



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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SELECTION OF TOPIC FOR THE
TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS DURING THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Addendum

The Committee may wish to consider the following additional topic for the technical discussions in conjunction with the thirty-fifth session of the Regional Committee:

IMMUNIZATION AND NEW VACCINES

The target has been set to make immunization against six childhood communicable diseases (pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis) available to all children in the Region by 1990.

Since 1976, when the regional expanded programme on immunization was established, much progress has been achieved in terms of both immunization coverage and quality of vaccines administered. To reach its target, however, the programme will need to receive an impetus, which in turn requires stronger national commitment and the allocation of additional national resources. While immunization against the six diseases continues to receive priority from WHO, new vaccines are being developed which may in the near future represent safe and effective tools to prevent diseases such as cholera, typhoid, rotavirus diarrhoea, hepatitis and other public health problems. If enough resources are invested in their development, some of these vaccines, which are still in the experimental stage, could become available to and affordable by countries where childhood morbidity and mortality remain at high levels.