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Remarks

Remarks by Mr. Haruo Naito

President of the IFPMA, President & CEO of Eisai, Co., Ltd.

WADA Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Fight against Doping in Sport

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Haruo Naito, and I am President and CEO of the Japanese pharmaceutical company Eisai Company Limited. I am also currently the President of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, the body which represents the research-based pharmaceutical industry worldwide.

Abuse of medicines to enhance performance in sport is a serious matter. I am therefore very pleased to be here today, to advance the fight against this problem, working in close collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Agency. This highly specialized international body, with its dedication, scientific expertise and strong political support, has already had an extremely beneficial effect on sport since it was created in 1999.

Doping has been around for a very long time. For example, athletes in classical Greece are thought to have used mushrooms to enhance their performance. Inca messengers chewed coca leaves to increase their endurance and ability to run at high altitudes.

If doping may have featured in the ancient Olympic Games, then it has certainly been present in the modern ones, right from the start. The winner of the 1904 Olympic marathon was actually administered injections of strychnine sulfate by his trainer DURING the race. However, in those days, medical and public opinion was much more tolerant of the use of stimulants, and this form of external assistance did not attract much criticism at the time.

Abuse of its approved medicinal products by athletes seems to have been rather slow to catch on. Amphetamines and anabolic steroids were both developed in the 1930s, but their abuse in sport did not start until the mid-1950s.

By 1960, however, the chairman of a national cycling federation was complaining that "whole cartloads" of performance enhancing drugs were being used. Awareness was also growing of the darker side of doping, with the doping-related death in that same year of a Danish cyclist.

The first explicit ban on doping by athletes was introduced in 1928 by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, but regular testing of athletes only began at the European Athletics Championships in 1966. And so started a competition, between dopers trying to find new performance-enhancing compounds, and the authorities trying to develop tests for new compounds being abused.

While the dopers have many approved medicines to choose from, their attractiveness for doping purposes is diminished by the fact that the products are well known. This means that their doping potential is more likely to be known to WADA and so it will take less time to develop tests for them.

However, medicines which are still in development are less well known, which might delay authorities' awareness of their doping potential and also the development of tests. Candidate medicines are therefore of great interest to dopers, and this is one of the main reasons why the IFPMA and WADA have joined together to make this joint declaration.

The identification of doping compounds is obviously a highly technical matter, and is therefore best addressed on a bilateral basis, between WADA and individual pharmaceutical companies. The immediate purpose of our declaration is to create a strong framework of collaboration and to encourage both sides to engage in suitable bilateral cooperation, along the lines of a number of existing bilateral collaborative agreements between WADA and specific companies. This should take place on a case-by-case basis, when a company-owned compound appears to have doping potential. To encourage this, the declaration draws attention to important concerns, such as confidentiality, and outlines some basic principles for managing these.

It is our hope that this declaration will give rise to a growing range of bilateral agreements. This should slam the door shut in the face of dopers who hope to abuse individual candidate medicines which are still in development. To avoid giving early warning to dopers, we may have to be rather discreet about these individual agreements, at least in their early stages, but our declaration today nevertheless lays a solid foundation for a growing cooperation.

Today, IFPMA and WADA affirm their common objective to ensure the proper use of medicines and medicines in development, to protect the health of both athletes and the public at large, and to frustrate the illegal activities of all those who seek to interfere with fair competition in the sports that we enjoy playing and watching.

Lausanne, 6 July 2010