

Summary of Discussion of the 2nd Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare between the Philippines and Japan

1. The Second Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Joint Committee on Healthcare, which is a high-level consultative mechanism under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Committee) was convened in Manila on 17 March 2023, to foster continuous cooperation and dialogues under the framework of the MOC in the fields of Healthcare between the Philippines and Japan signed on 21 February 2019.
2. The Second Meeting was hosted by the Philippines and chaired by the Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Health, Dr. Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire. The Japan side was led by Mr. Naoki Ito, Ambassador of Global Health and Executive Director for Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Office.
3. The Joint Committee welcomed the Japan–Philippines Joint Statement in support of healthcare cooperation on the occasion of the Official Visit last 08-12 February 2023 to Japan of His Excellency Mr. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, in which both leaders expressed hope for future consultations at this Second Meeting of the Joint Committee.
4. The Joint Committee acknowledged the progress made by joint efforts of both countries in various areas of cooperation under the MOC since the 1st High-Level Joint Committee Meeting, hosted by Japan virtually, on 29 September, 2021.
5. The Joint Committee discussed updates on the joint projects and proposed initiatives on the various Areas of Cooperation under the MOC:
 - a. On promotion of ICT in the healthcare field, the Joint Committee presented updates on the Smart Wellness City Initiative, and reaffirmed their commitment to push forward its implementation along with other possible cooperation activities in this area.
 - b. Regarding Sharing knowledge on healthcare between Japan and the Philippines between the public and private sectors, the Joint Committee discussed each country’s initiatives on the promotion of medical tourism and public private partnership for health, and expressed its intention to further promote cooperation in these areas.
 - c. On advanced medical technologies, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, the Joint Committee welcomed updates on the current efforts for promoting global clinical trials in the Asia region. Furthermore, the Joint Committee looked forward to the signing of an MOC between the Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
 - d. On Universal Health Coverage, the Joint Committee decided to pursue capacity-building activities geared towards the advancement of

healthcare financing and the public health insurance system in the Philippines.

- e. On the development of human resources in the elderly care, the Joint Committee looked forward to the promotion of knowledge exchanges by developing reference materials for healthcare.
6. The Joint Committee acknowledged the importance of fostering initiatives with mutual benefit for both countries, and expressed support for the implementation of ongoing activities, and encouraged continued collaboration to cover all areas of cooperation outlined in the MOC.
7. The Joint Committee affirmed the importance of regular bilateral engagements in order to ensure the progress of the cooperative activities.
8. The Joint Committee looks forward to the third meeting of the Joint Committee on Healthcare to be hosted by Japan in 2024.