

International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza
Press Release
To be released on Dec 20

The Government of China together with the European Commission and the World Bank will co-sponsor an International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza in Beijing on 17-18 January 2006. The conference aims at assessing the financing and technical needs at country and regional levels. During this event the international community will be invited to pledge financial support and discuss the establishment of fund management and coordination mechanisms. The Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing has issued, on behalf of the conference sponsors, invitations to countries and international organizations concerned.

The first day of the conference will bring high level officials together to assess the current situation as well as the financing and technical needs for AI control and prevention, followed by a ministerial meeting on the second day for countries and organizations to announce their contributions and pledges. The conference is expected to pass the *Beijing Declaration* which reflects the political will of national governments to fight against avian influenza and will make proposals for establishing joint mechanisms for AI fund management and coordination. The GoC wishes to take the opportunity of the pledging conference to work with other countries to promote international cooperation on AI control and prevention.

The International Department
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