

International Symposium on Medical Cooperation in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Viet Nam and Japan Report

Viet Nam and Japan's Collaboration and Endeavor in the Field of Healthcare

"Viet Nam-Japan Stand Side by Side towards the Future, Reaching out to the World"

Friday, September 29, 2023

Ho Chi Minh City



BỆNH VIỆN
CHỢ RẪY



国際医療福祉大学
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE



ĐẠI HỌC Y DƯỢC
THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH

TAKAGI Kuninori, M.D., Ph.D.

Chairman, International University of Health and Welfare



The International University of Health and Welfare (IUHW) was founded in 1995 with the aim of nurturing health and welfare professionals who possess knowledge and skills to succeed globally. Since its opening, the university has accepted international students from various countries, mainly in Asia, to train them to be future leaders in the fields of health and welfare in their home countries. After 28 years, many graduates are playing active roles in their specialized fields on the global stage.

Vietnam and IUHW have built strong ties since 1997 through human resource development and medical cooperation. Some of the examples include long-term dispatch of IUHW faculty members for the management of Cho Ray Hospital, implementing a grassroots project to establish a support center for the persons with disabilities, the opening of an authentic Japanese-style health checkup center, “HECI,” in cooperation with Cho Ray Hospital, and the establishment of IUHW Scholarship and IUHW Medical Scholarship systems which cover tuition, course materials, transportation expenses, and dormitory fees.

Today, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan, we are holding the international symposium on medical cooperation together with you who have close connections with IUHW. Active discussions on prospects of the field of health and welfare are expected with experts representing universities and medical institutions in Vietnam and Japan with which IUHW has academic exchange agreements. It is my hope that this symposium will contribute to the further development of the field of healthcare in Vietnam and Japan.

Dao Hong Lan, M.Ec.

Minister, Ministry of Health of Vietnam



It is a great pleasure for us, who are working hard to develop the healthcare sector in Vietnam, to have a symposium on international medical cooperation in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan, jointly organised by the International University of Health and Welfare, National Cho Ray Hospital and University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City. We are pleased to host this symposium.

In particular, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the International University of Health and Welfare, with whom we have built a deep relationship of trust through human resource development, education and medical cooperation in the field of health and welfare since its establishment, and to all those who have travelled from Japan to attend this symposium.

In order to realise the theme of this symposium, 'Cooperation and Challenges between Japan and Vietnam in the Field of Health and Medical Care', I would like to conclude my address with the hope that one day Vietnam and Japan will join hands to contribute to the development of the health and medical care sector, not only in our two countries but also in the Asia.

the public and private sectors, for the development of Viet Nam and the further progress of cooperation between Viet Nam and Japan.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world and has the world's highest proportion of the aged population; 29% of the people are over 65 years of age out of approximately 120 million people. People's health has long been a national priority. By the time Japan and Viet Nam established diplomatic relations, Japan was known as one of the first countries in the world to achieve UHC, a system where all citizens have access to quality healthcare services when needed, without economic barriers. It now has one of the lowest perinatal mortality rates in the world. Meanwhile, Viet Nam is one of Asia's fastest-growing economies, ranking 39th in the world according to the IMF in 2022; it is so vibrant and is projected to be one of Asia's most significantly developing countries. The maternal and perinatal mortality rates continue to fall, although they are still high compared to Japan. Meanwhile, the population is ageing rapidly, and disease patterns are shifting from infectious diseases to non-communicable (lifestyle-related) diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

The symposium featured an opening session, five keynote sessions, and a panel session with 28 speakers, including government and private sector leaders and experts from both countries. The symposium chose three themes – “medical devices and medicines”, “human resources”, and “systems” - as an entry point for discussing the future.



'Of the 50 years of cooperation between Japan and Viet Nam, cooperation in the health sector has achieved great results.'

Many speakers looked back to the past before discussing the future. They then added:

"Health is the key to the future. We need a long-term perspective and investment, bearing in mind the rapid social changes with uncertainty. Through collaboration and cooperation in the healthcare field, we can further deepen the relationship between our two countries," and various recommendations were put forward.

Eight Key Points

1. Cooperation in the health sector has achieved significant outputs in the past 50 years

Many speakers, including Health Minister Takemi, looked back to the past before making recommendations on the future of healthcare, recognising that over the past 50 years, many efforts have been made in Japan and Viet Nam, which produced sound output and that there is now a very close relationship of trust. For example, The IUHW established a Human Health Check-up (HECI) with Cho Ray Hospital and transferred a system created in Japan called “Ningen-doc”. The partnership contributed to the people in Viet Nam and to raising the capacity of Cho Ray Hospital Staff.



The Cho Ray Hospital (CRH), the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP) in Viet Nam, and the International University of Health and Welfare (IUHW) in Japan co-organised an international symposium “Viet Nam and Japan’s Collaboration and Endeavor in the Field of Healthcare” on 29 September 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City.

Japan and Viet Nam are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in the year 2023. The symposium was organised as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary. The three institutes co-organised the symposium are in solid partnership while they have taken on various challenges in their own country over the years.

In line with the theme of the 50th anniversary, “Hand in Hand, to the Future, to the World “Việt Nhật đồng hành, Hướng tới tương lai – Vươn tầm thế giới”, the symposium discussed how Japan and Viet Nam can work together to confront future challenges in both countries. Health Minister Keizo Takemi of Japan, a world-renowned leader in global health, sent the video message stating that holding a symposium in the health sector with such a theme in an important year as the 50th anniversary would contribute to the further development of the two countries. He emphasised that Viet Nam and Japan established strong partnership, and Japan, as a host country, invited Viet Nam to the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting to discuss Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which Japan has committed over time.

More than 300 people attended the symposium: about 100 Japanese, including Dr Kuninori Takagi, Chairperson of the International University of Health and Welfare, and 220 Vietnamese, including participants in a Japan study tour programme organised by the IUHW as part of its 50th-anniversary project. The opening session was attended by Mr Nguyen Phuoc Loc, Deputy Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee and Chairperson of the Ho Chi Minh City Viet Nam -Japan Friendship Association. Mr Shige Watanabe, Deputy Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Viet Nam, praised the presence of so many participants from both Japan and Viet Nam, as well as the participation and discussion of representatives from





2. Choose wisely and make smart decisions

What Japan has experienced, Viet Nam is likely to encounter. Incorporating the experience of other countries and adapting to the context of one's own country is an efficient way to build the future. As the session deepened the understanding of the systems of the two countries, it was repeatedly mentioned that many aspects of Vietnamese and Japanese culture and customs are close and that what Japan has experienced, such as ageing, increase of NCD, increase of expectation for health services is likely to be experienced by Viet Nam. Task sharing with health coworkers has also been pointed out as a critical element for further improving the quality and efficiency of health services.



3. A model for new partnership: pharmaceutical regulation including review of drugs can become a new model of collaboration between Japan and Viet Nam

Pharmaceuticals and Medica Devices Agency (PMDA) was established in 2004 to overcome various challenges, including drug-lag (the delay in time of approval between Japan and other countries caused by longer time required for development and review for marketing approval of medicine and medical equipment in Japan). Viet Nam is facing similar challenges. Viet Nam can overcome those challenges with Japan sharing the experiences and knowledge and introducing a system such as a reliance/recognition pathway, which Viet Nam is now considering with the revision of the pharmaceutical law. This brings new solutions with new partnerships on pharmaceutical regulation.

4. Go beyond with Japan's future discussion

With the diversification of society in Japan, the government is trying to build an efficient, community-based healthcare system. If the future that Japan is discussing is also the future of Viet Nam, why not share information and learn from each other? It was suggested that the digital transformation, medical human resources, and lifelong learning that Japan is further developing with a view of the future could also be elements of the future for Viet Nam. The two countries should continue to share information and deepen discussions. Several Japanese speakers mentioned that Viet Nam could create a future ahead of Japan if it takes appropriate actions wisely to avoid what makes Japan's progress stagnant.

5. Future health requires new public-private partnerships with government leadership

When Japan was one of the first countries in the world to achieve UHC, it was through solid government leadership with people's health as a national priority. Health requires strong government leadership that engages relevant

agencies and involved public and private groups. Director Thuc of Cho Ray Hospital also introduced the Vietnamese leadership's commitment to health. Investing in health will change the future. Health Minister Takemi also mentioned in his video that government leadership in leading the future is even more critical as society rapidly evolves, including establishing regional health systems that effectively connect health facilities.

