



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2010

Media Contacts: Yegor Kuznetsov (English)

Links Media: 301-987-5495 ext.106

ykuznetsov@linksmedia.net

Anngie Caballero (Español)

Links Media: 301-987-5495 ext.108

acaballero@linksmedia.net

PRESS RELEASE

PERU'S OFFICIAL MEDICINE QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY ATTAINS WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION LABORATORY PREQUALIFICATION, ACHIEVEMENT WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PATIENT ACCESS TO QUALITY-ASSURED PRIORITY MEDICINES

-- The National Center for Quality Control becomes South America's first facility to earn both WHO prequalification and ISO 17025 accreditation --

LIMA, PERU — Peru's National Center for Quality Control, or *Centro Nacional de Control de Calidad* (CNCC), announced today that it has achieved World Health Organization (WHO) laboratory prequalification to test priority medicines relevant to public health programs and ensure they meet appropriate quality standards. The Prequalification Programme, a United Nations initiative managed by WHO, aims to make quality priority medicines available for the benefit of those in need.

Through the Prequalification Programme, WHO identifies laboratories that are capable of providing quality testing services to their country government and UN agencies in compliance with WHO standards. The CNCC is among the first few laboratories in Latin America to receive this WHO prequalification.

"Positive decision by a recognized global health authority such as WHO shows that hard work, dedication, and focus on best practices make it possible to meet the strictest international standards," said Dr. Ruben Tabuchi Matsumoto, Director General of the CNCC. "Also, I'd like to use this opportunity to recognize the support of our international partners who helped to make work with CNCC a showcase of cost-effective collaboration. The result of these joint efforts provides additional confidence in the monitoring of quality of medicines distributed through the country supply network."

The WHO prequalification follows another significant achievement of CNCC. Earlier this year, the laboratory received ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation (covering 7 critical analytical tests in addition to the 5 for which it received accreditation in 2009) from Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services (ACLASS), becoming the first lab of its kind in South America to obtain both highly-sought stamps of approval.

-more-

"Prequalification of the CNCC as well as other quality control laboratories around the world is an important part of strengthening health systems through the application of WHO norms in the quality assessment of essential medicines," said Dr. James Fitzgerald, Coordinator, Medicines and Health Technologies, of the Pan American Health Organization, regional office of WHO in the Americas. "We are pleased to have CNCC become the first laboratory in South America to achieve WHO prequalification."

CNCC is a part of Peru's National Institute of Health, or *Instituto Nacional de Salud*. The important breakthrough by its medicines quality control laboratory, achieved with support of the United States Agency for International Development through its the Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI) and the South America Infectious Diseases Initiative (SAIDI), ensures that its technical operations and administrative systems are functioning at the highest international quality standards. This recognition certifies that the CNCC provides accurate, valid and trustworthy information to the Peruvian Ministry of Health, industry and public in general guaranteeing the distribution of good quality pharmaceutical products to the population.

"We commend CNCC on this accomplishment," said Patrick Lukulay, director of the Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) Program, implemented under an agreement between USAID and the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP). "This is not only a milestone for the laboratory and the country in achieving world-class recognition for superior pharmaceutical quality control operations, but also allows the lab to contribute to improving public health worldwide by increasing patient access to good quality, life-saving medicines. We are proud that our program contributed to this important achievement."

The PQM Program serves as a primary mechanism to help assure the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines that are essential to USAID's priority health programs. In Peru, USAID and USP support quality assurance and quality control systems in general and the CNCC in particular, through AMI and SAIDI.

"The prequalification by WHO, positions CNCC to become a leader in South America by assisting other laboratories in attaining similar recognitions," said Dr. Jaime Chang, project management specialist from the Health Office of USAID-Peru and coordinator for AMI and SAIDI. "This sustainable approach is desirable, as countries in the region can increasingly rely upon each other, rather than on international groups, to provide services and expertise, and to advance quality control in their laboratories. It has been very encouraging to see CNCC's readiness to share experience and help other organizations replicate their success."

AMI is a regional initiative in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname, working to improve malaria control at the sub-regional level which contributes to decreasing morbidity and mortality at the national level. SAIDI is working in Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru, and is active at the national and community levels in each country to contain the spread of antimicrobial resistance. Partners include USP, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Links Media and Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

###

For more information about the CNCC, please visit <http://www.ins.gob.pe/portal/jerarquia/8/134/acreditacion-internacional/jer.134>

For more information on USAID, please visit www.usaid.gov

Other participating organizations can be found at www.uspdqi.org, www.paho.org, www.msh.org, www.cdc.gov, <http://www.tufts.edu/med/apua> and <http://www.rti.org>.

Links Media www.linksmedia.net provides communications support to AMI and SAIDI.