Launching at Palawan Island and Biliran Island
for implementation of the project by
Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development
entitled:

Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine (TU) and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) have just officially started the project entitled “Comprehensive Etiological and Epidemiological Study on Acute Respiratory Infections in Children: Providing Evidence for the Prevention and Control of Childhood Pneumonia, Philippines”. SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development), a collaboration between two Japanese government agencies: the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is a program that promotes international joint research targeting global issues, involving partnerships between researchers in Japan and researchers in developing countries. In collaboration with RITM, TU has started to implement the project to establish the effective interventions based on the risk factors found in the hospitals and the communities to reduce the impact of the childhood pneumonia, particularly targeting the severe pneumonia.

“Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate” is one of the Millennium Development Goals. Nine millions of the under-five, however, still die annually. Pneumonia is one of the leading causes of the deaths worldwide and the Philippines is no exception. The strategy against pneumonia by WHO/UNICEF is based on the data from 20 years ago, and the basic approach is "early diagnosis and treating severe case with antibiotics" based on clinical symptoms without laboratory confirmations. Recent data shows that viruses also play an important role as causative agents for pneumonia. Drug resistance is also one of the global public health issues. Now, the evidence based strategy should come into play to tackle the severe respiratory infections in children.

As an extension of our project since 2011, we established two more project sites including two main hospitals and one catchment community in Palawan Island and Biliran Island. Based on this research network, we will implement the comprehensive research activity against childhood pneumonia to achieve our goal. We are pleased to announce the launching ceremonies that will be held at Palawan Island and Biliran Island on May 4th and May 8th 2012 respectively.
(Contact)

(About the Research)
Dr. Raita Tamaki
Ms. Sumie Abe
Department of Virology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine
Tel : 022-717-8211
Fax : 022-717-8212
Email : tamaki@med.tohoku.ac.jp
  (abesumie@med.tohoku.ac.jp)

(For the Public Relations)
Associate Professor Fuji Nagami
Public Relations Office, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine
Tel : 022-717-7908
Fax : 022-717-8187
Email : f-nagami@med.tohoku.ac.jp