

News Release

June 5, 2024
Maruho Co., Ltd.

Maruho and Hyphens Pharma Announce Exclusive License Agreement for Anti-herpes Virus Agent (INN: Amenamevir) in 10 ASEAN Countries

Osaka (Japan), June 5, 2024 - Maruho Co., Ltd. ("Maruho", Head Office: Osaka, Japan, President and CEO: Atsushi Sugita) and Hyphens Pharma Pte. Ltd., a subsidiary of Hyphens Pharma International Limited ("Hyphens", Head Office: Singapore, Chairman, Executive Director and CEO: Lim See Wah) announced that the two companies have entered into a license agreement under which Maruho will license to Hyphens the rights to develop and commercialize the anti-herpes virus agent amenamevir (JNN/INN), manufactured and marketed in Japan by Maruho, hereinafter referred to as "the product", in 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)*1 countries.

Under the terms of the agreement, Maruho grants Hyphens an exclusive license to develop and market the product in 10 ASEAN countries. Hyphens will proceed with the development activities necessary to bring the product to market. After the product is commercialized, Hyphens will pay royalties to Maruho based on commercialization milestones.

The product exhibits high antiviral activity against the varicella-zoster virus and the herpes simplex virus by inhibiting the activity of the helicase-primase complex, which is essential for viral DNA replication. In 2012, Maruho and Astellas Pharma Inc. executed a license agreement for the development and commercialization of the product. Maruho proceeded with development in Japan and the product was approved for the indications of "herpes zoster" in 2017 and "recurrent herpes simplex" in 2023. The product is currently manufactured and commercialized under the brand name of "Amenalief® Tablets 200 mg" in Japan.

In its 5th Medium-Term Plan, initiated in October 2023, Maruho introduced a new business strategy termed the "Asia Dermatology Hub Concept." Maruho established a local subsidiary in China*2 in February 2024 and is promoting business development in Asian countries and regions. This agreement is an effort to realize business development in Asia and to respond to the unmet needs of patients in ASEAN countries who have limited options for herpes treatment.



Maruho and Hyphens, which both specialize in dermatology, will work to bring smiles to the faces of patients suffering from viral skin diseases such as herpes zoster and herpes simplex in the countries and regions covered by this agreement.

Note

The information contained in this news release in regard to pharmaceutical and developmental products is not intended for the purpose of promotion, advertising or medical advice.

(*1) Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos

(*2) Establishment of a local subsidiary in China (February 2024)

<https://www.maruho.co.jp/english/information/20240222.html>

[References]

Maruho Launches Anti-Herpes Virus Agent "Amenalief Tab. 200mg" in Japan (2017/09/02)

<https://www.maruho.co.jp/english/information/2017090702.html>

Maruho Receives Manufacturing and Marketing Approval for a Partial Change of the Indication and Dosage/Administration for Anti-herpes Virus Agent "Amenalief Tab. 200mg" for the Treatment of Recurrent Herpes Simplex in Japan (2023/02/24)

<https://www.maruho.co.jp/english/information/20230224.html>

About Hyphens

Hyphens Pharma International Limited and its subsidiaries (the "Group") is Singapore's leading specialty pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare group, leveraging on its diverse footprint in ASEAN countries. The Group has a direct presence in Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, and is supplemented by a marketing and distribution network covering 14 other markets. The Group's core business comprises Specialty Pharma Principals, Proprietary Brands, and Medical Hypermart & Digital. Besides marketing and selling a range of specialty pharmaceutical products in selected ASEAN countries through exclusive distributorship or licensing and supply agreements with brand principals mainly from Europe and the United States, the Group also develops, markets, and sells its own proprietary range of dermatological and health supplement products.

For more information, please visit <https://www.hyphensgroup.com/>

About Maruho

Maruho Co., Ltd. has its head office in Osaka and leads Japan in research and development, manufacturing and commercialization of dermatological products. Founded in 1915, Maruho has 1,566 employees (as of the end of September 2023), and net sales were approximately 85.71 billion yen in its fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. With the mission "More smiles, brighter life for you.", Maruho aims to help realize a society where everyone can live with a smile.

For more information, please visit www.maruho.co.jp/english/

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