

# **Establishment and Activities of Thailand-Japan Research Collaboration Center on Emerging and Re-emerging Infections (RCC-ERI)**

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In recent years, we have been hit by the global outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (**SARS**). We also have seen highly virulent avian **influenza viruses** devastating Asian and other countries and **its jumping to humans**.

**More conventional infections** such as AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis continue to be a major threat to mankind with steadily increasing number of affected people worldwide.

**Emerging and re-emerging** infectious diseases are intensifying social unrest and anxiety.

What we have learned are that infectious diseases **have no border** and the need of **tight international collaboration**, especially the collaboration among Asian countries, to cope with them.

# **Thailand-Japan Research Collaboration Center on Emerging and Re-emerging Infections (RCC-ERI)**

**Established in 2005 in NIH under Memorandum of Agreement of Academic and Technical Exchange between **Osaka Univ.** and **Dept of Med. Sc.****

**Funded by **Ministry** of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan under “Program of Founding Research Centers for Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases”**

This **Collaboration** is undertaken for the purposes of conducting joint research; training, seminars and development of human resources; and systems and infrastructure development related to **emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases**.

The **goal** is to improve understanding of the occurrence and transmission of, and to enhance the capacity to detect, identify, **control and prevent the emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases**.

# Research Collaboration

between

NIH , Department of Medical Sciences (Thailand) &  
Res Inst Microb Dis, Osaka University (Japan)

*“Thailand-Japan Research Collaboration Center  
on Emerging & Reemerging Infections”  
(RCC – ERI)*



NIH



RIMD

# Thailand-Japan Research Collaboration Center on Emerging and Re-emerging Infections



Thai National Institute of Health



NIH Building 10



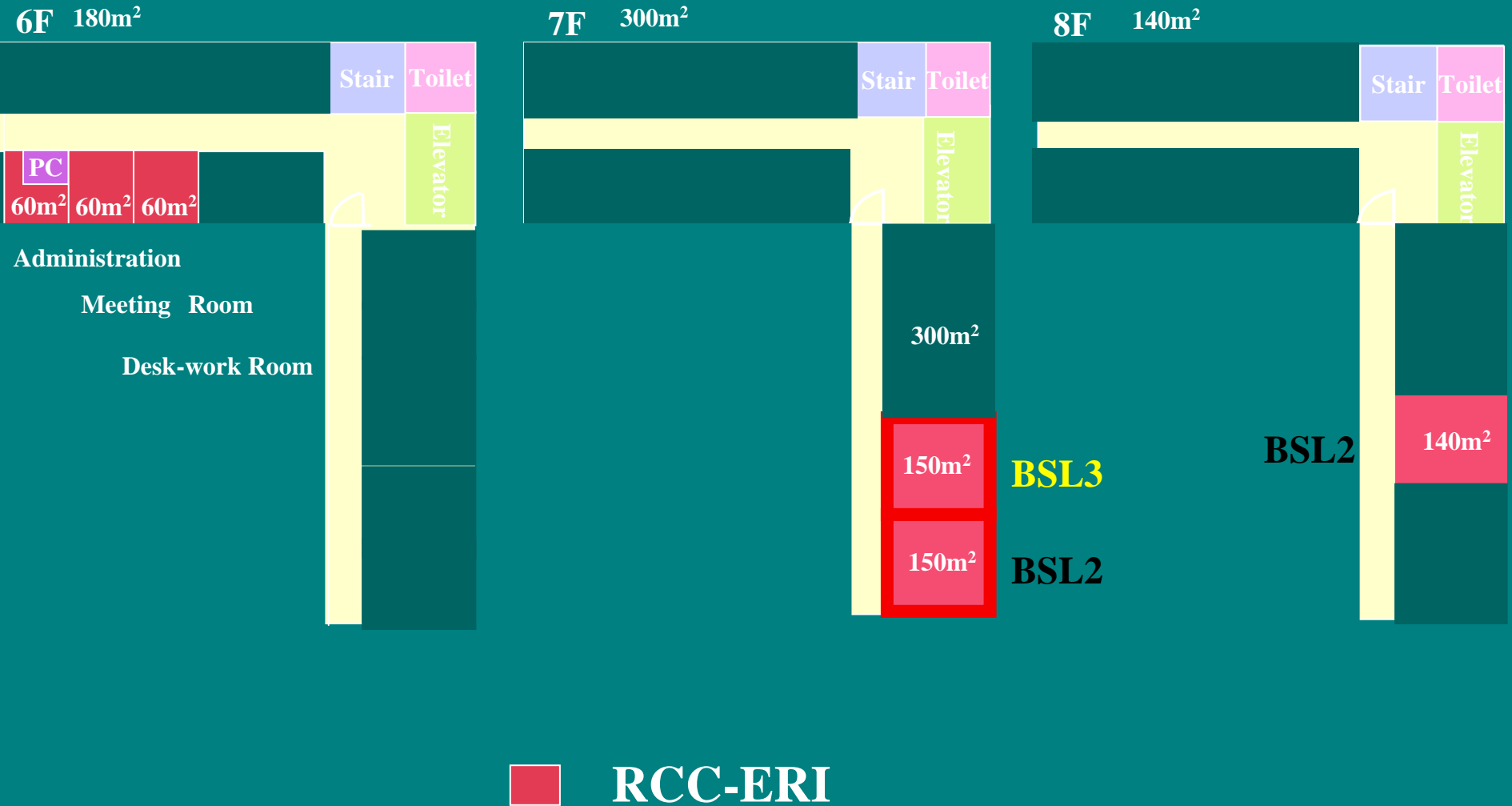
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Research Collaboration Center



