

On-line Meeting for the 17th Conference on  
Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia

Meeting report

March 2023

Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health,

Tokyo Metropolitan Government



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## 1. Proceedings outline

- ◆ Name of meeting: 17th Conference on Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia
- ◆ Dates: January 30 (Mon.) to March 3 (Fri.), 2023
- ◆ Host: Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- ◆ Participating cities: Metro Manila, Seoul, Taipei, Tomsk, Tokyo

## 2. Purpose of this meeting

The objective of the Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia project is to build a strong and permanent network among experts and to conduct joint surveys and research.

Under this project, a meeting of the persons in charge of infectious disease countermeasures in the departments in charge of health in each city (the "Conference on Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia Project") is held every year on a rotating basis in each participating city.

In response to the global spread of COVID-19 that has continued since 2020, the 17th conference was held online with Tokyo Metropolitan Government serving as the secretariat, as the 16th conference in FY2021, with the expectation of further improvement in infectious disease countermeasures in each participating city by sharing information on current conditions, issues, and countermeasures in each city.

### 3. Content of the presentation

#### Metro Manila

“PHAP Foundation's Activities over the past year”

- Implementing the program on sustainable healthcare for the Azita region, a geographically isolated and disadvantaged area
- As disaster response activities, PHAP provided material reliefs for the May 2 earthquake in Surigao del Norte and the July 27 earthquake in Abra.
- Since 2003 to the present, over a billion medicines have been donated and 10,000 individuals have benefited from our medical outreach programs.
- We learned a lot from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health is a priority issue and the medical sector needs to be strengthened.

We want to take an innovative approach to getting things done with the government, medical communities, patients, other foundations, media, etc.

## Seoul

### “COVID-19 Response and Experience in Seoul”

- Expanding the organization of the Soul Citizen’s health bureau to effectively respond to COVID-19, Smart Health Division, Mental Health Division and Public Health Planning Group were established in 2022.
- In December 2022, the total amount of COVID-19 cases was 5.3 million, and in BA5 cases the proportion of women and young people increased.
- Introducing RPA (Robotic Process Automation) in order to deal with the increased workload of data aggregation and other tasks due to the increase in the number of infected patients, we improved operation efficiency with data processing capabilities that are three times faster than those of humans. In addition, an integrated management system was installed for multiple databases that had been existed separately and other infectious diseases will be added to the system in the future.
- To maintain a rapid and appropriate treatment system, we focused on home treatment (4.9 million in total in December 2022), while working to secure dedicated treatment beds. Also, to prevent infection in the home, free accommodations were offered for families of homebound patients to live in peace.
- Mental health support program has been enhanced to prevent the onset of depression caused by COVID-19 infection. The target population includes patients, their families, and staff of administrative agencies, etc.
- The compensation of adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination.  
 If payment for treatment is KRW 300,000 or more: covered by the national compensation.  
 If payment for treatment is less than KRW 300,000: apply to the city via the health center (33% compensation rate after causal relationship examination).



## Taipei

“COVID-19 experiences in Taipei: From rapid action to consulting an agile and resilient epidemic prevention system”

- The total number of cases in Taipei from 2020 to January 5, 2023 was 910,000, with an infection rate of 36.75% and 1,674 deaths.
- Omicron variants decreased the proportion of intermediate/severe cases to 99.6% of mild/asymptomatic cases.
- Triage by severity of illness helped maintain the capacity and the normal operation of medical institutions.
- Due to the serious pandemic, the number of tourists in Taipei has been declining, but by commandeering the hotel's resources as group granting centers, relief and prevention can be fulfilled.
- Applying medical resources of clinics to home care of mild symptom patients with chronic diseases.
- Using large plazas as Drive-through emergency outpatient service, accelerating the screening, diagnosis, and medication to prevent overcrowding of medical institutions.

“The prevention measures of the risk groups of HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic in Taipei.”

