

To the press

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Establishment of PMDA Asia Office - as First Overseas Base -

The Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA: Dr FUJIWARA Yasuhiro, Chief Executive) announced today that the PMDA Asia office (Head of the Office, Dr KITAHARA Jun) had been established, which is the first PMDA overseas office, dated July 1, 2024.

To contribute actively to the improvement of public health and pharmaceutical safety in Asian countries including Japan, toward the improvement of access to innovative drugs and medical devices in the regions, it has been needed promotion of pharmaceutical regulatory harmonization with Asian countries, and support for the improvement of pharmaceutical regulatory environment to promote clinical development in Asian countries smoothly.

To work on these issues, PMDA decided to establish the Asia office in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand, considering existing relationships with Asian countries, especially ASEAN member states, and geographical advantages comprehensively. The Asia office will provide the services including development of regulatory cooperation platforms with Asian regulatory authorities, direct information exchange on pharmaceutical regulation and various consultations, other related services with companies or organizations expanding in the Asian regions, and local companies or organizations.

Dr KITAHARA Jun who takes office as a Head of the Office today says that “I want to work on <making everyone’s lives brighter together> with people in Asian countries”.

The establishment of the Asia office contributes to realization for development of the PMDA overseas office in proceeding of “enhancement of ability to make international

contributions and proposals”, one of directions to perform the PMDA’s 5th mid-term plan. And, at the same time, this is in line with “Grand design for Asian pharmaceutical and medical device regulatory harmonization” (Decision by the Headquarters for Healthcare Policy of Japan on June 20, 2019) developed under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative that the Japanese Government promotes, and also various subsequent policies.

In addition, PMDA plans to have the International Symposium for Asia Regulatory Coordination with Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to commemorate the establishment of Asia Office on August 29 in Bangkok, Thailand.

(Reference: address of the PMDA Asia office)

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