

Joint Statement of
the Thirteenth Tripartite Health
Ministers' Meeting (Video Conference)
(December 11th , 2020)

WE, the Health Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, on December 11th , 2020, held the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting (THMM) through video conferencing;

Recognizing the severe challenges posed by the global prevalence of COVID-19 to the well-being, livelihood and safety of our peoples and its adverse impact on the socio-economic development of our respective countries and the world at large;

Extending deepest condolences and sympathies to the loss of life and suffering caused by the pandemic, and giving respect to all medical professionals, healthcare workers and other frontline personnel;

Continuing to support the World Health Organization (WHO) in playing an important role in global health governance during the pandemic. We will align our activities and goals with that of

the WHO and other international agencies, continue to implement COVID-19 control measures, and advance cooperation in the health sector.

Agreeing to share prevention, control, monitoring and response measures in a free, open, transparent and timely manner. We continue to work closely by taking advantage of opportunities such as Korea-China-Japan Forum for Communicable Disease and Prevention.

Committing to jointly improve, domestically and globally, the capacity of health systems, promote universal health coverage, the fullest attainment of health for all and push for the realization of the health-related goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Reviewing the achievements of the THMM since the first meeting and discussing measures to improve coordination in COVID-19 response and to strengthen future cooperation among the countries. Focusing on the international efforts to control of the virus, the agenda of the meeting includes Prevention and Control Measures of COVID-19, the Role of ICT in global pandemic, and COVID-19 Diagnosis and Treatment.

1. Effective COVID-19 Prevention and Control Measures

We believe that the Special Video Conference of Tripartite Health Ministers on COVID-19, Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19, Special Video Conference of the APT Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and other related conferences as well as the important consensus reached at the conferences are of great significance for the three countries to work together to share effective measures and combat COVID-19 pandemic. We propose that the three countries enhance mutual learning, so as to implement effective measures that are in line with their national conditions to combat COVID-19. The three countries continue to promote exchanges and cooperation among their technical departments.

2. Role of ICT in COVID-19 Prevention and Control

We appreciate all parties for leveraging the unique advantages of the remote, efficient, intelligent and convenient internet technology and introducing new service models to ease the burden of frontline healthcare workers. These efforts also help to support the prevention and control of the pandemic by reducing the spread of infection and optimizing resource allocation. We propose that the three countries cooperate with each other to support the regular control of COVID-19 based on lessons learned through the application of ICT in each country. The

countries are expected to improve their peoples' health service and well-being by promoting international cooperation, sharing best practices and advancing the use of ICT. We will strengthen our cooperation in promoting universal health coverage.

3. Cooperation in COVID-19 Diagnosis, Treatment and Vaccination

We commend the three countries' efforts to innovate COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment protocols, with the aim of increasing the cure rate and reducing the fatality rate. We call on the three countries to continue to strengthen the sharing of experiences in the development of drugs and vaccines, and the application of testing reagents and medical equipment. The countries should increase their investment in health sector to improve the supply of medical products and services, and to protect frontline healthcare workers. We will continue to support COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good cooperating with international frameworks such as COVAX facility, and contribute to ensuring equitable access to effective, safe and affordable vaccine in lower- and middle-income countries.

4. Cooperation in Combating Cancer

We appreciate the Tripartite Cancer Workshop organized by the countries on a regular basis to promote cancer prevention and

control in the Asia-Pacific region. We continue to deepen cooperation in the field of cancer prevention and control and discuss the cooperation and development under the new situation; expand international cooperation; continue to play the role of the three countries in the Asia-Pacific region, so as to promote and strengthen the global cancer prevention and control.

5. Cooperation in Healthy Aging

We commend the policy dialogues, academic workshops and experience sharing on population aging organized by the countries through such platforms as the Tripartite Seminar on Population Policy. These programs have promoted substantive exchanges and cooperation among government departments and scientific research institutions. We propose to strengthen information sharing, experience exchange, personnel training and project cooperation in areas of common concern among the three countries, including creating age-friendly environments, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of older persons in the information age, health services for older persons and integrated medical and social care, and encourage and support scientific research institutions to develop joint scientific research, so as to meet the needs of older persons in the three countries and improve the well-being of the peoples.

6. Next Meeting

We reaffirm the common recognition that the Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting will be held on a regular basis with involvement of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) and that all relevant activities will be conducted on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The next Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in Japan in 2021.