

# Study Tour: Experiences in Measles Rubella Elimination

## Study Tour to the Americas: Visit of Senior EPI Staff of China to Learn from Experiences in Measles/Rubella Elimination

Through Resolution CSP24.R16 of the XXIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Ministers of Health of the Americas adopted the goal of measles virus elimination from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2000. The Region attained this goal in November 2002 through the successful interruption of endemic measles virus transmission. Building upon the success of measles elimination, the Member States of the Pan American Health Organization adopted Resolution CD44.R1 to eliminate rubella and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) from their countries by the year 2010. As a result of the planning, execution, and evaluation of elimination initiatives, the Expanded Program on Immunizations (EPI) was strengthened through sustained political and community commitment, expanded partner involvement, and increased human resource capacity for vaccination programs in the Region. The Member States of the Western Pacific Region of WHO, including China, have been accelerating efforts to eliminate measles and to strengthen their national immunization programs. The study tour to the Americas provides an opportunity to share experiences in elimination efforts between the two regions.

**Goal:** To share successful experiences and lessons learned from the Region of the Americas in the achievements of measles and rubella elimination and strengthening of the EPI with senior EPI health officials from China



### Objectives:

- 1) Understand how PAHO works with countries and partners to develop and execute policies.
- 2) Identify key lessons learned from the implementation of measles and rubella elimination strategies in the Region.
- 3) Discuss preparations for and response to events supposedly attributable to vaccination or immunization in the Region.
- 4) Highlight the process for making evidence-based decisions for the introduction of new vaccines.
- 5) Recognize the principal role of advocacy in uniting countries, communities, and partners behind EPI and sustaining immunization programs.
- 6) Identify how EPI has been strengthened through the success of regional initiatives.

Contact:  
**Karen Gladbach**  
Manager, Training & Fellowships Program  
gladbach@paho.org