~A Friend in need is a friend in deed~ Japan's support for Thailand to fight COVID-19

Embassy of Japan in Thailand September, 2021

1 Basic concept

- Japan speedily supports Thailand which is facing COVID-19 crisis with: ①Donation of vaccines and oxygen concentrators, ②Provision of cold chain equipment needed for vaccine transportation and storage,
 ③ Support for strengthening diagnosis systems and developing drug treatments.
- Japan and Thailand have been helping each other and deepening ties amid crises such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and the massive floods in Thailand in 2011. Japan remains committed to working together with Thailand toward "building back better".

2 Four pillars of Japan's cooperation

- (1) Donation of AstraZeneca vaccine (Approximately 1.35M doses in total)
- July 9th Arrival of 1.05M doses September 8th Arrival of 0.3M doses
- (2) Donation of 775 oxygen concentrators for COVID-19 patients (Total 1.8M USD)
- August 3th Cabinet Approval in Japan (Emergency Grant Assistance through UNOPS)
- (3) <u>Bilateral cooperation to promote research for strengthening virus surveillance and</u> <u>testing capabilities, and development of drug treatments (Total 5.5M USD)</u> Dispatching Japanese experts with necessary equipment for:
- Enhancing capabilities for pathogen analysis, virus mutation monitoring and vaccine quality control (National Institute for Health (NIH)) ,
- > Supporting research on antibodies to COVID-19 (Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University),
- Upgrading testing capabilities and speeding up diagnosis process for infectious diseases including COVID-19 (Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute)
- (4) <u>Cooperation with Thailand through UN agencies (Total 12.25M USD)</u>
- Renovation of National Laboratory at National Institute for Health (as part of financial contribution of 11.5M USD to WHO) The Laboratory is the core facility for monitoring viruses including COVID-19, research on diagnosis and treatment, vaccine development, and human resource development.
- Provision of cold chain equipment needed for vaccine transportation and storage (cold storage facilities, temperature measuring equipment, etc.) (Emergency Grant Assistance of 750,000 USD to UNICEF)

(5) Japan-ASEAN cooperation

Japan has made a contribution of 50M USD toward the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases to prepare for, detect and respond to emerging infectious diseases and public health crises. Japan will work together with Thailand, which has one of the most advanced public health systems in the region.



Handover ceremony on July $12^{\mbox{th}}$



Ceremony of renovated National Laboratory on June 21st