

Korea promotes vaccine development & delivery, bio-manufacturing training for LMICs

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International Vaccine Institute will operate the 'Global Bio-Intensive Training Courses' for 450 professionals

The International Vaccine Institute (IVI) and the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW), Republic of Korea, have agreed to strengthen cooperation to promote the development and delivery of vaccines and bio manufacturing workforce training for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to help advance global health.

IVI and MOHW exchanged a memorandum of understanding (MoU), which replaces their 2017 MOU to broaden areas of cooperation, at a signing ceremony at IVI headquarters in Seoul recently.

Under the MoU, the two sides agreed to cooperate in all stages of vaccine development, ranging from discovery of vaccine candidates, pre-clinical testing and vaccine clinical trials (including overseas clinical trials). They also agreed to jointly support development, manufacturing and delivery of these vaccines to countries in need; facilitate joint research in vaccines and biopharmaceuticals between businesses, universities, and laboratories in Korea; and provide training and education of global vaccine (and bio) workforce to enhance LMICs' vaccine production capacity.

Notably, IVI will operate the 'Global Bio-Intensive Training Courses,' the first of its kind, this year to train 450 professionals from LMICs and Korea in vaccine and bio manufacturing with funding support from MOHW. This training hub will be utilized by the WHO as a part of a global strategy for the development of vaccine manufacturing capacity.

Image caption- Health and Welfare Minister Dr. Kwon Deok-cheol (center-right), and Director General Dr. Jerome Kim (center-left) and participants pose for a commemorative photo as they exchange the MOU during a signing ceremony at IVI headquarters in Seoul