

**November 14, 2006**

## **Eli Lilly and Company Supports China on MDR-TB Prevention and Control**

(November 14, 2006, Beijing) On behalf of the Chinese Ministry of Health (MOH), the International Health Exchange Centre of MOH and Eli Lilly and Company signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) today to strengthen the co-operation in the fight against the increasingly serious epidemic of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in China. Mr. Li Hongshan, Director General, International Health Exchange Centre, and Dr. Lorenzo Tallarigo, President of International Operations, Eli Lilly and Company, signed the LOI. According to the LOI, Lilly will provide over three million Chinese yuan (US\$400,000) in the next two years to help MOH train healthcare professionals in MDR-TB management as well as on public health education campaigns to improve public awareness and eliminate stigma on the disease.

“Tuberculosis is a serious epidemic in China today. It is a challenging but glorious task to control TB and to effectively slow down its spread. We are very pleased that we could co-operate further with Lilly in this area. I believe that we could make new contributions to China’s fight against TB through our mutual efforts,” said Li Hongshan.

Tuberculosis is one of the major communicable diseases in the world. It has been re-emerging as a global threat since early 1990s. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared “The Global TB Emergency” in 1993, and re-iterated in 1998 that “it cannot be delayed anymore to control TB.”

Of the various factors that have made the epidemic of TB worse is MDR-TB, which is also a big challenge to the global control of TB. MDR-TB is a type of tuberculosis that often develops in patients who do not adhere to or complete the proper treatment for regular TB. China is one of the 22 high TB burden countries, and is also one of the most severely-stricken MDR-TB countries. According to WHO, about one fourth or one third of the world’s total MDR-TB patients are from China. Over the years, the Chinese government has successfully expanded the implementation of DOTS – the WHO recommended strategy for TB control and have achieved great progress in the fight against TB. However, experiences from other countries suggest that implementing DOTS alone cannot effectively control the serious epidemic of MDR-TB.

In 2005, China received a grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis, to implement MDR-TB programs. With this fund, China will reinforce the DOTS program, develop and implement the WHO-recommended DOTS-Plus strategy for standard treatment of MDR-TB in pilot provinces and gradually integrate the DOTS-Plus strategy into its National TB Control Program (NTP). Therefore, MDR-TB is one of the most urgent issues that China must address in its fight against TB. As part of Lilly’s global MDR-TB Partnership program, Lilly’s co-operation with MOH will promote China’s MDR-TB prevention and control.

“Lilly is very pleased to work further with MOH on MDR-TB and introduce the experiences of our various partners in our global MDR-TB partnership to China”, said Dr. Lorenzo Tallarigo, President of International Operations, Lilly.

To address the severe MDR-TB issue, Lilly announced in June 2003 that it would commit \$70 million to fight MDR-TB, in collaboration with international partner organizations. This co-operation program with MOH is part of Lilly's global MDR-TB Partnership program.

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