

Japan-Egypt Cooperation Initiative in Health Care Sector

On the occasion of the official visit to Japan of H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government of Japan and the Government of Egypt reaffirmed the recognition that enhancement of health and medical services is important for sustainable development of countries and society. In order to enhance health care system in Egypt, both governments concurred to strengthen bilateral relations in health care sector and to implement the following various bilateral cooperation:

1. Strengthening of Health Care System

Underlying the efforts of the Government of Egypt concerning national health insurance system for the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which was included in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the United Nations in 2015, the Government of Japan has decided to cooperate with the Government of Egypt in enhancing health care system and to send Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) fact-finding mission to Egypt. Both governments concurred to deal with various challenges in the future including exchange of experts and human resource development through training and other measures.

2. Human Resources Development

The most important aspect for the enhancement of health care service and improvement of system for implementing quality health care service is a human resource development for those who are engaged in health care. Both governments will strengthen cooperation to increase opportunities for physicians in Egypt for their studies in Japan and to enhance training opportunities for them both in Japan and Egypt, in coordination with medical institutions including universities and public and private hospitals. Both governments will also assist nurses in Egypt for their studies and trainings in Japan and Egypt, and work together to enhance training courses for nurses and their instructors in Egypt. In order to implement necessary cooperation for human resource development, JICA fact-finding mission has been sent to Egypt from the viewpoint of strengthening health system. The Government of Japan will also consider cooperation in the fields of hospital management and improvement of emergency medical care while carrying out training for medical staff in Japan and Egypt.

3. Maternal and Child Health

The Government of Japan has been contributing to enhancement of maternal and child health in Egypt by implementing various cooperation projects for Cairo University Pediatric Hospital since 1982. Both governments agreed to the provision of grant financial assistance by Japan to build facilities for improving medical services and to train medical staff in this hospital, based on the above-mentioned achievements. Both governments concurred to further implement cooperation in the future in order to strengthen maternal and child health in Egypt, and human resource development related to this area through training in Japan and Egypt, targeting not only Cairo University Pediatric Hospital but also public hospitals under Ministry of Health and Population in Egypt.

4. Cooperation with Private Companies regarding Medical Technology, Medical Equipment, Human Resources Development and others

Both governments expect the level of health and medical service in Egypt to be improved and the development of human resources engaged in health care to be advanced through the introduction and promotion of high-level medical technology, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals by Japanese private companies, with regards to countermeasures against both infectious and non-communicable diseases and promotion of IT in the medical field. The Government of Japan will consider JICA's overseas investment loans in order to support the above-mentioned Japanese companies' activities.

5. Cooperation for African Countries

Japan has been implementing trilateral cooperation for Sub-Saharan African countries in health care sector through Cairo University and other channels for a long time. As Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) VI is scheduled to be convened in 2016, both governments concurred to continue their cooperation in promoting trilateral cooperation among Japan, Egypt and Sub-Saharan African countries in various fields, including health care sector such as promotion of trainings for physicians and nurses and trainings on hospital infection controls and hospital management financed by both Japan and Egypt.