

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
For Signature Ceremony of MOC between SCARDA and CEPI  
Friday 23rd June 2023

Dr. Hatchett, Dr. Hamaguchi, Distinguished guests.

It is my great pleasure to attend this important ceremony for underpinning further cooperation between SCARDA and CEPI this afternoon.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, which had caused huge casualties worldwide, we have eventually come to recognise the significance of 'preparedness' for vaccine development against new infectious diseases, or “Disease X” as it is known.

In this context, I would like to highly commend the signing of the memorandum of cooperation between CEPI, the global leader in vaccine development against new infectious diseases, and SCARDA, the central organisation to pursue vaccine development in Japan.

Since its establishment in 2017, CEPI has been working to develop vaccines against infectious diseases, such as Ebola, that could result in a global pandemic. In particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, CEPI used its extensive expertise to contribute to vaccine development at Oxford, Moderna and elsewhere.

I believe that CEPI will continue to exercise its leadership in this area, and the Government of Japan's announcement of a 300

million dollar pledge at the CEPI replenishment summit in March last year, in addition to a contribution of over 220 million dollars in the previous phase, is a clear sign of Japan's high expectations in CEPI for its further activities.

Meanwhile, SCARDA was newly established in March 2022 to promote vaccine research and development in Japan in preparation for the possible next pandemic. It is expected that SCARDA will serve as a 'control tower' for vaccine development in Japan, and their missions have already begun, including the 'establishment of R&D centres' that bring together the strengths of Japanese academia.

Both CEPI and SCARDA are leading the “100-day mission” to develop a vaccine in 100 days in the event of the next pandemic, a goal that was set out at the G7 meeting, here in the UK two years ago. With this in mind, I believe that it is particularly meaningful that this MOC is signed here, in the UK.

I genuinely hope that this MOC will promote future vaccine development in the world, as well as in Japan, and will play an indispensable role in accelerating international 'preparedness' for the future.

I would like to close my short remarks by paying tribute to those who have worked to realize today's achievement, and also to all those who are dedicating themselves to the fight against the possible next pandemic.

Thank you indeed.