

**Joint Statement of
The 18th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting
Among the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and Japan
14 December 2025**

We, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, held the 18th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on December 14, 2025.

Since its inception in 2007 in response to cooperation on pandemic influenza preparedness, the Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting has continued to strengthen collaboration among the three countries in the areas of communicable disease control and regional health security.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the three countries worked in close cooperation and solidarity to overcome the health emergencies. Building upon this experience, the three Ministers adopted in 2024 a Memorandum of Cooperation on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR), which reinforced practical cooperation through information sharing, joint research, and expert exchanges. The Ministers also renewed the Joint Action Plan to enhance future preparedness for public health emergencies.

We further reaffirmed the importance of continued trilateral collaboration in strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and expressed our continued support for the World Health Organization (WHO) including the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), which plays an essential role in global health governance during health emergencies including pandemics.

Through the course of overcoming the pandemic, we reaffirmed the importance of sustainable and resilient health systems. Beyond infectious disease control, we emphasized the importance of further cooperation on broader health

agendas, including universal health coverage (UHC), healthy and active ageing, and mental health promotion.

AI and Digital Health for UHC

We acknowledged that, amid complex structural challenges such as population ageing, the rising burden of chronic diseases, and shortages of the health workforce, artificial intelligence and digital technologies serve as transformative enablers for achieving UHC.

The three countries will expand equity and accessibility of health services by utilizing various digital technologies—including telemedicine, mobile health, and AI-based diagnostic support systems—to overcome geographical and socio-economic barriers.

Priority will be given to strengthening digital health systems for rural and underserved areas. The three countries will share experiences on context-appropriate application of digital technologies within their respective health infrastructure and regulatory frameworks, and will promote integrated digital strategies to reinforce primary health care and community-based services as cornerstones for UHC.

Promoting Healthy and Active Ageing

We recognized that population ageing is a long-shared structural challenge and reaffirmed our common priority of enabling people of all generations to lead healthy and productive lives.

We emphasized the importance of policies that ensure adequate health and long-term care services throughout the life course and shared a common view to strengthen integrated care systems that enhance the quality of life of older persons. To this end, we will advance community-based services and person-centred care, and share experiences and best practices on relevant policies and implementation.

We reaffirmed that health promotion and the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are key pillars for healthy ageing, and consented to expand preventive approaches such as healthy diets, physical activity, weight management, and early screening. Cooperation will be strengthened to implement the regional action framework for noncommunicable disease prevention and control in the Western Pacific, while continuing joint efforts to train and empower the health and care workforce. The three countries also intend to harness AI and digital technologies to improve efficiency and quality of care delivery.

Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing

We recognized mental health as a critical public health priority that significantly affects quality of life and social sustainability. We consented to enhance cooperation in addressing anxiety, depression, loneliness and social isolation arising from rapid socio-economic change, urbanization, and digitalization.

We are committed to prioritizing life-course approaches to suicide prevention, including early identification of high-risk groups and timely intervention mechanisms. We will also promote the responsible use of digital tools—such as online counselling platforms, mobile applications, and AI-based risk prediction and diagnostic technologies—to strengthen suicide prevention capacities.

The three countries will continue to share policies and innovative practices in the field of mental health, and are determined to generate tangible synergies for mental health promotion and suicide prevention across East Asia through evidence-based policy cooperation.

We further consented to enhance collaboration with WHO including WPRO to improve public health, reduce health inequalities, and promote community wellbeing in the region.

The 19th Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting will be held in the People's Republic of China in 2026.