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STATEMENT BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

By Ms Sri Retnaningdyah Hastuti Soetantri, Transport Specialist

Director General Chan, Honorable Ministers, Regional Director Shin, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today at the 64th Regional Committee Meeting for the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization.

At the Asian Development Bank, we are pleased that the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance, or APLMA, was established by the Heads of Government of the 18 nations of the East Asia Summit in Brunei Darussalam on 10 October and that ADB was confirmed to host the APLMA secretariat. We appreciate the leadership of the Prime Ministers of Australia and Viet Nam in proposing and co-Chairing the Alliance. In addition to the East Asia Summit nations, the APLMA also invites the countries of the Pacific region to join the Alliance. As Secretariat, we will be reaching out to malaria-affected countries in the Pacific in the coming weeks to confirm their membership.

We look forward to supporting the APLMA and its Task Forces on access to quality malaria medicines and technologies and on developing sustained financing for malaria. These activities will be fully in partnership with WHO and its regional offices. We hope that the countries represented here will participate and contribute to the APLMA and to the work of the Task Forces. The end goal of the APLMA is to support countries in Asia and the Pacific to achieve malaria control and elimination goals and to contain artemisinin resistance.

In addition, in connection with the Task Force on sustained financing for malaria, the ADB will be working together with countries in the region to determine the need, as well as the instrument and governance structure, for a regional fund for malaria and other health threats. This fund would be complementary and additive to national and global resources available for malaria and other communicable diseases. We look forward to discussing this new initiative with many of you in the coming months.

This work builds on our on-going collaboration with WPRO on control of communicable diseases, as exemplified in our recently co-published study on the use of larvivorous fish in the Mekong region to reduce dengue mosquitoes.

Again, our appreciation to Dr Shin and to the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific for this opportunity to be here today.

Thank you.