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KOPI

The Hon. Christian Mejdahl
Speaker of the Danish Parliament
Folketinget
Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen K

File no.: FC-94-337
November 3, 2005

Dear Christian:

With avian flu on the brink of becoming a pandemic, Nature seems to be teaching the world one more lesson — be well-prepared or it will suffer catastrophic consequences.

Taking its cue from the warning, Taiwan would like to once again stress the utmost importance of leaving no loopholes in the world health network formed by the WHO. After the 2003 outbreak of SARS, Taiwan and several other countries were severely buffeted in terms of both human and financial losses. The world must act decisively not to allow any similar pandemic get out of hand.

As a country most likely to be struck by such a disaster, Taiwan once again urges all countries to act to ensure including Taiwan in the WHO system in a seamless manner and in the interests of all countries because:

1. Taiwan is one of the most important transportation hubs in the west Pacific.
2. Taiwan has massive human and goods exchanges with China and Southeast Asia, which have registered many bird flu cases.
3. Taiwan is a major transit point for migratory birds.
4. Taiwan has no access to the WHO's global disease prevention and control network.
5. Viruses know no boundaries.
6. Taiwan is able and ready to contribute to the WHO system in terms of expertise, experience and resources.

1. The WHO member states are urged to support Taiwan's full participation in the WHO system based upon human rights, humanitarianism and universal participation in fighting global diseases.
2. The WHO should exchange letters with Taiwan to provide guidelines for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO system and the IHR mechanism.
3. Taiwan should be accorded full and institutionalized access to global disease prevention and control mechanisms like the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), the Global Influenza Program (GIP) and the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (IPAPI).
4. Taiwan should be invited to attend member-states-based meetings as an observer in addition to experts-based technical meetings.
5. The WHO should accept Taiwan in the IHR mechanism as a "participating party" and treat Taiwan's Center for Disease Control as an IHR focal point.
6. The WHO and its members are urged to respond creatively and positively to Taiwan's request for participation in the WHA as a "health entity" in an observer capacity.

On behalf of my government, I have the honor of urging you to act on Taiwan's request so that all countries may be better protected and of thanking you for any action you may take in this regard.

Very truly yours,



Frederic P. N. Chang
Representative of Taiwan

Encl.

Supplementary Data

WHO Meetings Attended by Taiwan since WHA 2005

No	Date	Place	Name of the meeting	Co-sponsors/ Organizer
1	15 to 16 June	Geneva, Switzerland	Base Stations and Wireless Network: Exposures & Health Consequences	
2	7 to 8 July	Nan Ning, China	WHO Consultation on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices for Artemisia annua L.	
3	7 to 11 August	Bangkok, Thailand	The 6 th Global Conference on Health Promotion – Policy and Partnership for Action : Addressing the Determinants of Health	
4	20 to 23 September	Shanghai, China	WHO Inter-regional Workshop on GACP and GMP for Herbal Medicines	
5	29 to 30 September	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Hospital Management Asia 2005	Asian Hospital Federation
6	3 to 6 October	Salerno-Paestum Italy	The Fourth WHO Consultation on Selected Medical Plants	
7	13 October	Geneva, Switzerland	Launch Global Patient Safety Challenge: Clean Care Is Safer Care	
8	18 October	Paris, France	Scaling up DOTS Expansion, TB-HIV and DOTS-Plus	
9	25 to 28 October	Vancouver, Canada	The 22 nd International Conference of the International Society for Quality in Health Care	Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation

WHO Meetings: Seeking by Taiwan to Attend

No	Date	Place	Name of the meeting	Co-sponsors/ Organizer
1	7 to 9 November	Geneva, Switzerland	Partners Meeting on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Influenza	
2	1 to 2 December	Philadelphia, USA	The 3 rd Annual Patient Safety Conference	

WHO Meetings: Taiwan's Attendance Rejected

No	Date	Place	Name of the meeting	Co-sponsors/ Organizer
1.	10 to 14 September	St. Julian's, Malta	WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Vaccine for the Southern Hemisphere 2006 WHO Meeting to Prepare WHO Recommendations of the Composition of Influenza Vaccine for the Southern Hemisphere 2006	
2.	15 September	St. Julian's, Malta	WHO Information Meeting on Influenza Vaccine for the Southern Hemisphere 2006 and Round-table Discussion on Matters Relating to Influenza Vaccine Development and Production	
3.	19 to 23 September	Noumea, Caledonia	Regional Committee for Western Pacific: Fifty-sixth Session	WPRO
4.	25 to 30 September	Geneva, Switzerland	GOARN – Outbreak Response Leadership Training	
5.	26 to 28 October	Geneva, Switzerland	WHO Forum: Making Partnerships Work for Health	

Migrating Birds in/over Taiwan

Species	Number of Different Kinds in Each Species	Number Estimated
鴨 科 (Duck/Goose/Waterfowl)	33	100,000
鷗 科 (Shorebird)	64	300,000
鷗 科 (Gull/Tern)	27	50,000
鷲 目 (鷹科) (Eagle/Hawk)	29	250,000
鷺 科 (Egret/Bittern)	18	50,000
燕雀目 (雀形目) (Sparrow/finch)	180	500,000
Total	351	1.25 mil.

Source: Wild Bird Society of Taipei

Number of Flights between Taiwan and the Four Asian Countries Confirmed with H5N1 Human Fatal Cases

Flight routes	Number of the flights (per week)	Total number of flights (per week)
Taiwan—Thailand	309	627
Taiwan—Vietnam	194	
Taiwan—Indonesia	106	
Taiwan—Cambodia	18	

Source: International Airlines web sites, Taipei