

Summary of Discussion of the 3rd Joint Committee Meeting on Healthcare between Japan and the Philippines

1. The Third Meeting of Japan - the Philippines 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 Tokyo on 18th July 2024, to foster continuous cooperation and dialogues under the framework of the MOC in the fields of Healthcare between Japan and Philippines signed on 21 February 2019.
2. The Third Meeting was hosted by Japan. It was co-chaired by Minister of State for Healthcare Policy, Ms. Sanae TAKAICHI from the Japanese side, and Secretary of Health, Dr. Teodoro J. HERBOSA from the Philippine side.
3. The Joint Committee acknowledged the progress made by joint efforts of both countries in various areas of cooperation under the MOC since the 2nd Joint Committee Meeting, hosted by Philippines, on 17 March 2023.
 - On Universal Health Coverage, the Joint Committee welcomed updates on the current effort toward capacity-building activities about healthcare finance system. Dr. HERBOSA expressed his expectations to push forward this effort.
 - On advanced medical technologies, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, the Joint Committee welcomed to progress the signing of an MOC between the Food and Drug Administration of the Philippines / Department of Health(DOH) and the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device Agency(PMDA) / the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and looked forward to the signing soon.
4. The Joint Committee mainly discussed about “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response” and “Cancer programs” and confirmed that both sides will continue to promote its measures, as described below:
 - On Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Response, the Joint Committee presented the Philippine’s Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health and Japanese emergency/disaster medical system.
 - On Cancer programs, the Joint Committee presented Cancer Prevention and Control and Research and Development in the Philippines and cancer control in Japan. The Philippine side expressed interest in cancer prevention, screening and cancer registry, and look forward to the promotion of knowledge exchange.
5. The Joint Committee affirmed the importance of regular bilateral engagements in order to ensure the progress of the cooperative activities.

6. The Joint Committee looks forward to the Fourth meeting of Japan - the Philippines Joint Committee to be hosted by Philippines in 2025.