contribute substantively to the health of people around the world.

Taiwan is ready to share its public health accomplishments and experience with the world, and pledges that, in the future, it will actively comply with each WHO policy, take part in that organization's events and do its utmost to contribute.