6. Partners exist that can contribute to the government's vision and can lead to further development by creating a win-win environment

With strong government leadership with vision and purpose, the private sector with a mission that can contribute to the purpose can play the role. It is a win-win approach and creates innovation. President Takiguchi of Canon Medical Systems and President Uehara of Taisho Pharmaceutical shared that the backbone of their 100-year journey has been their vision to contribute to people and society. With this vision, Mr Uehara has invested in Haow Zang Pharmaceutical and contributed to Viet Nam through its product quality and range achievements. Mr Takiguchi also introduced the proposed cooperation between the Japanese and Vietnamese governments and public-private partnerships.

7. Investment in human resources with a long-term vision is critical for future health system

Many speakers agreed with Chairperson Takagi of the IUHW. He pointed out that it is necessary to train not only doctors but also other medical professionals and fine-tune their collaboration system to improve the quality and efficiency of the Vietnamese healthcare system. Medical technology is evolving and developing rapidly. With this in mind, Chairperson Tuan of the UMP has been leading curriculum reform at the University. Deputy Director Trung of CRH, who has contributed to lifelong learning for medical professionals at the hospital, also suggested that a new system is needed and more investment in human resources is required.

8. Lead and create the Asian approach

Further deepening the relationship between Viet Nam and Japan can create a regional approach and contribute to other Asian countries. "Ningen-doc", a human health check-up created in Japan, are becoming popular in other Asian countries. Prof Shiomi of the IUHW suggested that pathology continues to evolve, with Japanese pathology reflecting the Japanese system in pursuing early detection and treatment. He suggested that a partnership with Viet Nam could create a new Asian approach. Chief Executive Fujiwara of the PMDA and Director General Dr Cuong of the MOH indicated that collaboration between Japan and Viet Nam could contribute to overcome pharmaceutical regulation challenges requiring for creating an international clinical trial system in Asia and to contribute to the establishment of a support system by joining hands. Hand in hand, Japan and Viet Nam could develop new approaches from Asia in various fields. Professor Itano of IUHW expressed the hope that when the international students from IUHW return to their home countries, they and their colleagues will serve as bridges for the future.

The cooperation between Viet Nam and Japan in the health sector made a significant achievement

Many speakers looked back to the past before making recommendations on the future of healthcare, recognising that over the past 50 years, many efforts have been made in Japan and Viet Nam, which produced sound output, and that there is now a very close relationship of trust.

Chairperson Takagi spoke about cooperative relations since he sent the hospital management expert to Cho Ray Hospital thirty years ago. He also established collaborations with the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City, the Hanoi Medical University and the Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy. He also shared his experience establishing a Human Health Check-up (HECI) with Cho Ray Hospital. Dr Takagi transferred a system created in Japan called "Ningen-doc". HECI was developed with strong support from Dr Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health, and Dr Nguyen Truong Son, Director of Cho Ray Hospital at the time. He observed the increase in staff capacity at Cho Ray Hospital to that of Japan working in HECI. The IUHW established a medical school in 2017 with the vision of bringing up Asian leaders. The IUHW has been providing scholarships to nurses and therapists and they expanded it to medical students from Viet Nam. The first batch of students graduated in March 2023, and all passed Japan's national medical doctor examination. He mentioned that there are Vietnamese people in the hospitals of the IUHW Group who can return to the country as soon as a drug for cancer is approved in Viet Nam. He expressed his hope that such a future will come soon.

Health Minister Takemi, a world-renowned global health leader, has visited Viet Nam several times, including in remote areas where ethnic minorities live. He observed that cooperation between Japan and Viet Nam in the health sector achieved many outputs and recommended advancing this cooperation further. Through such cooperation, he expressed his wish to improve the Vietnamese people's health and work together to achieve UHC in Vietnam and worldwide. Dr Nguyen Thi Phuong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Health, talked about how, over the past 50 years, Japan has provided various assistance, including policy formulation, training to improve the skills of medical personnel, construction of medical facilities and provision of medical equipment. Cooperation with Japan has often been comprehensive, effective, and sustainable, contributing to the health of the people in Viet Nam. She particularly appreciated the collaboration between the International University of Health and Welfare in Japan and Vietnamese universities and medical institutions, stressing that the medical sector has always been a bright light in the cooperation between the two countries.

Strategic partnership and Japanese cooperation

Mr Akihisa Shiozaki, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, mentioned the Memorandum of Cooperation in the medical and health sector agreed upon at the 2014 Summit and the Memorandum of Cooperation in the healthcare sector in 2019 in the presence of then Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, and spoke about activities being carried out based on these Memorandum in five areas: the hepatitis project, transfer of Japan medical technology "Tenkai project",

cooperation in the study of the amendment of the pharmaceutical law, international clinical trials network, and ASEAN Centre for Countermeasures against Infectious Diseases (ACPHEED).

The estimated number of people infected with hepatitis in Viet Nam is an overwhelming majority, approximately 10% of the population. The Japanese government supports surveillance and other activities based on Japan's experience. Japan has also provided 11 medical technical assistance in 2023, including improving the survival rate of paediatric tumour patients. PMDA has been supporting training for pharmaceutical and medical device regulators, holding a series of joint symposiums on pharmaceuticals and medical devices regulation. In addition, he mentioned that Japan plans to support the establishment of an international clinical trials network in Asia including Viet Nam.

He also mentioned about the infectious disease centre to control the spread of infectious diseases, the need for which was reconfirmed through the COVID response. The establishment of a Centre for Infectious Disease Control is underway in Viet Nam and other ASEAN countries. He stated that Japan had committed to contributing 5.5 billion yen to the Infectious Disease Control Centre at the ASEAN+3 meeting held during the COVID-19 response and looked forward to Vietnam's leadership in this area.

He shared that Prime Minister Phan Minh Chin told him that Japan is a special strategic partner for Viet Nam. Mr Shiozaki is committed to collaborating with Viet Nam and praised Dr Takagi's leadership and commitment to Viet Nam. *"Trust between the two countries had deepened further when we crossed the mountain of COVID together."* Mr Shiozaki mentioned.

Aiming to be a hub in Southeast Asia, responding to local voices and continuing to grow together with the ever-evolving medical care for life

The symposium featured speakers from a top Japanese company with over 100 years of history, Mr Toshio Takiguchi, President of Canon Medical Systems, and Mr Shigeru Uehara, President of Taisho Pharmaceutical. They are not only top Japanese companies but also top-class companies in the world, with Canon Medical Systems ranked fourth in the world in diagnostic equipment and Taisho Pharmaceutical seventh in the world in OTC (Over The Counter Drugs). Both presidents shared their experiences, the vision underpinning their work and contribution to Viet Nam and the world. Based on their experience, they also recommended the future collaboration of Viet Nam and Japan to become a health hub in Southeast Asia.

President Takiguchi touched on the company's history of developing a series of the first diagnostic pieces of equipment in Japan and the world since creating the domestically produced X-ray in 1915. Behind this is the slogan "Made for Life", which is a way of working together with patients and healthcare professionals. He explained that the company aims to contribute to ever-evolving healthcare and continue to grow by adhering to the three steps of 'understanding clinical needs', 'developing technologies' and 'utilising in actual clinical practice' amid changing social conditions, technological infrastructures, and economic trends. As an example, he introduced the development of a Multi Slice CT that enables the examination of coronary arteries by CT without inserting a catheter. As for global contribution,



the company is present in 160 countries and has established training centres worldwide, including Singapore, to ensure that the latest medical equipment is used effectively. In the future, the company will move towards contributing to personalised precision medicine by integrating diagnostic imaging and analysis with in-vitro diagnostics and biotechnology, with the aim of providing new value through the development of next-generation technologies with diagnostic imaging at its core. The evolution from 'morphological diagnosis' to 'dynamic diagnosis' and then 'functional diagnosis' is underway on the CT development axis. The development of Photo Counting CT (PCCT) is also being promoted in Japan. *"Based on our experience establishing HECI in collaboration with the International University of Health and Welfare, we would like to make further contributions to medical institutions expanding into Asia, using them as a hub."* He explained that he proposed to the Japanese government a new partnership approach between industry, government, and academia to build an evolving cooperative relationship with Asian countries. Each partner plays a role. Agreement and leadership at the government level are needed in building medical facilities and systems. The private sector provides medical equipment, and, as reaffirmed when speaking to the President of Hue University, the university can contribute to nurturing human resources healthcare workers, including coworkers.

