

JOINT STATEMENT OF
ASEAN-JAPAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING:
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND POPULATION AGEING
15 July in 2017, Tokyo, Japan

1. We, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations responsible for health from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and Japan gathered in Tokyo, Japan on 15 July 2017 on the occasion of the ASEAN-Japan Health Ministers Meeting: Universal Health Coverage and Population Ageing, in the spirit of unity and with the ultimate goal to achieve good health for all ASEAN and Japanese citizens.
2. We recognize the shared common value that health and well-being of the people is the cornerstone of human security and economic growth in ASEAN and Japan, thus deserves joint efforts to establish healthy and active societies.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to leaving no one behind, and to ensuring equity by focusing on the needs of *vulnerable populations, including the elderly, the poor, and the marginalized populations*.
4. We recall ASEAN's collective commitments in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN adopted in 2015, and our commitment to the Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health (2016-2020) and the Framework on integrated, people-centred health services adopted by the 69th World Health Assembly in 2016.
5. We emphasize that resilient, equitable, inclusive, affordable, sustainable, quality and efficient health systems will lay a foundation for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), following the joint statement made by the 5th ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers Meeting (APTHMM) in July 2012 in Phuket, Thailand and 6th APTHMM in September 2014 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam to improve the well-being of all citizens and to achieve sustainable development and equity for our society.
6. We recognize the value of various global programs, including by the WHO, the World Bank and other development partners, to harmonize, synergize and support UHC in partnership with ASEAN Member States and emphasize the need for continued health system strengthening.

[Population Ageing]

7. We recognize the growing trend of ageing populations in the region and the need to put in place the ASEAN Member States' policies and strategies based on available evidences in line with the SDGs and *the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda*, while leveraging the WHO's Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health.
8. We reaffirm the benefits of pursuing targets for Active Ageing and task our senior officials to do so through the ASEAN Japan Active Ageing Regional Conference in line with existing monitoring process.
9. We recognize the importance of addressing the emerging needs of ageing populations through encouraging community-based integrated care and functional recovery care of elderly people including human resource development among ASEAN Member States and Japan.

[Governance]

10. We commit to strengthen the quality and use of health statistics and information systems including civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) while supporting the work of the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, acknowledging the support of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the WHO, and Japan to monitor equitable access to health service, financial risk protection and to support planning and policies for population ageing.
11. We acknowledge UHC as one of the health priorities in the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and the progress made in each country under ASEAN+3 collaboration on UHC building on existing relevant monitoring system.
12. We support efforts to utilize the worldwide platforms such as "International Health Partnership for UHC 2030" to coordinate and consolidate efforts towards the achievement of UHC.
13. We recognize the importance of south-south and triangular cooperation for advancing UHC in ASEAN, including "The Partnership Project for Global Health and Universal Health Coverage" by Thailand and Japan as well as some other Asian countries, and "UHC for Children and Mothers" launched by Thailand, Japan, and the UNICEF.
14. We recognize that health development is a shared responsibility across sectors and support that inclusive participation of other sectors in the policy development process is a requirement to ensure the health are taken into account by all public and private polices (Health in All Policies (HiAP)).

[Health Financing]

15. We recognize the significant roles of UHC to ensure equitable access to health services and provide financial risk protection against catastrophic out-of-pocket

health expenditures, preventing medical impoverishment, particularly among the poor while committing to strengthen the national and regional capacity to monitor service coverage and financial risk protection, as part of the SDGs monitoring.

16. We reaffirm that investments to strengthen health systems through evidence-based and transparent prioritization methodologies including health technology assessment are crucial in the decision-making process towards UHC for the efficient and sustainable allocation of finite resources for health to achieve maximum health gains.
17. We emphasize the need for evidence in guiding health system strengthening toward UHC and support strengthening national capacities to generate, use and apply evidence, including in the form of international peer reviewed publications from various research agencies such as the WHO Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre), which plays the central role in promoting joint research and knowledge management on UHC in ASEAN Member States and Japan.
18. We recognize the need for continued research, including social and behavioural science as well as advances in technology and economic evaluations to better understand and manage the health and well-being of ageing populations.

[Service Delivery]

19. We commit to improve continuous access to affordable, safe, effective, and good quality essential medical products including medicines, vaccines, medical devices and technologies to prevent, diagnose, and treat health problems.
20. We commit to improve access to health services including mental health and rehabilitation services that will promote the older persons' integration and active participation in the community.
21. We support actions to promote joint researches and development of pharmaceutical products and medical devices to respond to health needs, while ensuring affordable price.
22. We commit to improve and harmonize the national regulatory system of pharmaceutical products and medical devices in ASEAN Member States through fostering collaboration and advancing regulatory science platforms such as the ASEAN harmonization systems and "Asian Training Center for Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices" by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) in Japan with technical assistance by the WHO.
23. We agree to build a sufficient capacity of motivated and adequately trained health workers to build a resilient health system through capacity building programs according to the country needs, such as the Japan-ASEAN Health Exchange Program, which plans to train human resources for health towards achieving sustainable UHC.

24. We commit to strengthen the resilient and sustainable health systems to be responsive to diverse health threats such as infectious diseases and disasters while strengthening the national implementation capacities of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and utilizing findings from the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) to address the capacity gaps.

[Way Forward]

25. We agree, in this context, to develop the ASEAN-Japan UHC Initiative, focusing on Population Ageing to achieve the above commitments toward sustainable UHC in ASEAN Member States and Japan by 2030 in line with existing initiatives, including the ASEAN Plus Three UHC Network and any other relevant initiatives.

26. We reaffirm our close collaboration between ASEAN Member States and Japan towards sustainable UHC while following up on the agreement in this joint statement of ASEAN-Japan and explore future collaborative forum in this regard.