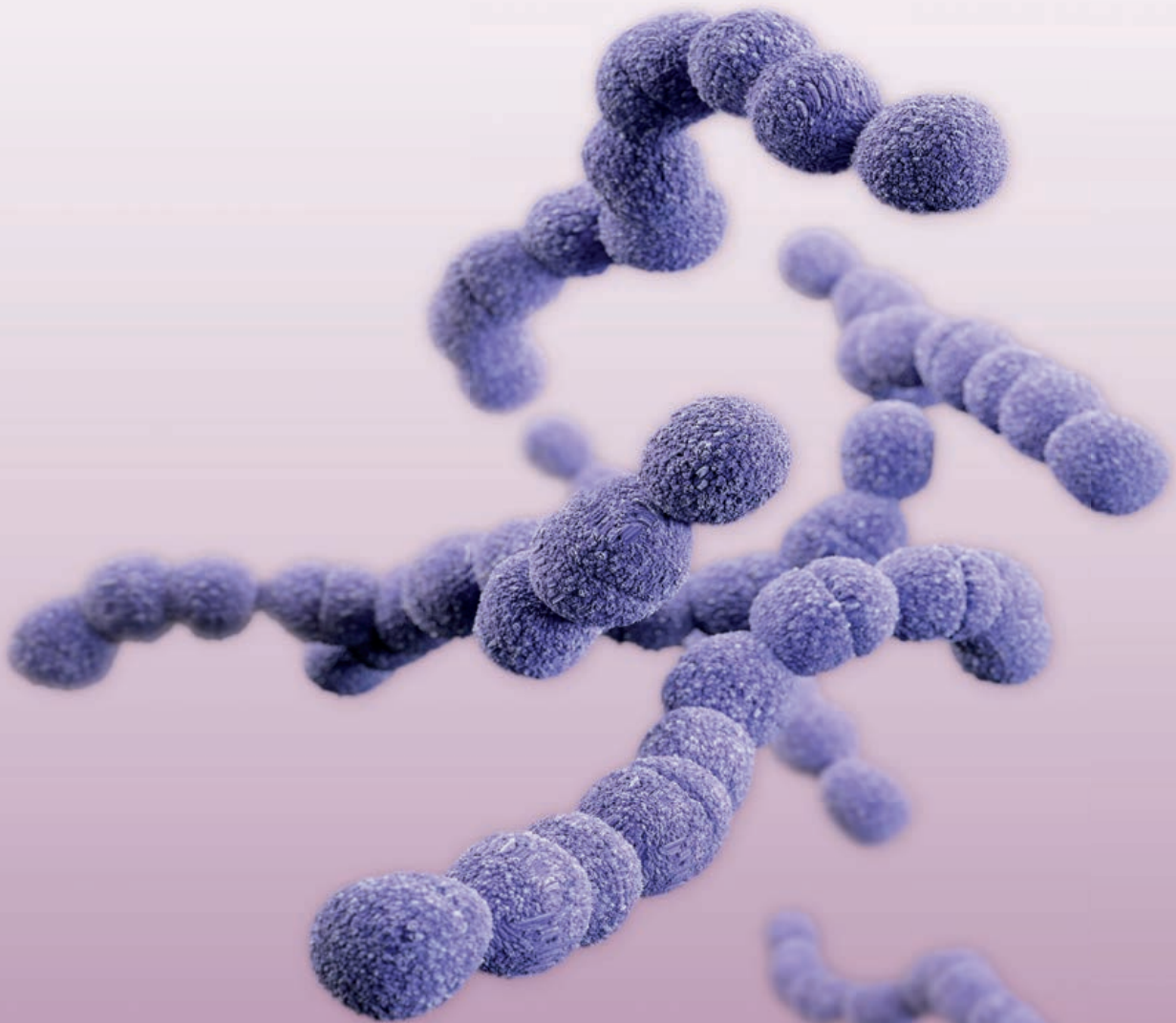


Action Agenda for **Antimicrobial Resistance** in the Western Pacific Region



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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR	antimicrobial resistance
AMS	antimicrobial stewardship
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
API	active pharmaceutical ingredients
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CSA	country situation analysis
ESBL	extended-spectrum beta-lactamase
IPC	infection prevention and control
MDR	multidrug-resistant
MRSA	methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
NDM	New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase
OXA	oxacillinase
TB	tuberculosis
WHO	World Health Organization
XDR	extensively drug-resistant

FOREWORD

Antimicrobial resistance threatens great achievements in modern medicine and public health. Alarming levels of resistance to common hospital and community-acquired pathogens have been reported across the world. Microorganisms, especially bacteria, are becoming increasingly resistant to second- and third-line antibiotics. Some bacteria are already fully resistant to existing antibiotics.

Without access to effective medication, the world is heading towards a post-antibiotic era in which simple surgical procedures would be life-threatening due to the risk of untreatable infections.

To strengthen containment efforts in the Western Pacific Region, Member States adopted a resolution on antimicrobial resistance at the sixty-fifth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in October 2014. The resolution endorsed the *Action Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region*. The agenda provides action-oriented guidance to Member States on the containment of antimicrobial resistance, in alignment with the global action plan.

The agenda focuses on regional specific actions to strengthen national plans, raising awareness of antimicrobial resistance across all sectors, improving surveillance and strengthening the capacity of health systems to contain resistance.

Regional collaborations are needed to collate and share evidence on the trends of drug-resistant infections and the use of antimicrobials. In addition, regulation must be strengthened to ensure access to effective, safe and quality antimicrobials, and to improve infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship programmes, as well as the rational use of antimicrobials.

Working together, we can slow the spread of antimicrobial resistance in the Region. We must take action now to preserve these miracles of modern medicine for future generations before it is too late.



Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.

Regional Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rapid emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) presents health-care systems with serious challenges and threatens their ability to effectively treat severe bacterial infections.

Without effective antimicrobials, the success of modern medicine in organ transplantation, cancer chemotherapy and major surgery could be compromised. Immediate and coordinated measures must be taken by Member States in the Western Pacific Region and globally to safeguard the effectiveness of antimicrobials and facilitate the development of new antimicrobial medicines.

AMR was first addressed by the World Health Assembly in 1998, with resolution WHA51.17 and numerous other resolutions highlighting this problem and potential solutions. However, there has been limited progress in slowing the emergence and spread of drug resistance in key pathogenic microorganisms. The need for urgent actions to combat AMR was highlighted again at the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly with resolution WHA67.25.

In 2002, the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific identified AMR as a regional priority, which was re-emphasized in 2011 with resolution WPR/RC62.R3 on antibiotic resistance. The resolution urged Member States to adopt the 2011 WHO six-point policy package to combat AMR and develop comprehensive national plans. However, AMR continues to spread and is an increasing public health threat in the Region.

WHO released its first global report on antimicrobial resistance surveillance in

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