President Uehara's Taisho Pharmaceutical was founded in 1912, has advanced over a century, and gained various experiences. Since entering Taiwan in 1963, the company has expanded globally, including in Asia: the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and now in Viet Nam. In Viet Nam, after starting production of Lipovitan in 1999, the company invested in Can Tho's Hau Giang Pharmaceutical in 2016 and made steps forward with a consolidated subsidiary in 2019. The sales have steadily increased from sixth to third ranking in Viet Nam, including foreign-affiliated firms. During these steps, Mr. Uehara listened to the local voice, responded to the Vietnamese Government's request, and made three contributions: to improve "production quality and efficiency", "product range", and "governance". He has introduced a Japanese quality control system to Hau Giang Pharmaceutical; as a result, 35% of products now meet the quality requirement of export and marketing in ASEAN countries. He explained that they are preparing to export the Hau Giang Products to other ASEAN countries. He also shared what he experienced and observed through his contribution and made recommendations for the future. Whereas Japan has taken gradual steps in accessing medicines, the current social development is more rapid and complex and requires government strong leadership. Japan experienced a drug lag (takes a long time for drug approval) compared to Europe and the US in the 2000s. Viet Nam also has a long drug review process, and the application documents are time-consuming. He explained that there are differences in approval between Japan and Viet Nam regarding production upgrades, and that without consensus, the country faces challenges in terms of 'medical standards', 'medical environment' and 'pharmaceutical system'. With Viet Nam's rapid social development and links with the international community, he suggested that Viet Nam could achieve even more significant development by setting medical vision and standards through government leadership, creating an environment in

which these standards can be operated over the long term and communicating this to the rest of the world.

Choose wisely and make smart decisions: adapt the future that Japan is already experiencing to its own country's context

What Japan has experienced, Viet Nam is likely to experience. Incorporating the experience of other countries and adapting to the context of one's own country is an efficient way to build the future. As the session deepened the understanding of the systems of the two countries, it was repeatedly mentioned that many aspects of Vietnamese and Japanese culture and customs are close and that what Japan has experienced is likely to be experienced by Viet Nam. The ageing of the population and the increase of NCDs, including hypertension and cancer that Japan has experienced are "future that has already begun" in Viet Nam. It was also commented that Japan's experience would be a helpful reference, as it is predicted that the public's interest in health and expectations for quality medical services will increase as society develops in Viet Nam.

Furthermore, the Vietnamese speakers also commented that the multidisciplinary approach Chairperson Takagi has been advocating for some time is critical to Viet Nam's future in terms of the quality and efficiency of healthcare. The Vietnamese speakers also pointed out that the community healthcare and the integrated community care system mentioned by Health Minister Takemi and the Japanese speakers are very important for the future of Viet Nam. Viet Nam can hold the strength of the community.

Although Viet Nam and Japan have many similarities, they also have different social backgrounds. These need to be considered and adjusted when incorporating Japanese experience and knowledge. Development in Viet Nam is more rapid and dynamic than in Japan. For example, ageing (raising the proportion of people aged 65 and over from 7% to 14%) took 24 years in Japan, whereas in Viet Nam, it is estimated to take 17 years. President Uehara of Taisho Pharmaceutical reminded participants that Japan had time to develop and access medicines by stages, from nutritional supplements and antibiotics to vaccines and antivirals, NCD drugs, anticancer and psychoneurotic drugs, while Viet Nam is in a situation where all medicines are accessible, like the leap from landline phones to smartphones. Speakers and participants from both countries shared this as an important context for discussing cooperation between Viet Nam and Japan.

Furthermore, both countries also stated that through COVID-19, their societies recognised the complex interdependence between health and various social factors. Incorporating meaningful Japanese experiences and technologies adapted to the context of Viet Nam has benefits in cost and speed. Dr Yasuhiro Suzuki, President of the International University of Health and Welfare, summarised this approach as choose wisely and make smart decisions for the future in the final panel session.

Review of medicines and pharmaceutical regulation as a new model of cooperation

The experience and technology of the agency, which Japan created to overcome various challenges it faced, can be helpful to Viet Nam when it meets the same challenges. The cooperation between the two has the

potential to develop further new mechanisms. PMDA was established in 2004 to protect the public health by assuring safety, efficacy and quality of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. PMDA conducts scientific reviews of marketing authorisation application of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, monitoring of their post-marketing safety. It is also responsible for providing relief compensation for sufferers from adverse drug reaction and infections by pharmaceuticals or biological products. Dr Yasuhiro Fujiwara, Chief Executive of PMDA shared that one of the backgrounds of the establishment was to bring functions dispersed in various departments and organisations in one place to be efficient and speedy in delivering safe and effective drugs and medical devices. He mentioned that the PMDA has advanced since it was established; for example, it initially consisted of about 250 staff, but the number has now increased to 1,400, including part-time staff, and that the speed of review and approval is now as fast as or faster than the systems in Europe and the USA. He shares his view that Viet Nam would face similar challenges like Japan. He exchanged opinions with Dr Vu Tuan Cuong, Director General of the Department of Drug Control of the Ministry of Health in Viet Nam. PMDA provides regulatory training to assist regulators in countries, and nearly 100 staff from Viet Nam have participated in it.

Viet Nam is currently amending its Pharmaceutical Law, which is due to be submitted to the National Assembly in May 2024. Japan has held shared information to support Viet Nam's ongoing revision of its Law. As President Uehara pointed out, the long time required for approval in Viet Nam, Director General Cuong acknowledged that it has a significant impact on access to medicines, and he explained that Viet Nam is considering addressing this issue by amending the Pharmaceutical Law, which is scheduled to be amended for the first time in seven years. They are also considering launching a reliance/recognition pathway, allowing countries to share data and simplify the review process. Dr Cuong stressed that this would undoubtedly speed up the review process and that, to this end, it was necessary for Japanese and Vietnamese regulators to share experiences and knowledge and have a possible way of close cooperation mechanism, which should be discussed in both countries. During the panel session, he also explained that similar discussions are underway in ASEAN countries and that Japan could build a base for supplying ASEAN through Viet Nam.

A clinical trial network system with Viet Nam in Asia is under development. It is the programme initiated under the leadership of Health Minister Takemi that brings Asian countries together to establish a system of international clinical trials in Asia. The system can create data from Asia, which brings more advantages, especially for diseases common in Asia. The programme brings countries in Asia together and facilitates the creation of an Asian approach to diseases and other special conditions. Director General Cuong appreciated Chief Executive Fujiwara for his support. He expressed his interest in creating a similar organisation in Viet Nam which advances partnerships to contribute not only to Viet Nam but also to Asia.

Viet Nam has the potential to build the future beyond Japan

With the diversification of society in Japan, the

government is trying to build an efficient, community-based healthcare system. If the future that Japan is discussing is also the future for Viet Nam, why not share information and learn from each other? It was suggested that the digital transformation, medical human resources, and lifelong learning that Japan is further developing with a view of the future could also be elements of the future for Viet Nam. The two countries should continue to share information and deepen discussions. Several Japanese speakers mentioned that Viet Nam could create a future ahead of Japan if it takes appropriate actions wisely to avoid what makes Japan put on hold. At the same time, Viet Nam's experience and knowledge will be important information for Japan in the future. Parliamentary Secretary Shiozaki said that the future relationship between Japan and Viet Nam would be different from the past, a strategic partnership where the two countries exchange information based on trust, cooperate, learn from each other, and build the future together.

Creating a future with vision and purpose

Considering the aspects of the rapid development of society, the complexity of interdependence of health and various social factors, which make it difficult for anyone to predict the future with certainty, the speakers stressed the importance of responding flexibly to social change while keeping vision and purpose. The International University of Health and Welfare has established more than 60 facilities, ranging from community-based hospitals, facilities for people with disabilities, and ageing facilities to highly specialised urban hospitals, guided by the vision of a *'society of living together' where sick, disabled, and non-disabled people can live in mutual recognition of each other.* President Takiguchi of Canon Medical Systems, which has the slogan 'Made for Life', explained that the company will continue to respond flexibly to changes in society, and walk along together with patients and medical professionals by creating new value through the development of next-generation technologies with diagnostic imaging at its core. President Uehara of Taisho Pharmaceutical, which has been making solid achievements in response to the Vietnamese Government's request, has the vision to act on diverse needs under the slogan "Besides your health". In addition, Director Thuc of CRH, which has a 100-year history and rebuilt the hospital with Japanese support, explained that the hospital has been working with four slogans: progressive, hospitality, high quality, and social responsibility. Adapting to changes in society, incorporating such as Japanese experience, he mentioned that he has been leading to improve the quality of medical services. He explained that the hospital has been working to improve its quality management, keeping in mind the instructions of the Ministry of Health and international standards. President Uehara also suggested that in a rapidly developing society, the government should show a vision of what level of healthcare provision should be aimed for, what should be done and how much resources should be allocated for this purpose, thereby creating a win-win situation where the public and private sectors work together towards the same mission and in one direction. *Just as President Ho Chi Minh has set the health of the Vietnamese people as his mission, setting health as a mission will change the future.*



