

The 7th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias
September 13-14, 2016
Tokyo, Japan

The 7th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias was held in Tokyo, Japan from September 13-14, 2016, and was co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)/Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA).

The International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias was first convened in 2012 under the leadership of the WHO, to facilitate information exchange and discussion of international cooperation and harmonization among the world's pharmacopoeial organizations. Delegates from the WHO and 14 pharmacopoeias (India, Indonesia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Council of Europe, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Croatia, China, Brazil, the United States of America, Vietnam, Mexico, and Japan) attended the meeting. This year marked the first time the meeting was hosted by Japan, and opening remarks were jointly given by Dr. Toshihiko Takeda, Director General of the Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau (MHLW), and Dr. Tatsuya Kondo, Chief Executive of PMDA. Dr. Toru Kawanishi, Director-General of National Institute and Health Sciences, also served as co-chair during the meeting.

The establishment of Good Pharmacopoeial Practices (GPhP), which are created primarily to promote the international harmonization of pharmacopoeial standards, approaches, and policies, has been discussed since the 1st International Meeting. At this 7th International Meeting, the additional chapters to the GPhP regarding Compounded preparations and Herbal medicines as well as the Glossary, which the participants had agreed to incorporate into the GPhP, were each discussed and the participants reached agreement in principle on how to proceed towards finalizing these materials. The results of the 7th International Meeting will be reported at the 51st meeting of the Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations (ECSPP), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from October 17-21, 2016. After finalization and approval by the ECSPP, the new GPhP texts will subsequently be published as WHO guidelines.

Actions and proposals for the upcoming meeting were also discussed as this meeting's main objective of discussing the GPhP texts drew close to completion. It was proposed that Japan, as the host of this year's meeting, and the future hosts of the International

Meeting collaborate to draft a proposal as well as conduct a survey regarding the impact and value of the GPhP for consideration during the 8th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias.

The 8th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias will be held in June 2017 in Brazil, and will be co-hosted by the Brazilian Pharmacopoeia.