

Video message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI
At the ACT Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council

I would like to extend my appreciation for the progress made since the launch of the ACT Accelerator in May of last year toward the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics by the efforts of partners.

In order to tackle COVID-19, international coordination, especially cooperation through multilateral frameworks, is of critical importance. Japan has been a co-founder of the ACT Accelerator. We responded immediately to the call for contributions to the COVAX Facility. And we have provided financial contributions to ensure equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics for all countries, including resource-limited countries. In addition, Japan is also contributing to ACT Accelerator by increasing the supply of therapeutics, including through the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.

The immediate challenge facing the ACT Accelerator is to meet its financial needs. Therefore, on this occasion, I would like to announce that Japan will increase its commitment and contribute 200 million USD in total to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment. Furthermore, we are committed to work with the Global Fund on health systems strengthening and with Unitaïd on improving access to therapeutics.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage is critical in the COVID-19 response from the perspective of human security and “leaving no one’s health behind”. Also, strengthening health systems to be better prepared for future health crises, and generating an enabling environment for individuals and societies to be more resilient to infectious diseases, such as through nutrition, water and sanitation, are essential. Japan remains fully committed to tackling and overcoming COVID-19, hand-in-hand with the international community.