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Pfizer's CEO Jeff Kindler:

We have established an R&D bridge with Turkey, and are eagerly anticipating the research of Turkish scientists.

Istanbul, 29 June 2009 - World's premier biopharmaceutical company Pfizer has signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency (ISPAT) in order to support Turkish scientists' R&D activities in the pharmaceutical industry.

Thereby mutual intentions and visions on Pfizer's extending its R&D activities in Turkey both in quality and in quantity, as well as on developing an environment to support innovation in the pharma sector in our country have been undersigned.

Furthermore, announcing that they have established an R&D alliance office in the Hacettepe University Tekno-town, Pfizer's CEO Jeff Kindler said that soon Turkish scientists shall be able to propose project ideas in Pfizer's areas of interest. These projects that shall be evaluated by Pfizer Global R&D, and in case of approval, an agreement shall be signed with the project owner and the process shall be coordinated by Pfizer's R&D alliance office.

Making an announcement following the signing ceremony on 29 June 2009 at the Dolmabahçe Palace between Alpaslan Korkmaz, President of the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency and Pfizer's CEO Jeff Kindler, Kindler said that with the Memorandum of Understanding they aim to support research and development in Turkey, which are extremely important for enabling patients access to effective and innovative medicines; and that as a concrete initial step they have established an R&D alliance office in the Tekno-town at Hacettepe University.

Saying that Pfizer has so far invested USD 14 million R&D in Turkey and is taking steps to establish a bridge to further increase this amount, Kindler added: "The agreement we have signed is very important both from the aspect of presenting Turkish scientists' work to the global R&D network, and to increase pharmaceutical R&D and innovation activities through creating an added value for Turkey. An international pharma company is now ready to cooperate with scientists in Turkey in research activities that shall contribute to global health."

Highlighting the need for a partnership system between the government, private sector and universities in order to effectively conduct pharmaceutical R&D, Pfizer's CEO Jeff Kindler continued as follows: "The medicines are in fact discovered at the universities, in scientists' labs. As an industry, we convert the scientific information generated there into medicines. The most critical point in converting scientific research into value for a country is to have the discovery transformed in an environment where intellectual property rights are protected, into a product that shall improve public health worldwide. We are here today in order to do our duty in converting the scientific studies in Turkey into value for world health."

Adding that as the private sector, they appreciate and endorse the actions of the Turkish government to pave the way for the industry in the awareness of the importance of R&D, Jeff Kindler said, "I would like to thank ISPAT for the support they have provided in realizing this project. We have joined forces with the Turkish medical sector and scientists, and set out to create synergy. From now on, as Pfizer we shall look for opportunities in our joint areas of interest with the Turkish realm of science. We shall coordinate this process through the Pfizer R&D alliance office we have established in the Tekno-town at Hacettepe University. We hope to establish similar cooperations with other Turkish universities. We eagerly anticipate the studies of Turkish scientists in order to discover new treatments that patients need, and contribute to economic development."

"Cooperation of Pfizer and the Prime Ministry Investment and Support Agency" in Turkey's rise in pharma

In his announcement following the signing ceremony, President of the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) Alpaslan Korkmaz has said that for a Turkey that can compete and succeed in the most innovative and high value-added industries of the world, development of the R&D and innovation climate is very important.

Stating that the Turkish pharmaceutical industry, which is expected to sustain its 13 percent annual growth rate predicted for 2008-2012, has a significant potential in manufacturing, consumption, and R&D activities, Korkmaz reminded that R&D investment expenditures in Turkey have increased by 143 percent between 2002-2007. Korkmaz added that, "The pharmaceutical industry, which attracts the highest amount of R&D investments worldwide, is a strategic field for this innovation and R&D focused growth model. Worldwide pharmaceutical leader Pfizer and Hacettepe University have created an opportunity for our country. Paving the way for strategic, high value-added R&D investments and protection of intellectual property rights are among the priorities in our agenda as ISPAT."

