

Summary of the Discussion of the 1st Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare Between Japan and Viet Nam

6 December 2023

1. The First Meeting of Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee on Healthcare, which is a high-level consultative mechanism under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), (hereinafter referred as the Joint Committee) was held virtually on 28 November 2023, to foster continuous cooperation and dialogues under the framework of the MOC in the fields of Healthcare between Japan and Viet Nam signed on 1 July 2019. The First Joint Committee focused on NCDs and Aging society.
2. The First Meeting was hosted by Japan and chaired by Mr. Naoki Ito, Ambassador of Global Health and Executive Director for Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Office. The Viet Nam side was led by Dr. Dang Quang Tan, the Director of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health (hereinafter referred as MOH).
3. As main partners of healthcare cooperation, the Office of Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter referred as MHLW), the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry, Embassy of Japan in Viet Nam, Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred as JICA), Medical Excellence Japan (hereinafter referred as MEJ) and Kyushu University participated in the Joint Committee from Japanese side as well as Hanoi Medical University Hospital (hereinafter referred as HMUH), Viet Nam Population Authority and Bach Mai Hospital from Viet Nam side. The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia also joined as an observer.
4. The Joint Committee welcomed the opportunity to hold the first Japan-Viet Nam Healthcare Joint Committee in 2023, which contributes to the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Viet Nam. The Joint Committee reaffirmed the history of healthcare cooperation between both countries and the importance of cooperation under the MOC.
5. The Joint Committee acknowledged several joint efforts of both countries under MOC:
 - a) On cooperation in Private Public Partnership in providing medical services, the Joint Committee received a report from Medical Excellence Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as MEV) - MEJ Forum, which has pushed forward efficient communication and

mutual understanding in the private and academic sectors between Viet Nam and Japan.

- b) Regarding specific projects, the Joint Committee welcomed the signing of MOU between MEJ and HMUH for an establishment of cancer center and looked forward to the update of the ongoing matching project between major Japanese companies and Vietnamese hospitals.
 - c) On developing human resource in medical fields, the Joint Committee pleased continuous efforts by MHLW which has provided plenty of training opportunities on diagnosis and treatments of NCDs such as cancers with hospitals and medical societies in Viet Nam.
 - d) On cooperation for geriatric care, the Joint Committee acknowledged the outcome of the several projects supported by JICA. MOH of Viet Nam and JICA will continue the dialogues for future collaboration on this area, based on the outcome of past projects.
6. The Joint Committee acknowledged the importance of fostering initiatives with mutual benefit for both countries by:
- a) Providing opportunities for issue identification, project idea generation and matching, such as MEV - MEJ Forum and the workshop “Viet Nam - Japan Medical ICT and Aging Workshop ” by the Cabinet Secretariat on 31 October 2023,
 - b) encouraging efficient communication between related parties based on the mutual understanding for formulating new and sustainable projects, and
 - c) consulting how government of both countries can support the projects.
7. The Joint Committee affirmed the importance of continuous dialogues between the two parties, including the holding of the Second Joint Committee on Healthcare, to further contributing to solving healthcare issues in both countries.

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