



The eradication of malaria in the Taiwan region in 1965 was a milestone in public health and disease prevention work in Taiwan. The subsequent 40 years of successful maintenance of malaria eradication from 1965 to 2005, moreover, symbolizes Taiwan's progression towards a stable and mature phase in our administration of public health. It is a major accomplishment in which Taiwan takes pride and satisfaction, and it would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all the disease prevention and medical care personnel across the health and medical units at various levels within the national health system.

It is estimated that over a million people die from malaria worldwide every year. There are many countries in the world where the people remain ravaged by malaria, and the threat posed by the disease to the health of all humanity can be said to be ever present. Although malaria has been eradicated from Taiwan, the vector mosquito which transmits malaria is still present on the island; in addition, the globalization of commercial activities, the rising numbers of people traveling abroad for leisure or work, and the introduction of foreign workers and spouses in large numbers, have combined to steadily increase the threat of malaria.

Foreword by the Minister of Health

Under these circumstances, it is important to pass down our experience in order to preserve and build on our success in keeping Taiwan malaria-free. I am pleased that, on the 40th anniversary of Taiwan's eradication of malaria, the Center for Disease Control of the Department of Health has undertaken the job to publish the ***Malaria Eradication in Taiwan - Fortieth Anniversary Special Edition*** in both Chinese and English to faithfully document the history of malaria eradication in Taiwan, and the whole of the subsequent maintenance phase. Following the truism that, "We cannot understand the future without understanding the past", this special edition is both significant and functional in imparting and promoting Taiwan's experience in antimalaria activities. The publication of the English version, moreover, allows Taiwan to share our experience in prevention and control with countries still deeply afflicted by malaria, thereby assisting them in carrying out relevant work in disease prevention and control, while providing Taiwan with a chance to fulfill our duty as a member of the global village.

The prevention and control of infectious diseases is a constant battle between humanity on the one hand, and the pathogen and the vector on the other; not only is the pathogen capable of mutating in line with changes in its environment in order to survive, but the vector is also constantly seeking favorable conditions in order to achieve survival. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of our medical care and disease prevention personnel to constantly maintain a humble and cautious attitude, accumulate knowledge and experience to build a healthy environment, and thus continue to improve living conditions for all of the people of Taiwan.

Hou Sheng-mou, M.D., MPH, Ph.D.

Minister, Department of Health

Executive Yuan, Taiwan R.O.C.

Nov. 2005

