

Closing comment by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan
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US-ROK-Japan Trilateral Meeting on
Vice President Biden's Cancer Moonshot Initiative

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As I stated in the previous session, behind solemn numbers, there lie countless pains and sufferings, endured not only by patients themselves, but also by families and friends losing their loved ones. We must listen to their voices, and summon our unbeatable courage and determination to overcome cancer.

I would like to express my deepest respect to Your Excellency, Vice President Biden, for your convicted aspirations for conquering cancer by opening up the new frontier.

Mr. Biden just told us the very vital necessity to increase access to cancer treatment and double the speed of progress to cure, mobilizing the best and the brightest across various fields including basic, translational and clinical research as well as computer science. He also ensured us to increase resources, both private and public, to fight cancer and break down "silos" and bring all the "cancer fighters" together. These challenges are indispensable components to end cancer.

Our Ministry will create a new network for advanced cancer research including precision medicine and immuno-therapy. This network will closely link proteogenomic database with high-quality clinical data to provide valuable information on cancer etiology and therapeutic modality.

Dr. Suematsu from the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, or AMED, and Drs. Nakagama and Mano from the Japanese National Cancer Center, or NCC, reiterated its importance in their interventions.

Data sharing across borders is indispensable. No single country can collect enough amount of data to build a database composed of prodigious amounts of information for precision medicine. Japan is ready to contribute to addressing our common challenges including data standardization and the development of basic technologies by bringing together the nation's best experts from various disciplines.

Ladies and gentlemen,

By consolidating unique strength of each country, I believe our three countries, gathered here today, can boost cancer R&D and contribute to the implementation of the “Cancer Moonshot” initiative with the goal of ending cancer as we know it.

With the further cooperation with the United States and Korea, Japan is fully committed to accelerate our actions against cancer for patients and families and for the future generations to come.

Thank you.