Government leadership creates new public-private partnerships

Health Minister Takemi and Parliamentary Secretary Shiozaki also suggested that collaboration between the public and private sectors is essential to open up the future of the healthcare sector with an ageing society in mind. It is necessary not only to deal with the problems at hand but also for the public and private sectors to work together for the future. We need government leadership to bring together those who could share the vision and purpose. Health Minister Takemi introduced the idea that the ageing of the population in Viet Nam requires changes in clinical technology and systems. He mentioned that "community support hospitals (hospitals to back up other hospitals in defined geographical zones)" close to people and the community are needed. In Japan, this has evolved through the sharing of roles among medical institutions, both public and private. Former Health Minister Tien mentioned that Japan was a pioneer in UHC, and that Viet Nam has many things to learn from Japan. The community healthcare system is one of them. To realise this, public and private institutions in Viet Nam need to be networked. The International University of Health and Welfare, the Japanese co-organiser of this symposium, is a private group, but it is driven by the vision to contribute to society. This symposium with the government leaders and other private groups collaborating and participating reflects that. President Takiguchi mentioned that he suggested that the Japanese Government, based on the experience of collaborative joint operations of HECI where Cho Ray Hospital built facilities with advice from the Government, the International University of Health and Welfare provided technical guidance and support, and Canon Medical Systems installed medical equipment, that the Governments should lead in collaboration with the mission of people's health, while private institutions provide medical equipment and other services including technical guidance, and universities train human resources. New partnerships can be created with the government leadership with a vision and purpose looking into the future and the private sector with a vision of serving people. Coordination and cooperation are necessary for various situations to have high-quality output and effective use of limited resources: between the central and local governments, the Ministry of Health design the health system and universities and other educational institutions involved in training medical personnel, the non-health sector and the health sector. Government leadership looking into the future and connecting the relevant elements are essential.

Ho Chi Minh City is making progress in preparing for leadership

Viet Nam has leadership with all relevant agencies working together to implement the decision. Director Thuc of CRH mentioned that General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong had made the medical care and health of the people a priority in the summary of the 13th Interim Meeting of the Party Central Committee. He also mentioned that the Health Minister Dao Hoa Lao, has issued various directives to implement them, including measures to improve healthcare quality. Chairperson Tuan of UMP also mentioned that the Government is focusing on achieving human resources development targets in accordance with Central

Government Resolution 20. At the same time, Deputy Director Trung of CRH mentioned that he is trying to implement the Ministry of Health's directives. Dr Nguyen Van Vinh Chau, Deputy Director of the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health, said that the Government had given Ho Chi Minh City the mission to become the medical hub for the southern part of Viet Nam and the ASEAN. The discussions were ongoing to build an advanced and modern healthcare system, incorporating the world's most advanced technologies. They have four focuses: developing a regional healthcare system that effectively responds to the ageing population, disease prevention, emergency healthcare covering the whole southern region, and highly specialised healthcare. Viet Nam has a vision of building the future with people's health at the centre.

The approach to building the future and the need to look at the whole picture

While addressing many problems in front of us is important, another approach is needed to build the future. Director Thuc of CRH shared in his speech with the title "Strengthening consultation and treatment management activities in hospitals: the future of quality and medical services", that in line with the Government's leadership, they first imagined and discussed the future of the medical areas to be covered and the quality of medical care, and then identified and took various actions intending to be a model for other hospitals in Viet Nam. The HECI, created in collaboration with the International University of Health and Welfare, is one such example and is the first "Ningen-doc (human health check-up centre)" in Viet Nam; the HECI is equipped with the most advanced medical equipment in the world and monitors the health of more than 10,000 people, with about 3,000 people being checked in 2022. This is realising the vision of former Health Minister Tien and former Vice Minister Son, then Director of Cho Ray Hospital, that "as the economy develops, people raise awareness of health and the quality of medical services". The "Ningen-doc" is the medical service that was first created in Japan and is becoming popular in Asia, and *demand is expected to increase further in the future.*

Improving healthcare technology and quality through partnerships

Through its partnership with Japan, Viet Nam has effectively raised the standard of medical care. Director Thuc cited the medical staff's high expertise, including in pathology, image diagnosis, internal medicine, and endoscopy, as another reason for winning the trust of more than 10,000 people using HECI. We now have the ability to achieve the same level of results as in Japan. He explained that this resulted from sending staff to Japan for training, having Japanese experts in HECI work with Vietnamese staff, and creating a remote diagnosis system link with the International University of Health and Welfare.

Professor Shiomi of the International University of Health and Welfare, who has been an expert in telepathology for the past 12 years, has been involved in the HECI since the preparatory stages of its establishment. Pathologists play a very important role, called doctor's doctor in English. The pathology diagnosis at HECI, which initially differed from Professor Shiomi's opinion by more than 50%, is now almost 100% the same. The pathology at Cho Ray

Hospital is now reported to be completely comparable to that of the Department of Pathology at the International University of Health and Welfare. Dr Shiomi remarked, "When we work in partnership to advance medical care, we both make discoveries and evolve." In addition to training doctors, the IUHW has also contributed to improving accuracy by training laboratory technicians and building a system for pathology diagnosis protocol, which requires many steps in HECL.

Professor Itano of the Department of Gastroenterological Surgery at the IUHW, a highly skilled doctor who has served as an attending physician to the VIP of the Viet Name, has formed a cooperative relationship with Professor Le Quan Anh Tuan of the Department of Gastroenterological Surgery at UMP. They regularly hold teleconferences to provide an opportunity for mutual learning. He has performed open surgeries in Viet Nam on several occasions, and again this time he performed state-of-the-art surgery in conjunction with the symposium and discussed it with the UMP. Professor Itano reported that partnerships certainly contribute to enhancing each other's medical skills. At the same time, he pointed out several challenges that need to be overcome. He pointed out that partnership requires a mechanism to sustain the activities; he also pointed out that there is less in English but a barrier in the local language. He shared that in discussions with Professor Tuan, both agreed that Viet Nam needs to introduce a multi-professional approach as the IUHW practices.

Importance of investing in the healthcare workforce

The Healthcare workforce is a cornerstone of the quality and efficiency of healthcare. It requires long-term investment in various professions. Professor Yutaka Yatomi served as President of the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine, the Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine, the Japanese Society for Medical Instrumentation, and the Japanese Society for Laboratory Haematology, and is currently Dean of the Graduate School of the IUHW. He explained how important the development of diverse medical professions and a team approach is for the future. In 1995, the IUHW Group, which manages more than 60 medical institutions throughout Japan, established Japan's first university with multiple departments to train people in healthcare and welfare services. This was in response to the need to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare by cultivating the leader in their field who can foster and collaborate with other professions in healthcare, each with their own expertise. In a mature and ageing society, the needs for health and welfare services are diversifying, and the medical and welfare professions are becoming more specialised and segmented. Making a multi-professional team approach is critical in securing and for providing safe and high-quality medical and welfare services. To put this into practice, the IUHW focuses on inter-professional education (IPE). Based on his experience at HECL of doctors carrying out tasks which performed by laboratory technicians in Japan, Chairperson Takagi advised that training not only doctors but also other medical workers, including laboratory technicians, is necessary to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare and meet the needs in Viet Nam. Dr Tran Diep Tuan, Chairperson of the Ho Chi Minh University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP) got a PhD from the University

of Tokyo and postdoctoral fellowships in Japan and the USA. He has been trying various reforms in university education to make UMP a leading and internationally recognised institution in Viet Nam. In a session on 'Future Medical Human Resource Development', he pointed out that Viet Nam also focuses on medical human resources, but there is still a shortage of nurses, etc. UMP has also introduced a programme of inter-professional education (IPE), the first of its kind in Viet Nam. The distribution of medical human resources is also an inverted pyramid from the centre to the field level, and it was pointed out that it is important for the health system planning and university training programmes to be connected, filling the gaps and aiming for more effective human resource development. Health systems require good human resources. It requires long-term investment. As a new challenge, the International University of Health and Welfare will also open a Graduate School of Public Health (Professional Degree Programme) to train highly specialised public health professionals. Like the School of Medicine in IUHW, this course is structured to accept students from Asia and will be taught in English

Technological evolution and lifelong learning

Healthcare continues to evolve. President Takiguchi stated that to contribute to ever-evolving medical care, the company must continue to grow together with clinicians. He shared the example of evolution with multi-slice CT that takes multiple cross-sectional images in one rotation and can examine a heart coronary artery in 10 minutes without hospitalisation, which can replace catheterisation using X-rays, which previously required hospitalisation and surgery. He also mentioned establishing a learning network to support clinicians using state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Professor Shiomi explained that 20 years ago, the pathological diagnosis was considered an 'existence diagnosis'. In Japan, it has evolved into a 'treatment evaluation diagnosis', where treatment is assessed, and has further developed into a 'treatment decision diagnosis' with genetic analysis. Professor Itano also introduced state-of-the-art technology to clarify the area to be resected and 3D imaging in the surgery performed in Ho Chi Minh City this time.

