



GLOBAL HARMONIZATION TASK FORCE

Working Towards Harmonization in Medical Device Regulation

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Dear Colleagues,

Effective August 30, 2002, I would like to announce that I have been designated as GHTF Chair, following Mr. Souichi Ikegaya's retirement from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan.

It will be my pleasure to Chair the fifth meeting of the GHTF Steering Committee which is scheduled for October 28 to 30, 2002, and the sixth meeting scheduled for May 25 to 26, 2003 as part of the 10th GHTF Conference in Tokyo.

It is my hope that the GHTF will make many significant achievements in harmonizing the international regulatory requirements for medical devices during Japan's term as Chair through activities of the GHTF Steering Committee as well as the GHTF Study Groups.

I look forward to welcoming you to Tokyo during late October and to your continued support of the important international work of the GHTF.

Yours faithfully,

Taisuke Hojo, Ph.D.

GHTF Chair and,

Director

Office of Medical Devices Evaluation

Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan