

3 April 2026  
Japan Institute for Health Security

## Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS) and Institut Pasteur du Japon (IPJ) have signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding research activities.

Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS) concluded a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research collaboration with Institut Pasteur du Japon (IPJ) on April 1, 2026.

The signing ceremony was held at the Residence of the Ambassador of France in Japan. Dr. Anavaj Sakuntabhai, Representative Director of IPJ, and Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, President of JIHS, signed the agreement. It was witnessed by Mr. Jean-Luc Moullet, Director General for Research and Innovation, Ministry of Higher education, Research and Space, representing France, and His Excellency Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation, representing Japan.

The ceremony, held in conjunction with the official visit of His Excellency President Emmanuel Macron to Japan, was of particular significance. Notably, the “France-Japan Joint Statement on Global Health” explicitly welcomed the signing of this agreement, stating that “both leaders welcomed the signing of a document between IPJ and JIHS to establish a France-Japan partnership on health security.”

The IPJ was established in June 2024 with the support of the Institut Pasteur in Paris and the Government of France. Through collaboration with partners in France and internationally, it aims to strengthen academic, public, and private partnerships and to become a global leader in research, education, and innovation in the fields of medicine and public health.

This MOU represents a significant step toward advancing a new international agenda led by France and Japan—often referred to as “pandemic security”. Through this partnership, it is expected to further deepen the France-Japan strategic partnership, strengthen cooperation with Europe in the context of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP), and contribute to establishing a meaningful balance within global scientific networks.



**Photo (from left):** Mr. Jean-Luc Moullet, Dr. Anavaj Sakuntabhai, Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, and H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura.