International Health Division

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Helmholtz Association was signed on May 31, 2011 by Dr. V. M. Katoch, Secretary, Department of Health Research, MOH&FW, GOI & Director General, ICMR from Indian side and Prof. Dirk Heinz, Scientific Director, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research(HZI) from German side at Hyderabad House in New Delhi in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh and H. E. Chancellor of Germany Dr Angela Merkel.

The Indo-German collaboration has been extended and pushed further in the area of infectious diseases especially in translational research by signing this MOU between ICMR and HGF whose foundation had been laid in year 2006 with four ongoing joint projects. This MOU would provide the active translational efforts which combine basic and clinical research and thus advance the fight against infections in biomedical research with long term capacity building for researchers and scientists.

The second meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Projects' Progress Seminar under this MOU were held on 29th June, 2011 & 30th June, 2011 at, Berlin, Germany followed by a visit to Helmholtz Center for Infection Research (HZI), Braunschweig in Germany on 1st July, 2011.

The Indian delegation led by Dr. V.M. Katoch, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India & Director General, ICMR, along with Prof. S. K. Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi, Prof. Seyed Hasnain, Indian Institute of Technology- Delhi and Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Head, IHD, ICMR as Member Secretary participated in JSC. Shri Sanjiv Datta, Financial Advisor, ICMR and Dr. Rashmi Arora, Head, ECD, attended the Projects' Progress Seminar.

The ICMR & HZI are planning to hold a joint workshop in the area of translational research in infectious diseases in India during 28-29 November 2011.