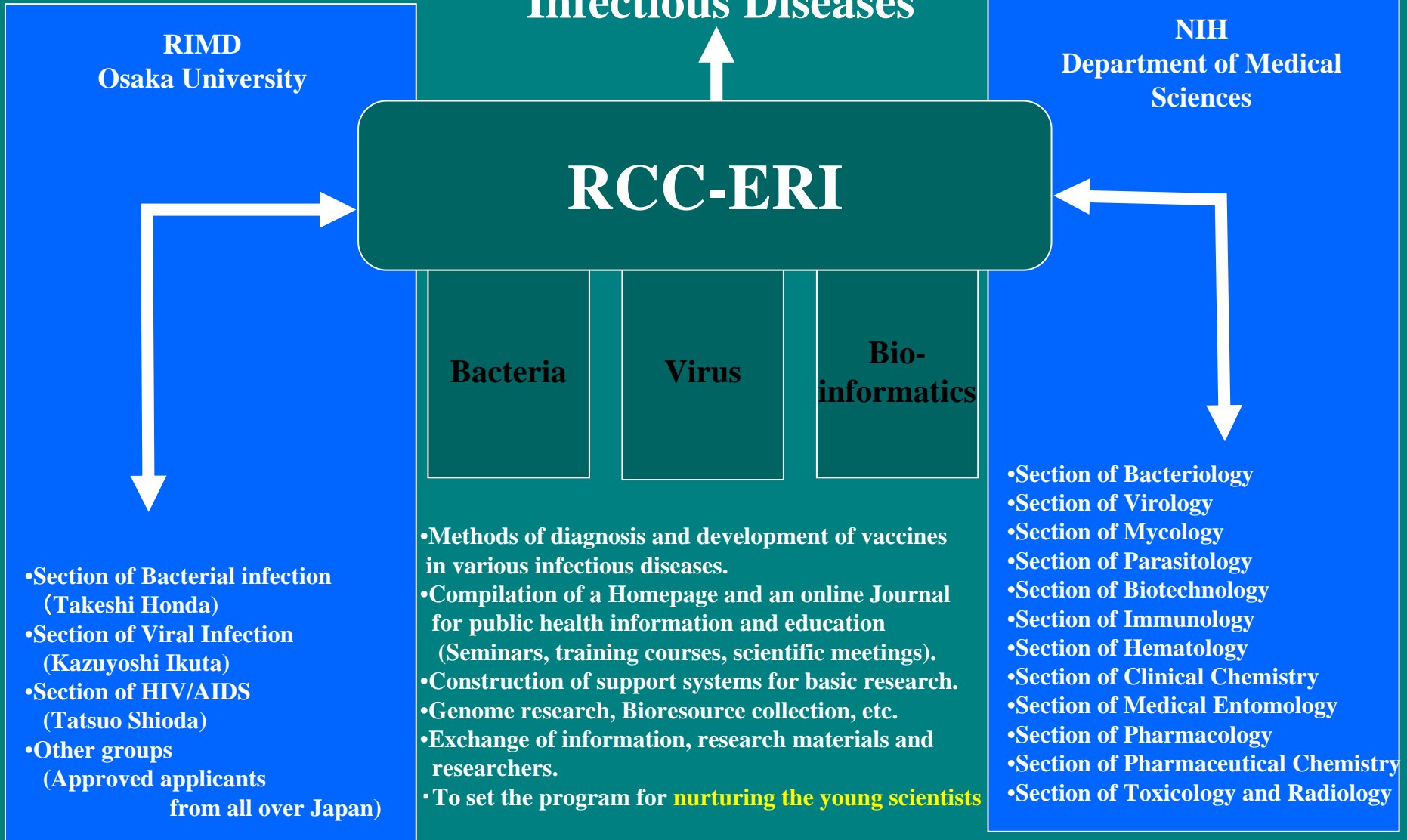
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# Location of RCC-ERI in NIH Building10 (600 m<sup>2</sup>)

