

Healthcare and Aging Society

Business Initiatives

Activity

In emerging countries, especially in Asia, continuing population growth and demographic aging are causing a serious shortage of hospitals, and there has been diversification in healthcare needs due to a rapid increase in lifestyle diseases and other factors. The spread of COVID-19 will likely increase the use of remote medical consultations, while healthcare value chains are expected to expand into the wellness field, including presymptomatic treatment and disease prevention. We also anticipate an accelerating trend toward the use of digital technology to improve customer satisfaction and operational productivity. In view of these trends, we aim to be a pioneer in transforming the healthcare eco-system centering on the hospital business toward a people-centered world of wellness. In this role, we will actively utilize our capital and know-how as a private sector company, including our assets, our partnerships with key stakeholders, and our ability to utilize healthcare data effectively. We will continue to work toward the creation of a society in which people can lead healthier and richer lives by contributing to the advancement of healthcare in terms of access, quality, and efficiency through our business activities.

Establishment of a Healthcare Fund to Close the Supply–Demand Gap in China

Activity

Mitsui, China Resources Group, which is one of the largest companies in the Chinese healthcare market, and HOPU Investments, one of Asia's leading investment companies, have established a joint investment company for fund schemes, CMH Healthcare Fund L.P. ("CMH Healthcare Fund"). With a total scale of US\$1 billion (approximately ¥108 billion), CMH Healthcare Fund will invest in hospital business, such as the management or contract management of clinics and specialist hospitals, especially in China, as well as healthcare-related business in China and other countries.

Demographic aging and the improvement of public health insurance systems in China are driving a rapid rise in healthcare expenditures, resulting in qualitative and quantitative supply–demand gaps in the healthcare market. The establishment of this fund is an important regional strategy toward our goal of establishing a healthcare eco-system in Asia. We will continue leveraging synergies with our existing business activities to expand our business base in the Chinese market and contributing to the further development of healthcare.



The signing ceremony for the CMH Healthcare Fund (June 2019)

Initiative to Promote the Slow Calorie Projects to Slowly Digest Food

Activity

In Japan, lifestyle disease and unbalanced eating habits are becoming a problem, though the amount of calories and carbohydrates that people intake is decreasing. This could be due to an increase of processed foods that are soft and easy to chew with a higher degree of refinement, which speeds up digestion and absorption. At Mitsui Sugar Co., Ltd. (Mitsui Sugar), an associated company of Mitsui, a focus is placed on carbohydrates (sugars) which have a characteristic of fast absorption and are the highest intake of human among energy producing nutrients. Mitsui Sugar named the slowing down of digestion and absorption of food (especially carbohydrates) as "slow calorie", and are conducting awareness-raising activities for "slow calorie", as well as development, support, and promotion activities for products utilizing "slow calorie" in order to materialize its slogan, "create a healthy and robust body".

Improving Healthcare Access through the Drug Manufacturing, Sales and Distribution

Activity

We have been engaging in the manufacturing, sales, and distribution of high-quality pharmaceuticals needed by society, particularly in Russia, via JSC R-Pharm, which is the country's largest pharmaceuticals company, in China through Shenzhen Main Luck Pharmaceuticals Inc., and in India through Keimed Private Limited. Through such business, we are seeking to improve access to medical treatment and fill in the gaps between supply and demand in the medical field in countries/regions where medical systems are underdeveloped. In addition, we are working to improve access to medical treatment in those countries/regions by ensuring the each country/region's pharmaceuticals price-setting systems and regulations.

Responding to Global Health Problems

— Fighting Infectious Diseases (Malaria, Measles, etc.)

Activity

In the Jirau hydropower generation business in Brazil, under a public–private partnership, the project company has been implementing a social contribution and environmental action program since 2009 with the aim of improving the health and sanitary environment for local residents. Particular emphasis is being placed on measures to combat malaria. While working on building hospitals and basic healthcare facilities and providing mobile floating hospitals (vessels) to secure access to medical examinations and treatment, the project company has implemented healthcare education and seminars for disease prevention. Its contribution to vector control efforts includes donation of extermination materials and research equipment, dispatch of researchers, exterminators, and other experts, distribution of mosquito nets, and implementation of vector propagation monitoring and mist spraying of insecticides. The number of malaria cases in the region was reduced by 90% between 2010 and 2019, which has earned considerable international recognition.