Chairperson Dr Tuan pointed out that medical knowledge is changing quickly, doubling every 50 years in the past is now doubling every 73 days. He introduced third-generation competency-based education which UMP adopted as part of their reform. This education system aims to equip students to learn and adapt throughout their lives.

Dr Lam Viet Trung, Deputy Director of Cho Ray Hospital, who has also trained in Japan, is a clinician with experience in many surgical procedures using endoscopic and robotic surgery, spoke on the theme of 'Lifelong Learning in Medicine'. He explained how medicine is becoming increasingly complex, while the expectations of patients and relatives are becoming higher and higher, and he emphasised that medical leaders need to understand and grasp developing trends and life-long learning is essential. In Viet Nam, continuing medical education has been recognised and implemented since the 1950s, and Cho Ray Hospital has trained more than 10,000 doctors and nurses as a training centre. He suggested a stronger professional association and a more systematic system are needed to provide appropriate medical care as medicine advances.



The need for lifelong learning to strengthen and update the knowledge and behaviours of healthcare professionals in line with evolving medical technology was an issue raised at a forum held by the International University of Health and Welfare in March 2023, bringing together top Asian universities, including UMP. It was suggested that hospitals and universities providing training could play a new role in the need for lifelong learning.

Approaches from Asia

"Ningen-doc" was created in Japan and became popular in Asia but not elsewhere. Prof Shiomi introduced that in Japan, pathologists diagnose cancer at a very early stage, which is different from other parts of the World, and that HECI also enables early detection and treatment. Chief Executive Fujiwara, PMDA, proposed that joint international clinical trials be conducted for diseases common in Asia, such as hepatitis and biliarypancreatic cancer and proposed establishing a system to collect and review the necessary data from the region. Director General Dr Cuong also suggested that Viet Nam is interested in and has the capacity for joint international clinical trials in Asia. In many cases, Asia has taken a different approach to dealing with COVID-19 than the West. Creating a system in Asia to collect evidence on various infectious and non-communicable diseases is necessary. Collaboration with Japan and Viet Nam can develop an approach in Asia and contribute to the world.

Discussions and experiences in Japan that Viet Nam may also experience: comprehensive community care.

The community is a foundation for developing an ageing society in the future. In the video message, Health Minister Takemi touched on the importance of community-based healthcare systems in the context of an ageing population. Dean Yatomi also shared that there is ongoing reform under the government's leadership, aiming at making people live with dignity and a safe, secure, and independent life in their own community. Home-based care and cooperation between different health professions are key elements to make that happen. It is estimated that the proportion of older people in Japan will exceed 30% by 2025, and the number of people with dementia will exceed seven million. Dr Yatomi also emphasised that short-term inpatient care and long-term care in the home to support their life is the core system to cope with the rapid increase of people with diverse and complex conditions. The nursing profession is going to play an important role. Dr Toshiko Fukui, Vice Dean of the Graduate School of the IUHW, was a former president of the Japan Nursing Association (JNA) and served as a leader of the nursing profession in Japan. She made the JNA vision of 2040, generated many ideas from the vision and translated them into action. The foundation of an "integrated community care system" is in the community; care needs to be integrated. The nursing profession requires skills that fit the community's needs, a perspective on daily life and living environment, and the management capacity to enable collaboration with other professionals in the community. The core of this practical capacity is the "ability to support decision-making", "ability to understand needs", "ability to collaborate" and "ability to care". The JNA also put

effort into developing the clinical ladder to assess these nursing skills. Professor Fukui moved to the Graduate School of IUHW, which will open a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) course in April 2024 to help students acquire these competencies.

Japan's experience and discussion of what Viet Nam may also experience: the Japanese obstetric health care system

Providing an accessible and better environment made successful output in delivering babies. Japan has achieved one of the lowest perinatal mortality rates (PMR). It is the country with the smallest number of baby deaths in the world. Dr Tomoyuki Fujii, Director of Sanno Hospital, who led this as President of the Japanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, explained the process and challenges. One essential element is the perinatal system that has shifted births from home to facilities. There are 112 comprehensive perinatal maternal and childcare centres, 296 regional perinatal maternal and childcare centres and 1,945 childbirth facilities nationwide, and 98% of pregnant women can access a facility within 30 minutes and give birth. Japan is now transforming the system to the next stage, consolidating facilities, and improving the working environment. In addition, while keeping safety as a principle, as the birthrate declines, shifting from "management care" to "supportive obstetric care" to meet the expectation of more comfortable medical services.

Advice from experts who have contributed to system-building in Japan and Asia.

The experienced and well-known experts participated and discussed in the final panel session, including former Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Mr Toshihiko Suzuki, who has been involved in developing Japan's system for a long time and is now Vice-President of the Japanese Red Cross Society; Dr Shinya Matsuda, Director of the Institute of Social Insurance Policy in the IUHW, who contributed in system development by submitting evidence; and the Visiting Professor, Dr Takeshi Kasai of the IUHW, a former Regional Director of the Western Pacific of the World Health Organization.

Director Matsuda touched on the importance of workplace and community health check-up systems, which have already been introduced in Viet Nam. In Japan, citizens aged 40 and over are always entitled to an annual health check-up covered under health insurance. Workers at the workplace are also obliged to undergo a medical check-up once a year. He stressed the importance of improving the quality of these check-ups. In addition, many Vietnamese workers come to Japan, and he suggested that a system could be created to provide medical check-ups and medical services that transcend language barriers, including for their families. Former Vice-Minister Suzuki touched on two points that complement the symposium discussion. The first point is that referring to the concept of the Social Common Capital proposed by the Japanese economist Dr Hirofumi Uzawa, he mentioned that healthcare is a social security, and it must function as a stabilising device for society and support the people's livelihood. To this end, it is essential to put elements required for providing medical care in place, such as medical equipment and medicines, human resources, and the

medical system discussed at the symposium, and establish economic mechanisms to ensure these elements' proper and sustainable operation. Japan has launched universal health insurance as a mechanism for this, obtaining people's consent and establishing a law. The second point concerns what Japan has detoured and struggled with for quite some time. The more society matures, the more it creates diversity and complexity in society. Therefore, it is necessary to have a system that properly understands individual needs and provides integrated service that fits their needs. He suggested that if such a system is designed with this in mind, Viet Nam may promptly create the right system. Visiting Professor Kasai mentioned that he was asked by the Ministers in the region when he became Regional Director to develop guidelines for actions to change the future, not just respond to challenges in front of us, given the rapid development of society and the increasing uncertainty. The discussion generated two approaches; one is called the "backcasting approach". Not just respond to the issue in front, but consider action with the future vision and think backwards from that future. The second approach is to connect countries with countries that have already experienced the future of their own country and incorporate and adapt it to their own context. This symposium made discussion that embodied these two approaches. The partnership of CRU, UMP and IUHW has vast potential to translate that discussion into action and contribute to the future of both countries. He also pointed out that further deepening the partnership would raise the standard of medical care in both Japan and Viet Nam.

Hand in hand, to the future, to the world

The final panel session was facilitated by Dr Yasuhiro Suzuki, President of the International University of Health and Welfare, who served as the first Chief Medical Officer (Vice Minister) of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. He concluded by asking Parliamentary Secretary Shiozaki and former Health Minister Tien for their impressions of the symposium. Former Minister Tien said: *'I have listened to the discussions for eight hours since this morning, and it was wonderful to have a symposium that was such a learning experience and an opportunity to think about action to change the future. It will play an important role in further development'*.

Parliamentary Secretary Shiozaki added: *"Viet Nam is a special strategic partner of Japan, and after listening to today's symposium, I felt that a win-win relationship of mutual harmony and benefit would be built in the future between Viet Nam and Japan in various aspects of diplomatic relationship, economy and culture. I believe that the healthcare sector can be a catalyst for Japan and Viet Nam to share the bright future and collaborate for that future."* He added it would be wonderful to build a hospital with the cooperation of the Vietnamese Government and Ho Chi Minh City based on the partnership that President Takagi, who has so much experience and vision in Japan, has built up. Finally, President Suzuki concluded that Viet Nam and



Japan face similar challenges such as ageing, drug lug and digital health transformation. If Viet Nam and Japan work hand in hand to build a win-win relationship, we can create a very positive future. Both Viet Nam and Japan have to protect the health of their people and have the right and duty to think of ways to do so. There is an option to start with our own way, but as we have seen many times in the discussion, there is also an option to choose what is useful for our country from among the countries that have already experienced it: choose wisely and make smart decisions. He closed the symposium by saying, *"I hope we were able to be a part of that"*.