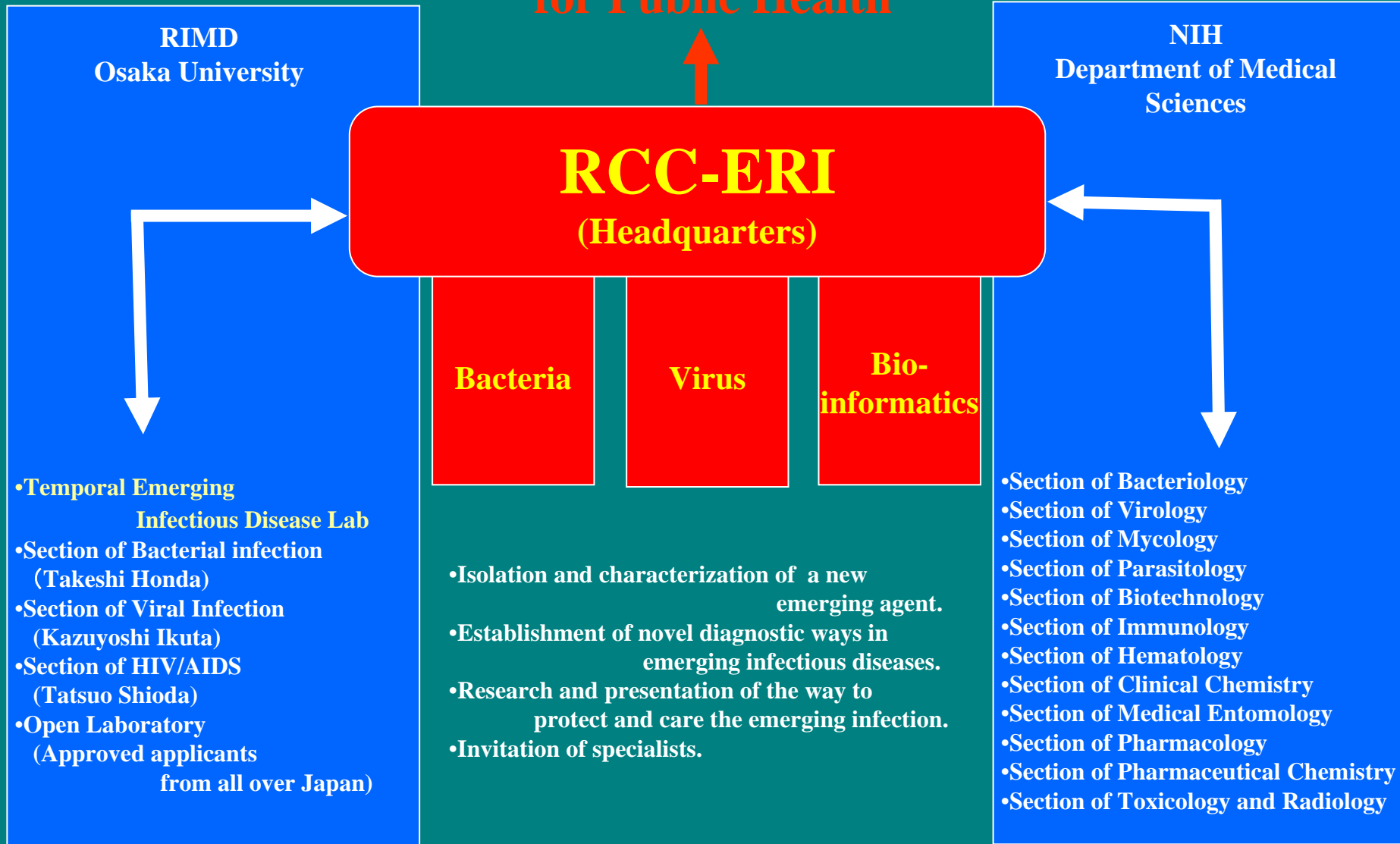


# *At the Usual Time (without Outbreak of Infectious Diseases)*

## Information and Social Education for Infectious Diseases



# *At the Outbreak of Infectious Diseases*



# Roles of Committees of RCC-ERI

## Advisory Committee Meeting

Provide overall direction and oversee

## Steering Committee Meeting (annual)

Approve 5-year Strategic Plan

Approve principles of collaboration

## Working Group Meeting (monthly)

Approve specific projects

Manage the projects

# Research Projects in RCC-ERI

## ➡ **Section of Bacterial Infections**

Basic & applied research on enteric & respiratory bacterial infections

## ➡ **Section of Viral Infections**

Basic & applied research on HIV/AIDS, Avian Influenza, Dengue virus, HE & Enteric viruses

## ➡ **Section of Bioinformatics**

Genome sequence and protein structure analyses of pathogenic microorganisms

# Development of human resources

- Exchange young scientists for training and nurturing
- Encourage them to attend various International Scientific Meetings
- Scientific discussion in Progress Report Meeting in every month
- Lecture seminars by the invited experts

# RCC-ERI members (August, 2007) (19)

## Section of Bacterial Infections(5) Thai Res.Fellows

Assoc.Prof. T. Taniguchi

Postdoc. K. Okada

Orapim Puiprom

Chris Verathamjamras

Parichart Puangpatra

## Section of Viral Infections(9)

Assoc.Prof. M. Kameoka

Res.Assoc. T. Kurosu

Postdoc. Yong-Gang Li

Volunteers M.Yoshida, Y.Kameoka

Piraporn Utachee

Piyamat Jinnopat

Panjaborn Chaichana

Kamonthip Rungrojcharoenkit

## Section of Bioinformatics(2)

Postdoc. Uamporn Siripanyaphinyo

Res.Fellow U.Chandimal de Silva

**Administration(3):** Prof. Y. Nishimune, K.Miyamoto,  
Maneenuch Jirawachara

**This Collaboration is intended for the benefits of both Parties and is based on equal partnership of the Parties.**

**Thailand's** high priority areas and urgent public health needs to study and control the epidemic of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

**Japan** expects to benefit from the knowledge gained from epidemiologic, clinical, laboratory and/or operational studies and by the evaluation of prevention strategies.

# A few issues to be solved

To get the financial support for sustainable maintenance and development of overseas Collaboration Centers

- To get the exemption of Income Tax in Thailand
- Development of the collaboration into the academia in Thailand
- Limitation of the laboratory space