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AJ Biologics Malaysia lends a helping hand to Pakistan in its fight against dengue

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As per the agreement, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will invest in a Dengue Advisory Board that uses AJ Biologics' expertise. The latter, through the advisory board, will develop training programmes that will include understanding modes of dengue transmission, identifying the clinical manifestations of the four different dengue serotypes, as well as providing accurate diagnosis and subsequent clinical management of the disease



In a bid to curb the menace of dengue in Pakistan's Northwest province, AJ Biologics Malaysia, a member of the Aljomaih Group based in Saudi Arabia, is collaborating with the government of Kybher Pakhtunkwa, Pakistan to use AJ Biologics expertise and capabilities to combat the country's current dengue outbreak. The MoU was inked by Farah Hamid, Secretary for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and AJ Biologics COO Jerome Cabannes.

This is a critical effort in addressing the situation which has recorded more than 1,000 dengue cases and killed five people in the past two weeks. As per the agreement, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will invest in a Dengue Advisory Board that uses AJ Biologics' expertise. The latter, through the advisory board, will develop training programmes that will include understanding modes of dengue transmission, identifying the clinical manifestations of the four different dengue serotypes, as well as providing accurate diagnosis and subsequent clinical management of the disease.

Key members of the board include, AJ Vaccine Group chairman Dr Tabassum Khan, AJ Biologics COO Jerome Cabannes, Dr Mobashir Ahmed Bhatti, RMP consultant and clinical/preventive nutritional medicine member of the National Commission for Human Development, Pakistan, and two Malaysian independent researchers with globally renowned credentials in dengue management and emerging diseases.

The agreement will see Malaysians on the advisory board conducting a site visit and fact-finding mission to Pakistan to come up with recommendations. The agreement with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government includes a tuberculosis screening programme to prevent and manage the disease, which is prevalent in the Indian subcontinent.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Farah said, "Dengue is a relatively new occurrence in KP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and the recent outbreak in the region is something we had not anticipated. The KP government has focused a lot of resources in public education and raising awareness on the disease. The partnership with AJB (AJ Biologics) is a strategic investment on our part to amplify our existing efforts by improving our medical and technical knowledge in managing the disease."

Speaking on behalf of AJ Biologics, Dr Tabassum Khan said, "Malaysia has one of the best dengue surveillance capabilities in Southeast Asia and we have also been very successful in combatting and containing the repeated outbreaks that the country has experienced. Therefore, we are pleased to offer AJB's experience and expertise to healthcare professionals in Pakistan, as we look at the prevention and complete eradication of dengue."