

G8 Leaders Welcome Framework for Action on Global Health

“Takemi Working Group’s” Presence Felt

By Kazuo Miyata

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In their discussions about Development and Africa, the leaders of G8 countries on July 8 welcomed the report of the G8 Health Experts Group, entitled “Toyako Framework for Action on Global Health.” The framework proposed in the report touches on such challenges as health system strengthening, maternal and child health, and efforts to fight the spread of communicable diseases. The leaders also agreed to create a mechanism for monitoring progress on meeting existing G8 commitments.

Moreover, the G8 leaders reiterated the commitment they made at last year’s summit in Heiligendamm to provide US\$60 billion over the coming years to fight communicable diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria and to strengthen health systems in developing countries, and they agreed to specify a five-year timeframe for that commitment. The G8 countries are currently providing US\$15 billion per year, so in order to ensure that they do not end up reducing aid with US\$60 billion over five years, they agreed that some countries would provide more support for safe water so that their overall support for health system strengthening will actually exceed US\$60 billion.

Based on the Framework for Action, the G8 leaders’ statement addresses communicable diseases, maternal and child health, and health workforces and other issues related to health system strengthening. They agreed to 1) work toward increasing the number of health workers to the WHO-supported target of 2.3 health workers per 1,000 people; 2) achieve the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment by 2010; and 3) provide 100 million long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to combat malaria by the end of 2010.

Japan has been praised for making communicable diseases a priority of the summit agenda eight years ago at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit. Japan also draws on its own

開発とアフリカに関する協議で
主要8カ国（G8）首脳は8日
保健分野専門家会合の報告書「国
際保健に関する河内湖行動指針」
を歓迎し、保健基盤強化や母子保
健、感染症対策など報告書の指針
を踏まえて保健問題に取り組みこ
うになった。また、G8が行った
約束の履行状況を監視するメカニ
ズムを構築することで合意した。

G8総領はさらに「エイズ、結
核、マラリアの3大感染症対策」
途上国の保健基盤強化に今後数年
で600億ドルの支援を行うこととし
た昨年のハイリゲンダム・サミッ
トの約束期限を5年間に明確にし
た。現在の各国支援額合計は年間

「武見委員会」が存在感

保健分野の行動指針歓迎

約150億ドルで5年間600億
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含めた保健基盤強化で支援額が6
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8年前の九州沖縄サミットで感
銘すべき言葉を「保健システム
強化に取り組み」途上国の保健医
師従事者をWHO基準の人口100
00人当たり2.3人まで増やす
努力をする」HIV/AIDSに関
する防・治療・ケアが必要な人
を支援する。また、今年、2009年に国
連大会し、15年を達成とする
ミレニアム開発目標（MDG）の
中間年であり、8つの目標のうち
4つ（乳幼児死亡率の削減、妊
産婦の健康改善、感染症対策）が
保健分野であることが日本は今
回、国際保健を重視してきた。

また、一方で、保健関係は、
まださまざまな「ミットメント
（誓約）」がなされ、新たな約束よ
り約束の履行が求められる時期
に入っていることから強い思い
を込めて、注目されたのが
「武見委員会」と呼ばれたG8保
健専門家会合の存在だ。武見敏
三・元厚労大臣が中心になり、各
国政府のサミット担当者に加え、
医学者、途上国支援のNGO（非
政府組織）など幅広い専門家ら
を委嘱する仕組みをつくり、報
告書を作成した。

専門家の知識を首脳会合の政治的意
思に伝える専門委員会方式は、
地球規模の課題に的確かつ現代的
な処方箋を打ち出すツールとして
今後のサミットでも活用されてい
く。

（宮田一穂）

experience in public health, having successfully improved maternal and child health in the years following World War Two, so health is a field to which Japan should make international contributions.

Furthermore, this year marks the halfway point for achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs), which were agreed to at the United Nations in 2000. Of the eight MDGs, three (reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and fighting communicable diseases) relate to health, which is why Japan chose to emphasize global health at this year's summit.

There were also some challenges that are difficult to deal with. The G8 countries have already made various commitments to global health, and one could say that rather than making new commitments, now is the time to fulfill existing commitments.

One group that has been the focus of attention in the health discussions surrounding the G8 Summit is a group of health experts known as the Takemi Working Group. Keizo Takemi, former senior vice minister for health, labor, and welfare, leads the group, which consists of representatives from each of the government ministries working on the summit, experts in medicine and public health, and leaders of NGOs that work in developing countries. This group, bringing together opinions from a wide range of experts, has produced a report on their work.

It seems that this kind of group that brings together experts' knowledge with political purposes to offer prescriptions for dealing with global challenges is a tool that will continue to be used in future summits.