

## Vaccine shot to keep JE at bay to become reality

22 July 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



**Singapore:** Chinese scientists have discovered a new vaccine for Japanese encephalitis that kills millions every year across the globe. "The vaccine would be available for administration by early 2015," said Mr Seth Berkley, CEO of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.

The vaccine made by Chengdu Institute of Biological Products of Sinopharm received WHO pre-qualification in October. Mr Berkley said that besides children in China, others in poor countries can benefit from international-standard quality products as well.

He added that though this was China's first vaccine to be exported abroad, the country would further invent new vaccines to protect people from emerging infections.

Dr Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization declared that the vaccine had passed the required tests and would be available for the needy countries, early next year.

Mr Berkley said that the vaccine would be helpful to the 4 billion people who live in endemic areas of Japanese Encephalitis.

He added that Chinese JE vaccine is the best of its kind worldwide and China's vaccine industry is likely to benefit children in poor countries with quality vaccines at affordable prices.