For the future

One of the goals of the International University of Health and Welfare is to nurture global leaders, and one in seven students in the medical school is from Asia. They left their home countries and worked hard for six years in a setting where they also had to learn non-native languages. The first group of students graduated in March 2023, and all passed Japan's national examination for medical doctors. Professor Itano praised them and expected them to become bridges between Japan and their home countries and even cooperate with each other to conduct international joint clinical trials.

Dr Dang Tan Huy, one of the first groups of students, also took the stage. He is studying mainly gastroenterology at Takagi Hospital in Fukuoka City for his initial clinical training, which is mandatory for those who have passed the Japanese national examinations. After two years of compulsory internship, he is obliged to work in his home country for seven years under the guidance of the university nominated him. He shared his dream: *"I will improve my endoscopic skills in Japan and contribute to my country through preventive medicine in Viet Nam by early detection and treatment"*. The six years of friendly competition with students from different countries, away from his own country, must have improved his medical skills and personality. With the expectation that the graduates will lead the future of Asia, the International University of Health and Welfare will continue to train future leaders in partnership with universities in Viet Nam.





English

PROGRAM / TIMETABLE

Main Theme

Vietnam and Japan's Collaboration and Endeavor in the Field of Healthcare

Vietnam-Japan stand side by side towards the future, reaching out to the world

Presenters : Vuong Thi Ngoc Lan, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City
KAKUDA Wataru, Professor and Chair, IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine

Greeting

9:00~

Chairman, International University of Health and Welfare	TAKAGI Kuninori
Deputy Minister of Health of Vietnam	Nguyen Thi Lien Huong
Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (video message)	TAKEMI Keizo
Deputy Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee	
Chairman of Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association Ho Chi Minh City	Nguyen Phuoc Loc
Embassy of Japan in Vietnam Deputy Minister	WATANABE Shige

Keynote Speech I : Future healthcare system

9:40~

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan	SHIOZAKI Akihisa
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Coffee Break

Keynote Speech II : Medical devices and drug development

10:40~

Senior Managing Executive Officer, Canon Inc., President & CEO, Canon Medical Systems Corporation	TAKIGUCHI Toshio
Chief Executive Officer of Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd	UEHARA Shigeru

Keynote Speech III: Authorization process of drugs and clinical trials in southeast Asia

11:50~

Director of Drug Administration - Ministry of Health of Vietnam	Vu Tuan Cuong
Chief Executive of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency	FUJIWARA Yasuhiro

Lunch

Keynote Speech IV: Healthcare field in the future and quality assurance

13:35~

Director of Cho Ray Hospital	Nguyen Tri Thuc
Professor and Chair, IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Pathology Director, IUHW Narita Hospital, International Remote Diagnostic Center	SHIOMI Takayuki
Professor and Chair, IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Surgery Director, IUHW Narita Hospital, Digestive Diseases Center	ITANO Osamu
Hospital Director, Sanno Hospital, Chief Professor, IUHW Group Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (Former Chairperson of the Executive Board, Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology)	FUJII Tomoyuki

Keynote Speech V : Developing the health workforce of the future

14:55~

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, UMP	Tran Diep Tuan
Dean of IUHW Graduate School	YATOMI Yutaka
Vice-Dean of IUHW Graduate School	FUKUI Toshiko
Deputy Director, Cho Ray Hospital	Lam Viet Trung
IUHW School of Medicine 1st Graduating Student	Dang Thanh Huy

Coffee Break

Panel Discussion

16:25~

Topic : Health and medical services in the future**【Moderator】** President of IUHW SUZUKI Yasuhiro**【Panelist】**

<Vietnam>

Former Minister of Health of Vietnam	Nguyen Thi Kim Tien
Deputy Director of Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health	Nguyen Van Vinh Chau
Director of Drug Administration - Ministry of Health of Vietnam	Vu Tuan Cuong

<Japan>

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan	SHIOZAKI Akihisa
Chief Executive of the Japan Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency	FUJIWARA Yasuhiro
Vice-President, Japanese Red Cross Society	SUZUKI Toshihiko
Executive Supervisor of the IUHW Group Former WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific	KASAI Takeshi

Overview

17:25~

President of IUHW	SUZUKI Yasuhiro
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Keynote Speech

SHIOZAKI Akihisa

Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Labour and Welfare

Mr. SHIOZAKI Akihisa was appointed as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare in September 2023.

He is a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member of the House of Representatives (HR).

Mr. SHIOZAKI graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1999, completed master's degree in International Policy at Stanford University Graduate School in 2000, and completed master's degree in Management at Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. He was registered as attorney in 2002.



TAKIGUCHI Toshio

Senior Managing Executive Officer, Canon Inc., President & CEO, Canon Medical Systems Corporation

Mr. TAKIGUCHI Toshio was born in 1958. He graduated from Faculty of Engineering, the University of Tokyo in 1980. He started his career at Clinical Laboratory Systems Engineering Department of Toshiba Corporation. He was appointed as Marketing Manager at Toshiba Medical Systems Corporation in 2000, then he served as Deputy Sales Manager in National Sales Division, General Manager in Business Development Department, Vice President. He became President and CEO in 2014. By the business integration with Canon Inc., he was also appointed as Senior Managing Executive Officer, Canon Inc. in 2017.



UEHARA Shigeru

Chief Executive Officer, Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Mr. UEHARA Shigeru has been the Chief Executive Officer of Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. since 2012. He joined Taisho Pharmaceutical in 2000 and was transferred to Abbott Laboratories in the United States. After obtaining MBA degree at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, he returned to Taisho Pharmaceutical in 2006 where he took different leadership positions such as leading its prescription medicine business. During his tenure as the CEO since 2012, Taisho expanded its business across Europe and Africa by acquiring a French pharmaceutical manufacturer, UPSA, in 2018. In the following year, in 2019, Taisho Pharmaceutical acquired DHG Pharmaceutical. Under Uehara's leadership, Taisho Pharmaceutical has been improving Vietnam's local drug quality and access through obtaining Japanese GMP certificate at DHG's factory and through transferring Taisho's production technologies as well as out licensing the firm's products.



Vu Tuan Cuong

Director of Drug Administration - Ministry of Health of Vietnam

From April 2018 to the present, Director Vu Tuan Cuong has been the Director-General of the Vietnam Pharmaceutical Administration. Previously, he was Deputy Director of the Health Department of Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam, and a professional pharmacist II (Ph.D. equivalent). In 2017, Director Cuong was one of 66 people honored as "Typical intellectuals in science and technology" by the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations.



FUJIWARA Yasuhiro, M.D., Ph.D.

Chief Executive of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)

Dr. FUJIWARA Yasuhiro has taken his position as Chief Executive of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) since April 1, 2019. He is a Vice-chair of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) since October 1, 2019

Dr. Fujiwara was previously Director-General of, the Strategic Planning Bureau of the National Cancer Center, and the Deputy Director of the Hospital, National Cancer Center Hospital. He is a medical oncologist, specializing in breast cancer. Between Jan 2011 to Feb 2013, he was a Deputy Secretary General of the Office of Medical Innovation, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan, and led health policy issues regarding life science.

Dr. Fujiwara has authored or co-authored over 280 original articles in peer-reviewed journals including Nature Reviews Drug Discovery, Lancet Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, and Annals of Oncology. He is an active member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (between 2003 and 2006, he was the International Affairs Committee's member), and a Board Member of the Japanese Society of Medical Oncology (JSMO) (He was the President of the 2019 JSMO annual meeting, held in Kyoto). He is on the Editorial Board of Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology; Cancer Science; Asian-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology; Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology.



Nguyen Tri Thuc, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Cho Ray Hospital

Former General Director of Cho Ray Phnom Penh Hospital. From 2019/11 to present, he is Director of Cho Ray Hospital, Member of the 15th National Assembly (7/2021), Deputy Head of the Faculty of Medicine - Nguyen Tat Thanh University. He has successfully implemented many new methods and techniques in the field of diagnosis and treatment of Arrhythmias and Cardiovascular Diseases. He has also published nearly 100 articles in prestigious domestic and international journals, participated in reports and chaired domestic and international conferences on Arrhythmia and Hospital Quality Management. Research areas of interest: Cardiology, Arrhythmia, Antibiotic resistance, Hospital Infections, Total quality management, Organ transplantation. Awards: National Outstanding Young Person (2007), Outstanding Young Physician of Vietnam (2011), Certificate of Merit from the Prime Minister (2012), Meritorious Doctor (2017).



