



GLOBAL HARMONIZATION TASK FORCE

Working Towards Harmonization in Medical Device Regulation

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Dear Colleagues

As I had mentioned in my short speech at the 9th GHTF Conference in Singapore last May, I succeeded Ms. Rita Maclachlan of Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration as Chair of the Global Harmonization Task Force as of July 1, 2002. A transition meeting took place in Tokyo from August 5 to 9, 2002, and responsibility has now been officially transferred to Japan.

I regret to inform you that I retired from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan effective as of August 30, 2002 and I am therefore no longer in a position to Chair the GHTF. The Ministry has designated, as the new GHTF Chair, Dr. Taisuke Hojo, Director, Office of Medical Devices Evaluation, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau.

Dr. Hojo is well qualified and able to undertake the responsibilities of this position. Some Members will recall that he attended the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting in London on behalf of the MHLW. It is my hope that the GHTF will make many significant achievements under his chairmanship.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to all the Steering Committee members and Study Group members for their kind welcome and support extended to me.

Yours faithfully,

Souichi Ikegaya
Former GHTF Chair