

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the report of the Regional Director on the biomedical information system;<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing that biomedical information exchange constitutes an indispensable component in the development of national health systems in the context of health for all by the year 2000;

1. NOTES with satisfaction the progress achieved in developing the scope and activities of the regional biomedical information programme;

2. THANKS the Government of Australia for its generous offer to provide developing Member States of the Western Pacific Region, through the World Health Organization, with Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) searches and photocopies;

3. URGES Member States to coordinate and strengthen their existing biomedical information services and facilities by designating and supporting a focal point for a national network which will eventually coordinate and maintain liaison with similar focal points in other countries in relation to their biomedical services;

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to review through an in depth study present resources and present and future biomedical information needs in order to identify areas for the further development of a comprehensive regional biomedical information network;

(2) to collaborate with Member States in strengthening the promotional, coordination and training activities of the national focal points in order to develop self-reliance in regard to biomedical information systems and services;

(3) to encourage and facilitate cooperation among Member States through scientific and technical information exchange.

Ninth meeting, 24 September 1982

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<sup>2</sup>Document WPR/RC33/15.