**Public Awareness Raising Activities on AMR in Japan**

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**What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)?**

AMR is the phenomenon where antimicrobials become ineffective, or pharmaceutical effects decline, against infectious diseases caused by organisms (bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites). Under "National Action Plan on AMR 2016-2020," adopted on April 5, 2016, the Government of Japan has been conducting actions against AMR in the following six areas; "Public Awareness and Education," "Surveillance and Monitoring," "Infection Prevention and Control," "Appropriate Use of Antimicrobials," "Research and Development" and "International Cooperation."

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**Antibiotic Awareness Month**

In order to promote awareness raising activities on Antibiotic Resistance nationwide, Government decided November to be "Antibiotic Awareness Month". During the Month, not only government agencies but also various private bodies altogether carry out awareness raising activities as well as encourage individuals’ proactive efforts to tackle AMR.

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**Public Awareness Raising Meeting on Promoting Measures against AMR**

Public Awareness Raising Meeting on Promoting Measures against AMR is held for promoting awareness raising activities nationwide, in collaboration of the public and private sector together, to improve public knowledge and understanding of AMR, as well as for encouraging individuals’ proactive efforts of appropriate use of antibiotics.

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**The 1st Awards for AMR Awareness-Raising Activities**

Aiming of promoting countermeasures against AMR nationwide, excellent awareness-raising activities carried out by groups or individuals were commended. (Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

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12 groups/individuals were awarded

**National Council on Countermeasures against AMR Chairperson’s Awards**

1) Aomori Infection Control Network (AICON)
2) Smile Future JAPAN

**Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare’s Awards**

3) Saga University Hospital Infection Control Department
4) MAEDA Nose Ear and Throat Clinic

**Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s Awards**

5) Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, Infection Diseases Department
6) Hyogo Prefectural Hyogo High School

**Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries’ Awards**

7) Japanese Society of Antimicrobials for Animals
8) The Japanese Association of Swine Veterinarians

**Reduce AMR! “Ambassadors’ Awards**

Selected by Ms Mariko SHINODA
1) Shizuoka Children’s Hospital, Shizuoka Antimicrobial Team (SAT)
2) Professor Yutaka TERAO, Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Niigata University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences

Selected by JOY
1) Nippon Repton, Dickinson and Company
2) Sapporo Veterinary Medical Association

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**Conclusion**

Cabinet Secretariat puts importance on having a close cooperation with related organizations, including Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, AMR Clinical reference Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).