

Joint Action Plan
among
the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, the
Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea and
the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of
China on Preparedness and Response
against Infectious
Diseases with Pandemic or High Consequence Potential of
Common Concern

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea and the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "the Participants"),

Based on the Joint Statement of The Fourteenth Tripartite Health Ministers Meeting (THMM) adopted at the fourteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting on December 21st 2021;

Reaffirming the need for joint efforts by the three countries for Infectious Diseases with pandemic or high consequence potential of common concern (hereinafter referred to as "IDCC") and the importance of international cooperation for rapid and effective responses to minimize damage to the public health and the socioeconomic consequences from a possible outbreak,

Have reached the following Joint Action Plan:

1. Contact points

1-1. The Participants designate the following organizations as channels for information sharing and will utilize them as focal points regarding IDCC both in ordinary times and in the case of an outbreak:

- Japan: Tuberculosis and Infectious Disease Control Division/ Office of Global Health Cooperation International Affairs Division, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare;
- Korea: Division of International Cooperation, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Director for International Affairs, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency;
- China: Department of International Cooperation, National Health Commission;

1-2. The Participants will establish an audio or video conference network and use other methods such as email to facilitate information sharing.

1-3. The Participants will promptly update and share the information whenever the focal point is changed

2. Information, evidence and knowledge sharing

2-1. If IDCC emerge, the Participants will share the following information, evidence and knowledge among the countries as swiftly as possible and during all phases of the pandemic according to the laws and regulations in respective countries::

- Epidemiological information;
- Clinical management and treatment practices and protocols;
- Virological and laboratory information;
- Infectious disease control measures in clinical settings;
- Public health and social measures; and
- Other scientific response.

2-2 The participants will exchange experts and officials if necessary to enhance capacity building through the cooperation of information and knowledge sharing and close communication.

3. Risk communication

The Participants will take the following measures to effectively provide accurate information to the public in the case of an outbreak of IDCC:

- Consider development of a joint declaration by health ministers of the Participants for a closer trilateral cooperation system
- Exchange experiences in the field of how to provide timely, accurate, and transparent information on infectious diseases through public disclosure of timely and accurate information and active communication with domestic and overseas media

- Create a mechanism for trilateral emergency rapid and closer communication through the IHR national focal points of Japan, Korea and China.

4. Scientific preparedness and response including research and development for medical countermeasures such as vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.

The Participants will share the available information regarding the status of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics for IDCC.

5. Expansion of cooperation

The Participants will strive to develop and improve prevention and response measures against IDCC and human capacity building by conducting activities as needed such as:

- carrying out joint risk assessment and exercises for preparing against IDCC occasionally after negotiations among the three countries; and
- conducting international joint table-top exercises and/or after action review including those supported by the World Health Organization, seminars and symposia by inviting other Asian countries to expand the scope of cooperation.

6. Condition

6-1. This Joint Action Plan will be carried out in accordance with the respective laws and regulations of the Participants and subject to the availability of personnel, resources and funds of the Participants.

6-2. Any disputes between the Participants that may arise from the interpretation or implementation of this Joint Action Plan will be settled amicably by consultations and negotiations between the Participants.

7. Modifications and Termination

7-1. The cooperation based on this Joint Action Plan will commence on the date of signature by the Participants, and will be in effect for a period of five years. The Participants should review every three years whether to renew this Joint Action Plan.

7-2. This Joint Action Plan may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the Participants. The cooperation will terminate in case of the occurrence of any special reasons by which the cooperation cannot continue by notifying the other in writing its intent to terminate the cooperation.