

June 15, 2009

The WHO pandemic alert of new H1N1 influenza was raised to Level 6 on June 12th. However, the organizing committee of IUPS2009 (Kyoto) will not cancel or postpone the congress on the ground of this change. **We, at the present moment, plan to hold the congress as originally scheduled.** The reasons are as follows.

- (1) Level 6 reflects the spread of influenza to all over the world including the southern hemisphere, which was expected to occur sooner or later. Level 6 does not mean the elevation of the virulence of the virus.
- (2) It is now judged that the peak level of the spread in Japan has already passed. Furthermore, we are going to have a relatively hot and humid summer in Japan from now, which would prevent the proliferation and spread of influenza virus. Therefore, it is likely that the fierce spread of the virus will not occur at the time of the congress.

Although it is unlikely at present, if the situation would be seriously worsened, we might think of the possibility to alter our current decision. Our policy will be announced immediately on the web of the congress, so that the participants are kindly requested to keep checking the web page. Furthermore, we will send important announcements, if anything, directly to all registered participants by email.

We would appreciate very much for your kind and calm cooperation in this matter.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you soon in Kyoto.

With warmest wishes,

Yasushi Miyashita
President of IUPS 2009 (Kyoto)
On behalf of the organizing committee