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MFDS, Keep Working to Harmonize Global Regulations for Toxicity Assessment

- Attending the Meeting of National Coordinators for the OECD Test Guidelines Programme
- Participating in deliberation and approval of Establishment/Revision(draft) of OECD Test Guidelines
- Presenting the status of 'Liver Organoid-based Toxicity Assessment' development in Korea
- Collecting Opinions for OECD Test Guideline proposals

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea (Minister Oh Yu-Kyoung) takes part in the WNT* meeting that is held at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France from April 24 to 29. It participates in deliberation and approval of OECD guidelines and presents the current status of liver organoid-based toxicity assessment** method developed in Korea.

* WNT: Working Group of the National Coordinators for the Test Guidelines Programme

** Organoids: Complex collections of cells that are three-dimensional tissue cultures derived from stem cells or cells of organ origin. Organoids replicate the structure and function of real organs. They can be used in various areas such as safety evaluation, efficacy evaluation and development of treatments.

Coordinators representing each country, who deliberate and approve guidelines that are mutually recognized by OECD members.

* National Coordinators: Representatives of regulatory authorities from OECD member countries and countries that comply with mutual authentication for data. Three Korean representatives from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

are working as OECD national coordinators. Among them is Oh Jaeho, director general of Toxicological Evaluation and Research Department of the MFDS.

During this meeting, the MFDS will ①participate in deliberation and approval of new work plans and establishment/revision of test method guidelines(draft). It will also ②present the current status of 'liver organoid-based toxicity assessment method' developed in Korea

In addition, the MFDS plans to discuss next procedures with the OECD to include the 'liver organoid-based toxicity assessment', which can evaluate liver toxicity without using laboratory animals, into the OECD test guidelines as an internationally agreed method. The MFDS already has three test methods listed on the OECD Test Guidelines for skin sensitization, eye irritation, and skin irritation.

The MFDS will continue to lead international cooperation based on its excellent regulatory capabilities so that the Korean standards can become global standards and do its best to facilitate expansion of high-quality domestic products into the global market.

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