

Welcome to the establishment of the Parliamentary Group to End Malaria by 2030 in Japan

On March 25, 2021, the inaugural meeting of the Parliamentary Group to End Malaria by 2030 (the Parliamentary Group) in Japan was held with the eighteen bipartisan members of both Houses of Parliament participated. Mr. Yasuhisa Shiozaki, a member of the House of Representatives (the Liberal Democratic Party) as the chairperson and Dr. Seishi Kumano, a member of the House of Councilors (the Komeito Party) as the secretary general were formally inaugurated. Malaria No More Japan welcomes the establishment of this Parliamentary Group specializing in malaria.



Photo: Mr. Yasuhisa Shiozaki MP and the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Group

It is estimated that approximately 229 million people worldwide were affected by malaria and 410,000 died (as of 2019). Children under the age of five are particularly at high risk of contracting malaria; in 2018, 67% (272,000) of malaria deaths were among children under the age of five.

In addition, the pandemic of a new coronavirus infection (COVID-19), which began at the end of 2019, has raised the specter of a worst-case scenario in which progress in malaria control could regress to where it was 20 years ago.

Now is the time for Japan and the world to work in solidarity to strengthen health security through robust health systems and enhanced infectious disease surveillance. It is

also important to redouble our efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the elimination of malaria-related deaths.

As a country promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the government of Japan (GOJ) has emphasized the importance of three points, such as strengthening the health system through infectious disease control, securing local funding in implementing countries, and collaborating with the private sector. GOJ's continuous contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), which covers the three major infectious diseases of HIV AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, has been highly evaluated by the world.

We are convinced that the establishment of the Parliamentary Group specializing in malaria will enhance Japan's presence as the "face of the legislature" in the global effort to end malaria. That will be a concrete signal of Japan's seriousness in tackling not only COVID-19 but also other existing infectious diseases.

Through the establishment of this Parliamentary Group, Malaria No More Japan expects that the government, the public, and the private sector will work together to support malaria control measures by promoting "identifiable assistance with Japanese feature" that reflects Japan's policies, such as increasing the number of bilateral and multilateral ODA projects that aim to end malaria, and by supporting the social implementation of Japan's science and technology innovations, such as supporting the promotion of international joint malaria research.