Reflections on Twelfth ICDRA

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On behalf of Korea Food & Drug Administration I would like to express my hearty thanks to all of those who contributed to the successful meeting held in Seoul, Korea on April 3 through 6 in 2006. My thanks are extended especially to the World Health Organization for overall guidance for the conference.
As we all know the general objectives of International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA in short) are:

• to promote collaboration among national drug regulatory authorities
• to forge a consensus on matters of mutual interest
• to facilitate timely & adequate exchange of technical information, and
• to discuss contemporaneous issues of international relevance.
In order to achieve these objectives ICDRA meetings have been successfully held for many years to have grown to what we have today.

It was a great honor for Korea to convene the twelfth ICDRA, which attracted over 200 participants from 78 countries.

The highlights of the topics discussed during the conference are as follows:

• Safety through quality in herbal medicines
• Good review practices
• Bioequivalence
• Regulation of blood & blood-derived products
• Role of regulator in control of advertising & promotion
• Access to treatment for severe pain
• Pharmacoeconomics & regulation
• Global challenges for regulation of vaccines
• Stability
• Counterfeit medicines
• Small model drug regulatory authorities
• Intellectual property rights (IPR) for pharmaceuticals
• New regulatory pathways for public health needs
• Emerging disease crisis management
• New challenges in safety of medicines
• Building trust with regulators
I hope these highlights may refresh our memory so that we can have consistent & practically useful outcome through this conference.