Proposal for Infectious Disease Information Network System　(Tokyo)

・Tokyo proposed the construction of the network of member cities using Infectious Disease Information Network System. Demonstration of the new system being developed at present was provided after the presentation.

1. Outline

Administrative, research and medical organizations in the 12 cities participating in the Asian Network of Major Cities 21 will be directly linked together through the Internet (a special portal site) to share infectious disease information (including specific cases, infection channels and treatment methods) on a real-time basis.
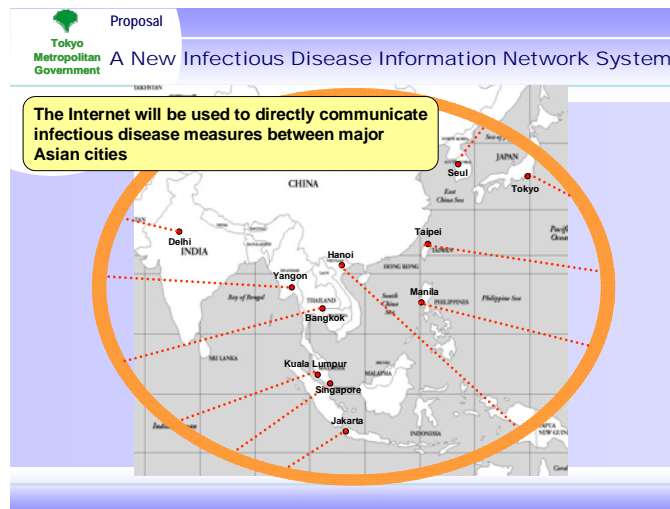

2. Present Conditions and Problems

Currently, for example, in the event of a breakout of SARS or any other emergent infectious disease overseas, relevant information may be obtained through national governments and the World Health Organization (WHO).

But communication of information through such channels has problems such as (1) delayed communication, (2) unilateral communication and (3) stereotyped information.

These problems may affect the ability to take prompt, effective measures on the health and medical front lines and have serious effects on urban functions.

Therefore, a new infectious disease information network system needs to be developed to directly link major cities.
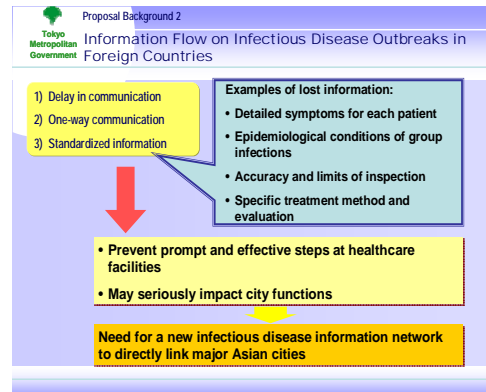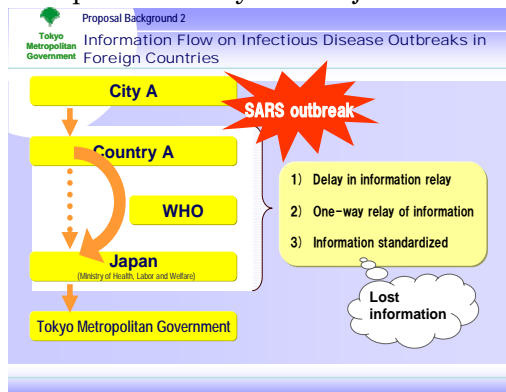
3. Concept

(1) Direct information relaying: Information from each city will be promptly communicated in its raw, unaltered form.

(2) Interactivity: Inquiries can be made on specific information needed.

(3) Reliability: Qualified, registered persons and organizations alone will participate in the network. High-level security will be ensured.
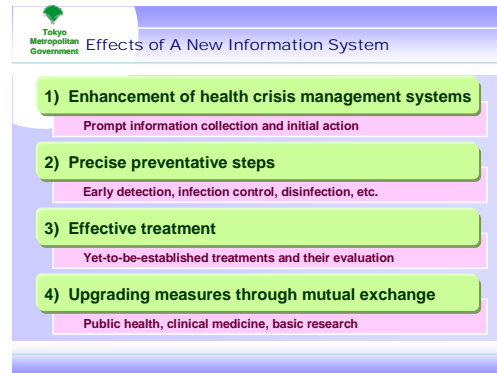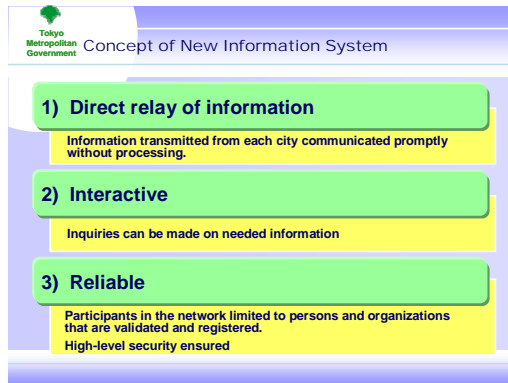
4. Effects

(1) Enhancement of health crisis management systems – Prompt information collection and initial countermeasures

(2) Accurate prevention systems – Early detection, infection control, disinfection, etc.

(3) Effective treatments – Yet-to-be-established treatments and their evaluation

(4) Improvement of measures through mutual exchanges between public health, clinical medicine and basic research spheres

5. Applications

(1) Emergency information provision

(2) General information provision

(3) Exchange of information

(4) Holding of forums

6. System Launch Date

The system is planned to be launched by January 2006.

Demonstration

How to Proceed with
"Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia" Project
(A summary of discussions at the conference)

Cities participating in the project need to enhance cooperation in preventing the outbreak or expansion in Asia of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, including SARS and HPAI. To this end, the participating cities will implement the following measures:

1. Build the "Information Network System on Infectious Diseases" for exchange of information and opinions and the general sharing of information. Use such communication channels to study how to implement joint surveys and research on infectious diseases.

2. Promote human resources development by mutually providing training and inspection tour opportunities for infectious disease experts including medical doctors and researchers.

* Tokyo Metropolitan Government proposed an infectious information network at the Session 2 of the Main Conference on Saturday, September 3. The participating cities approved the construction of the network.