Toward Further Advancement of Measures Against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

July 2026

AMR Alliance Japan

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a complex challenge spanning humans, animals, food, and the environment. Measures against AMR protect the health and lives of the public and are also tied to economic and health security. Since the Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2016 (the "Honebuto Policy 2016"), language on AMR measures has been included every year, with industry, government, academia, and civil society working together to support these efforts. Ten years have since passed, the social environment in Japan and abroad has changed, and the importance of AMR measures has grown. Because measures against infectious diseases, including AMR, lie at the very core of security, they can never be accomplished by any single country or confined to any single domain. Building on the achievements and solidarity accumulated to date, we must further enhance the effectiveness of AMR measures and accelerate our efforts while gaining widespread public understanding. To this end, AMR Alliance Japan puts forward the following recommendations.

1. Establish AMR-related medicines as a priority field in national growth strategy and affirm their significance for security

The 17 strategic fields in the draft Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform and the Japan Growth Strategy include drug discovery and advanced medicine as well as synthetic biology and bio-related fields, and infectious-disease response products are named as one of the 62 key products and technologies. The need to examine appropriate legal and institutional frameworks based on the "Strategy for Strengthening the Development and Production Systems for Medical Countermeasures against Infectious Disease Crises (vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, etc.)" is also widely recognized. The pharmaceuticals needed to respond to AMR (antimicrobials, diagnostics, etc.), classified as "Group C" among priority infectious diseases, should likewise be positioned more clearly as a growth field and a core element of strategy. Because antimicrobials should be used appropriately to suppress the emergence and spread of resistant organisms, sales growth is hard to anticipate and investment is hard to recoup, leaving private-sector R&D prone to stagnation. Securing active pharmaceutical ingredients for existing antimicrobials, conducting R&D on new antimicrobials and diagnostics (including through new incentives), and strengthening production systems and the stable supply of existing antimicrobials and diagnostics are therefore priority issues for both science and technology promotion and economic security. Procuring infectious-disease response medicines during non-crisis periods is also directly linked to maintaining healthcare delivery in emergencies and reducing supply-disruption risks, forming the foundation of health security that protects lives.

2. Strengthen domestic systems in harmony with international trends

In May 2026, at the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79), the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP-AMR) 2026-2036 was adopted, the first full revision since 2015. It sets a target of reducing deaths associated with bacterial AMR by 10%, further strengthens the One Health approach, and emphasizes infection prevention and control, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and immunization. Beyond using antimicrobials appropriately, it highlighted the importance of reducing the need for their use through infection prevention such as immunization, while integrating diagnosis and treatment. In Japan, as the current AMR Action Plan reaches its final year in 2027, discussions on the next plan are expected to gain momentum. In the 2026 policy speech, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi referred to advancing One Health initiatives, reflecting the government's alignment with international trends. Reflecting these policies in concrete domestic systems calls for four things. First, based on cross-sectoral collaboration under the One Health approach, epidemiological surveillance systems should be expanded to harmonize with healthcare digital transformation (DX) to help reduce the disease burden of AMR. Second, antimicrobials should be secured and R&D conducted through the review and expansion of market incentives;

Health and Global Policy Institute
5-11-16, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo (The International House of Japan) 106-0032 JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-4241-5020 Fax: +81-3-6859-9291 E-mail: info@hgpi.org

drawing on the various incentive models developed in other countries in recent years, Japan should examine policies that sustainably support the whole manufacturing chain, from R&D to supply. Third, because rapid diagnostics are indispensable for using antimicrobials appropriately, existing diagnostic technologies should remain in use while the R&D and introduction of new technologies are strengthened. Fourth, the current state of measures against infectious diseases, including AMR, should be assessed and enhanced for vulnerable populations such as older adults at high risk of severe illness. Taking international trends into account, these four perspectives should be reflected in the next plan and across other policy discussions.

3. Advance AMR measures grounded in public understanding

AMR measures cannot be completed through siloed policy and system-level efforts by the healthcare sector and the government alone. Antimicrobials, including those used in cancer treatment, are not only a foundation of modern medicine, but are also connected to many aspects of daily life through their use in livestock and companion animals, as well as their release into the environment through wastewater and excreta. Because this challenge spans across a broad range of fields, multidisciplinary collaboration between human health, veterinary health, and environmental health are not the only essential factors, but also public interest and awareness, enabling increased adoption of infection-prevention behaviors such as immunization and handwashing, and the appropriate use of antimicrobials. Because investment in R&D and the production base underpinning these measures, along with efforts at clinical sites, is sustained by public funds such as taxes and social insurance premiums, earning public understanding of their significance is essential to ensuring peace of mind and safety in the long term. Now is the time to accelerate measures grounded in public understanding, to give younger generations opportunities to learn about AMR early through school education, and, through multistakeholder participation, to secure the nation's health security for generations to come.

About AMR Alliance Japan

AMR Alliance Japan was established in November 2018 as multi-stakeholder, collaborative organization dedicated to the improvement of public health through the promotion of AMR countermeasures. As of July 2026, its members include: GlaxoSmithKline K.K., The Children and Healthcare Project, Shionogi & Co., Ltd., The Japanese Society of Antimicrobials for Animals, The Japan Medical Association, The Japanese Society for Medical Mycology, The Japanese Society of Pharmaceutical Health Care and Sciences, The Japanese Society of Chemotherapy, The Japanese Society for Infection Prevention and Control, The Japanese Association for Infectious Diseases, The Japanese Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases, The Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, The Japanese Society of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, The Japan Society of Hospital Pharmacists, The Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, The Japan Pharmaceutical Association, The Japanese Society for Clinical Microbiology, bioMérieux Japan Ltd., Himeji City, Meiji Seika Pharma Co., Ltd and Merck & Co., Inc.. Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) serves as its secretariat.

About Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) is a non-profit, independent and non-partisan think tank established in 2004 to create citizen-centered health policy. Independent of any particular political party or organization, we have brought together a broad range of stakeholders as an independent think tank and presented society with effective policy options to realize citizen-centered healthcare. Looking ahead to the future, we continue to propose innovative new ideas and values from a wide range of perspectives to build a fair and healthy society. We continue to present effective and pertinent health policy options and advance efforts to address health and medical challenges, not only in Japan, but on a global scale.

Health and Global Policy Institute
5-11-16, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo (The International House of Japan) 106-0032 JAPAN
Tel: +81-3-4241-5020 Fax: +81-3-6859-9291 E-mail: info@hgpi.org