SHIOMI Takayuki, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Pathology Vice-Dean, IUHW School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Director, IUHW Narita Hospital, International Remote Diagnostic Center

Prof. SHIOMI Takayuki graduated from Keio University, School of Medicine in March 1998, and further earned a Ph.D. in medicine. After serving as Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University from 2010 to 2015 and Research Scientist at New York University from 2015 to 2017, he joined the IUHW School of Medicine as Pathology Professor in 2017. Prof. Shiomi has been holding key positions at IUHW, including Director of Narita Campus's Center for Basic Medical Research since 2018, Professor and Chair of the IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Pathology since 2019, Director of the Department of Anatomic Pathology and International Remote Diagnostic Center at IUHW Narita Hospital since 2020, Deputy Hospital Director of IUHW Narita Hospital since 2022. Prof. Shiomi currently serves as Councilor of the Japanese Society of Pathology and the Japanese Society for Matrix Biology and Medicine.





ITANO Osamu, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Surgery
Director, IUHW Narita Hospital, Department of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic and Gastrointestinal Surgery
Director, IUHW Narita Hospital, Digestive Diseases Center

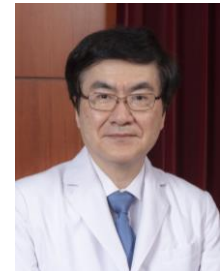
Prof. ITANO Osamu graduated from Keio University, School of Medicine in March 1992, and further earned a Ph.D. in medicine. In 2003, he became a post-doctoral fellow at Cornell University, Strang Cancer Prevention Center in New York, U.S.A. Prof. Itano holds various certifications in his specialty areas: Qualified Surgeon (Endoscopic Surgical Skill Qualification System) of the Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery, General Clinical Oncologist of Japanese Board of Cancer Therapy, Board Certified Instructor of Japanese Society of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Board Certified Instructor of Japan Surgical Society, Board Certified Instructor of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterological Surgery, Board Certified Surgeon of the Japan Society for Transplantation, and Board Certified Hepatologist of the Japan Society of Hepatology. Prof. Itano has been holding positions as Supporter for Director of Japanese Society of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery since June 2020 and Director of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterological Surgery since July 2023.



FUJII Tomoyuki, M.D., Ph.D.

Hospital Director, Sanno Hospital
Supervising Professor, IUHW Group Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
(Former Chairperson of the Executive Board, Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology)

Graduated from the University of Tokyo School of Medicine in 1982. Chairman Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the University of Tokyo (2012-2020). Chairman of Executive Board of Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG) (2015-2019). Hospital Director of Sanno Hospital and Supervising Professor, IUHW Group Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (2021-). Specialist of Maternal Fetal Medicine. As the head of Comprehensive Perinatal Center at the University of Tokyo Hospital, Dr. FUJII Tomoyuki was involved in managing many high-risk pregnancies and deliveries. He has specialized in the treatment of recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL) for over 30 years and has been a leader in this field in Japan. He has been actively involved in creating treatment guideline for RPL. As the Chairperson of Executive Board of JSOG, he provided leadership in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Japan (2015-2019).



Tran Diep Tuan, M.D., Ph.D.

Chairman, Board of Trustees of University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP)

Under Prof. Tran Diep Tuan's tenure, the UMP has demonstrated its strong commitment for innovation and quality improvement. He is a member of the National Council for Education and Human Resource Development; a member of the advisory board of Western Pacific Association for Medical Education (WPAME). Prof. Tran received his M.D. degree (1989), pediatric certificate (1993) and later in pediatric neurology. He got his Ph.D. at the University of Tokyo (1998-2003), and had post-doctoral training at Japan National Institutes for Physiological Sciences (2003) and the University of Michigan (2003-2005). He is an alumnus of the DIES International Dean's Course organized by DAAD, Germany, and Harvard Macy Institute Leadership Development programme. He was awardee of John J. Bonica Award; Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; International Brain Research Organization; and WHO/NINDS International Neurological Science Fellowship. His research interest is pain imaging, pediatric neurology, and children's quality of life. He has published more than 50 articles in international peer review journals. His main agenda is to make UMP a leading university in Vietnam and an internationally recognized institution in the region.



YATOMI Yutaka, M.D., Ph.D.

**Dean, IUHW Graduate School
Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo**

Dr. YATOMI Yutaka graduated from the University of Tokyo and earned a medical license, in 1983. His main specialties are internal medicine and laboratory medicine, and served as President of the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine (2018-2022), Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine (2016-2020), Japanese Society of Medical Instrumentation (2017-2021), and the Japanese Society for Laboratory Hematology (2020-2023). He was Professor of Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo from April 2005 to March 2023, and has been Dean of IUHW Graduate School since April 2023.



FUKUI Toshiko, R.N., M.W., P.H.N., M.B.A., Ph.D.

**Vice-Dean, Graduate School, International University of Health and Welfare
(Former President of Japanese Nursing Association)**

Dr. FUKUI Toshiko worked as the Chief Nurse and the Nursing Director of the Perinatal Medical Center at a university hospital. After her career as a nurse and midwife, she was appointed as the Executive Officer and the President of Japanese Nursing Association (JNA).

During her career as the Executive Officer of JNA, she has established the evaluation system of midwifery practice abilities, called "Clinical Ladder of Competencies for Midwifery Practice (CLoCMiP)," and contributed to the foundation of the certification system of "Advanced Midwife" by Japan Institute of Midwifery Evaluation.

She has also engaged as the President of JNA in working with the government to support nursing workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to solve various issues that could not be confronted by individuals.

She was appointed the Vice-Dean of International University of Health and Welfare Graduate School in 2023.

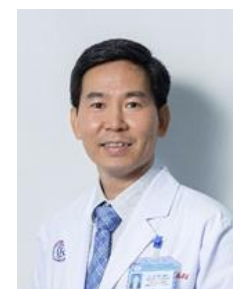


Lam Viet Trung, M.D., Ph.D.

**Deputy Director, Cho Ray Hospital
Former Head of Gastrointestinal Surgery Department, Cho Ray Hospital**

Dr. Lam Viet Trung is Vice Chairman of the Department of General Surgery, University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City, Executive Committee of Vietnam Association for Surgery and Endolaparoscopic Surgery, Ho Chi Minh City Association of Digestive Surgery, Ho Chi Minh City Pelvic Floor Society, Vietnam Society for Gastrointestinal and Venous Nutrition, Member of the American Society of Endoscopic Surgery, etc. Chairman of the Southeast Asian Society of Colorectal Surgery.

He has successfully deployed and performed many Laparoscopic and Robotic surgeries in general surgery, and opened many training classes on Laparoscopic Surgery. He has published nearly 100 articles in prestigious domestic and international journals. Participate in reporting and chairing at domestic and international conferences (ELSA, SAGES, IASGO, IGCC, etc.). Research areas of interest: Laparoscopic and Robotic surgery, cancer surgery, Surgical nutrition, surgical infections, Early recovery after surgery (ERAS), etc. Awards: Third-class Labor Medal (2021), Meritorious Doctor (2017), Certificate of Merit from the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Certificate of Merit from the Ministry of Health, etc. for many years.



Dang Thanh Huy, M.D.

**Member of the Inaugural Class, IUHW School of Medicine
(Graduated from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City)**

Entered University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City Medical School in 2015. Entered International University of Health and Welfare School of Medicine as a scholarship student in 2017. Studied medicine in Japanese and English, passed USMLE Step 1 in 2022 and the Japanese National Medical Examination in 2023. Received the International University of Health and Welfare Chairman's Award upon graduation in March 2023. Has been working as a resident at Kohokai Takagi Hospital and wants to become a gastroenterologist in the future.



Vuong Thi Ngoc Lan , M.D., Ph.D.

Presenter

Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)

Dr. Vuong Thi Ngoc Lan is an Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology and currently serves as Dean of Faculty of Medicine at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP). She is a member of the Curriculum Core Group at UMP.

Her areas of research activity include ovulation induction in low body weight patients, ovarian stimulation in low response patients, in-vitro oocyte maturation, frozen embryo transfer, and genetics in reproduction. She has authored more than 80 publications in international scientific journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine and the Lancet.

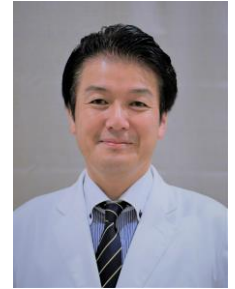


KAKUDA Wataru, M.D., Ph.D.