- The first outbreak occurred in an area with a high concentration of sexually oriented businesses; voluntary HIV counseling and testing was conducted in the area in May 2021.
- Implemented measures such as contact tracing for MSM group, online educational program for healthcare worker, patient education for health monitor, free self-testing-kits, free PCR screen station, and increasing vaccination rates
- Provided outdoor methadone maintenance therapy services for IDU
- Avoiding stigma and discrimination for the vulnerable groups

## Tomsk

### "Infectious Morbidity through COVID-19 Pandemic in Tomsk Region"

- In 2022, 468,769 cases of infectious and parasitic diseases were registered in Tomsk Region, which is 1.4 times higher than last year.
- Regarding diphtheria, community-acquired pneumonia, and acute respiratory infections
- The recommended (95% or more) level of coverage of preventive vaccinations against diphtheria, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, viral hepatitis B, and pneumococcal infection, has been maintained for many years.
- The number of trainees in the clinical residency in infectious diseases is to be increased by 20-30% in order to deal with the shortage of outpatient clinics.
- Elimination of chronic viral hepatitis requires additional funding of treatment programs on both national and regional levels.
- The prevalence of HIV infection requires further expanding of HIV testing:
  - to detect the disease early,
  - to continue active interaction with obstetric and gynecological service,
  - to expand the coverage of preventive care among pregnant women and women of childbearing

## Tokyo

### “Approaches of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government”

– Status and results from the 1st wave to the 7th wave –

- Looking back the measures taken against COVID-19 in Tokyo from 2020, the early years of the outbreak, to the most recent period.
- The first stage (from January to June 2020)  
 With the aim of reducing person-to-person contact by 80%, requests were made to a wide range of businesses to suspend operations and to citizens to refrain from going out. We also secured hospital beds and opened overnight treatment facilities utilizing private hotels.
- The second stage(July to October 2020)  
 A system was established to implement countermeasures based on the analysis of the infection status and medical care provision system by experts.
- Built Tokyo iCDC in October 2020, establishing a network of infectious disease specialists and playing a role as a "control tower" for Tokyo's infectious disease countermeasures.
- The third stage(November 2020 to March 2021)  
 This period when the number of infected patients increased significantly due to increased opportunities for year-end dinners. Intensive testing at elderly care facilities and ensuring medical treatment and testing systems during the year-end and New Year holidays were implemented.
- The fourth stage (April to October 2021)  
 The outbreak of the Alpha and Delta variant coincided with the holding the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The medical care systems were enhanced by strengthening the testing system and establishing "inpatient standby station" and "oxygen / medical care station".
- The fifth stage(November 2021to May 2022)  
 The period of rapid spread of infection due to the Omicron strain. The healthcare

provision system was improved.

- The sixth stage(June 2022～)

This period of explosive spread of infection due to the epidemic of Omicron strain's subline BA-5. New restrictions on activities were not imposed. The epidemic was overcome by strengthening the "Tokyo model" of the healthcare provision system and by encouraging Tokyo residents and businesses to thoroughly implement voluntary infection prevention measures.

“The Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s COVID-19 Response “

-Protect the Lives of Tokyo’s Residents-

- Compared to other countries, Tokyo, Japan, has kept the number of infections and deaths low.
- "Tokyo Model" :(1) temporary medical facilities, (2) recovery at designated hotels, (3) support for recovery at home, (4) health monitoring and home visits, and (5) vaccinations
- The people and businesses of Tokyo and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government work together to implement infection prevention measures.
- Provide information and launch consultation services to foreigners living in or visiting Tokyo.

#### 4. List of participants (presenters)

City	Name	Position, Organization
Metro Manila	Dennis Romerick G. Tuazon	Project Manager, PHAPCares Foundation, Inc.
Seoul	Haesook Seo	Director of Infectious Disease Research Center Citizens' Health Bureau
Taipei	Hui-Mei Chang	Division Chief of Disease Control, Department of Health, Taipei City Government
	Chen Chun, Wang	Director, Infectious disease division, Taipei City Hospital Kunming Branch / Vice director, Taipei City Hospital Kunming Prevention and Control Center
Tomsk	Yuliya Ermolaeva	Chief Infection Specialist, Tomsk Region Health Department
Tokyo	Mitsuo Kaku	Chief Director, iCDC (Tokyo Center for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control)
	Jun Negishi	Director, HIV/AIDS and Emerging Infectious Diseases Sec., Infectious Disease Control Div., Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
	Yoshitake Hayashi	Deputy Director, Disease Prevention and Information/Data Management Sec., Infectious Disease Control Div., Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
	Takashi Nakamura	Staff member, Disease Prevention and Information/Data Management Sec., Infectious Disease Control Div., Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health, Tokyo Metropolitan Government