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The Global Health Innovative Technology Fund provides grant for joint research into anti-malarial drugs conducted by Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma and a malaria research institution

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (Head Office: Osaka; President and Representative Director: Masayuki Mitsuka) has been advancing joint research with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a research institution focused on the treatment of malaria. Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma has announced that a grant of ¥192 million will be provided by the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) for programs advancing the acquisition and optimization of two types of lead compounds that will be candidates for new anti-malarial drugs.

The GHIT Fund was established in 2013 as a public-private partnership originating in Japan. The Fund advances the discovery of new drugs for infectious diseases that afflict people in the developing world, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). The GHIT Fund aims to enhance Japan's international contribution to global health through the use of discovery capabilities that leverage the advanced scientific and technical knowledge of Japanese pharmaceutical companies and other institutions.

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma endorsed the objective of the GHIT Fund — to contribute to global health — and contributed ¥40.0 million for the Fund's first round of activities (fiscal 2013 to fiscal 2017) and ¥100.0 million for the second round of activities (fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2022). In addition, in May 2015, through the GHIT Fund, the Company provided its pharmaceutical compound library (50,000 compounds) to MMV, and joint research was commenced. As a result, three types of potential hit compounds were identified. The lead compounds, which have advanced to the optimization stage, were derived from one of these three types of hit compounds.

Along with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, malaria is one of the world's big three infectious diseases. The eradication of malaria is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will help to rectify the health gap between industrially developed countries and developing countries. In addition, Mitsubishi

Tanabe Pharma has identified “Social contribution activities for health” as one of the important material issues that it needs to address. The Company has positioned the series of initiatives coordinated through the GHIT Fund as important endeavors in regard to materiality, and believes that these initiatives will directly contribute to the improvement of access to medicines in developing countries and to the realization of the SDGs.

The joint research implemented by Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma and MMV will progress to the next stage in April 2019, and the grant from the GHIT Fund will support the progress of the two-year program, which will be aimed at discovering development candidates. Moving forward, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma will work to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society and to the health of people around the world through the discovery of drugs that address unmet medical needs.

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