Presenter

Professor and Chair, IUHW School of Medicine, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine

Prof. KAKUDA Wataru was born in 1966. He graduated from Jikei University School of Medicine (M.D.) in 1991. He earned a Ph.D. in rehabilitation medicine from Jikei University School of Medicine. He is a board-certified rehabilitation physician. His specialty is stroke rehabilitation. He had a lot of clinical opportunities to manage stroke patients, and he has published not a few English paper on stroke rehabilitation. Currently, he works for Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, IUHW School of Medicine, as professor of rehabilitation medicine. He is also appointed as one of the executive board members of The Japan Stroke Society. He has been serving as Deputy Hospital Director of IUHW Ichikawa Hospital since 2021. He is supposed to organize the 11th annual meeting of The Japanese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine in 2027.



Panel Discussion

Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, M.D., Ph.D.

Former Minister, Ministry of Health

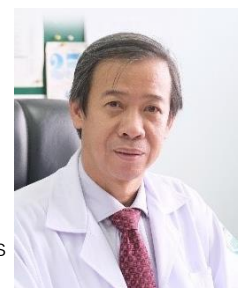
Dr. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien graduated Doctor of Medicine, resident doctor specializing in Epidemiology and Public Health at Hanoi Medical University, Ph.D. in Epidemiology at University of Medicine and Pharmacy at HCMC, Master in Epidemiology and Public Health in Bordeaux II University (France). Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health (2002). She was lecturer at the Department of Epidemiology, Hanoi Medical University and epidemiologist in charge of research and international cooperation, Deputy Director of the Pasteur Institute, HCMC. Director of the Pasteur Institute, Director of Vietnam National Dengue control programme (1/2002 - 2/2007). Since 2006, she was Alternate member of the 10th Party Central Committee, Vice Minister of Health, Member of the 12th National Assembly (2/2007 - 7/2011) and Minister of Health (8/2011 - 12/2019), Member of the 13th National Assembly, Member of the 11th Party Central Committee (6/2011 - 2016), Chairwoman of Department for healthcare of high rank officer of Party Communist of Vietnam (7/2019 - 12/2021). She retires from December 2021 and holds the positions of President of Friendship Association of Vietnam - France for Cooperation and Development (2016 - 2023) and President of Vietnam Association of Mobilization for Donating Tissues and Organs (7/2023 to present).



Nguyen Van Vinh Chau, M.D., Ph.D.

Deputy Director, Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health

Dr. Nguyen Van Vinh Chau was born in 1966 in Ho Chi Minh City, graduated from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP) in 1990, and became Resident Doctor in Infectious Diseases at UMP after graduating from the university. Graduated with a Ph.D. from The Open University (England) in 2009 with the thesis topic "Factors that contribute to the pathogenesis of dengue in adult patients in Vietnam." Dr. Chau worked at Ho Chi Minh City Hospital for Tropical Diseases in many different positions and served as Director of Ho Chi Minh City Hospital for Tropical Diseases from April 2011 to August 2021. He has been serving as Deputy Director of Ho Chi Minh City Department of Health from August 2021. He also holds the positions of Deputy Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine of UMP from 2011 to present, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Society of Infectious Diseases, and Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Infectious Diseases Association.



SUZUKI Toshihiko

Vice-President, Japanese Red Cross Society
Visiting Professor, University of Tokyo Graduate School of Public Policy
Former Vice-Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Mr. SUZUKI Toshihiko graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law in 1983, and entered the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. He served numerous positions in government, including Counsellor of Cabinet Secretariat, Director of Financial Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Deputy Director-General for Measures for Declining Birthrate, Director-General of Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, Director-General of Pension Bureau, and Director-General of Health Insurance Bureau. He planned and promoted various reforms in the fields of health, pension, and welfare.

In 2018, Mr. Suzuki was appointed as Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. He designed and promoted the scheme, "Social Security Reform: Looking Ahead to 2040," and spearheaded the measures against COVID-19 at the time of its outbreak. He retired from office in September 2020. Mr. Suzuki has been visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Public Policy since April 2021 to present. In July 2022, he assumed the current role of Vice-President of Japanese Red Cross Society.



KASAI Takeshi, M.D., M.P.H., D.T.M.H., Ph.D.

Executive Supervisor of the International University of Health and Welfare Group
Former WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific

Dr. KASAI Takeshi is a dedicated public health and infectious disease control expert. He has a strong record of achievements during a career that spans all levels of public health for 30 years – from providing health services in the community of remote areas in Japan to working in WHO. He responded to many outbreaks and disasters, including SARS in 2003. After he worked as Director of the Division of Health Security of WHO Western Pacific Region, he moved to Hanoi to serve as a WHO representative from 2012 to 2014. He continued working for Vietnam as WHO Director of Programme Management and became WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific in 2019, leading the COVID-19 response. He joined the IUHW in May 2023.



SUZUKI Yasuhiro, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.

President of IUHW Moderator

Prof. SUZUKI Yasuhiro was born in 1959. He graduated from Keio University, School of Medicine (M.D.) in 1984 and trained as neurologist. He earned a Ph.D. in public health from Keio University in 1996 and two Master's degrees from the Harvard School of Public Health (M.P.H. in 1989 & M.Sc. in 1990). Prof. Suzuki has a professional career at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan, for 30 years covering infectious diseases, mental health, environmental health, food safety, international health, ageing & health, and health research policy. He also worked for the World Health Organization (WHO) as Executive Director, the highest position next to Director-General, for Social Change & Mental Health, later for Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals (covering vaccines, immunization and biologicals) from 1998 to 2002.

Prof. Suzuki previously served as Vice-Minister for Health, Chief Medical & Global Health Officer at MHLW from July 2017 to August 2020. He became Vice-President of IUHW in March 2021 and took the position as President in April 2022. He was also appointed as Vice-Chair of the WHO Executive Board in December 2022.





English

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Nguyen Tri Thuc - Director of Cho Ray Hospital
Tran Diep Tuan - Chairman of the Board of Trustees, UMP
SUZUKI Yasuhiro - President of IUHW

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FUKUI Toshiko - Vice-Dean of IUHW Graduate School

Advisors

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Nguyen Thi Kim Tien - Former Minister of Health of Vietnam
Nguyen Truong Son - Former Deputy Minister of Health of Vietnam
TAKEMI Keizo, Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
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TAMURA Norihisa, Former Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
HASHIMOTO Gaku, Former Senior Vice-Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
MAKIHARA Hideki, Former Senior Vice-Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

(Reference)

Cho Ray Hospital is one of the most technologically advanced hospitals in Viet Nam with a long history. It was founded in 1900 and rebuilt with Japanese assistance in 1975; it is now one of the largest hospitals in Viet Nam with 38 departments and approximately 2,000 beds. It has established a partnership with the International University of Health and Welfare for more than 30 years, and in September 2018, Cho Ray Hospital and the International University of Health and Welfare jointly opened the Health Check-up Centre (HECI), which provides high-quality, Japanese-style health check-up services. Since its opening, the HECI has operated successfully and become a model for Viet Nam.

University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City, established in 1947, is one of the most highly regarded universities in Viet Nam for medicine and pharmacy, with seven faculties and one medical centre (affiliated hospital), and has produced many doctors and other medical professionals. It has established a network in southern Viet Nam for pathological diagnosis, etc., and has contributed to improving medical technology in south Viet Nam. It is one of the universities that has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International University of Health and Welfare to send medical students, and it has also established partnerships in other areas, such as gastrointestinal surgery.

The International University of Health and Welfare opened in 1995 as Japan's first university with multiple departments in health and welfare. It has established a leading medical group in Japan that has continued to take on various challenges and build its future in Japan. It offers education at five campuses across Japan with 10 faculties and 25 departments and actively utilises about 60 facilities, including six affiliated hospitals. The 30,000 medical professionals who graduated over the past 27 years are active throughout the country as top and mid-level personnel in medical institutions, welfare facilities and educational institutions. In addition, the University has been engaged in international activities for many years. In 2017, as a new challenge, established a medical school for the first time in Japan in 38 years with an advanced learning and training environment and signed memorandums of understanding with governments and universities in six Asian countries, including Viet Nam, to accept scholarship students. One out of seven students are an international student making it an innovative medical school with international diversity. The first cohort of students, including students from abroad, achieved a landmark result as Japan's second-highest ranking pass rate for national medical examinations. All Scholarship students passed the Japanese national examinations with excellent results. Scholars must complete two years of initial training after passing the Japanese national medical examination and seven years of contribution to their country with guidance from the nominating university and the government.

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