# On-line Meeting for the 16th Conference on Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia Meeting report

## Proceedings outline

- ◆ Name of meeting: 16th Conference on Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia
- ◆ Dates: January 17 (Mon.) to February 28 (Mon.), 2022

Question reception: January 17 (Mon.) to February 14 (Mon.), 2022

- ♦ Host: Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- Participating cities: Bangkok, Metro Manila, Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo
   90 officials responsible for measures to prevent and control infectious diseases
- ◆ URL for the online meeting:

https://event.on 24.com/wcc/r/3573604/01B97988F2BF08EFA0205B50925E0250



#### Purpose of holding this meeting

The objective of the Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia project is to be able to work together with other Asian cities to carry out countermeasures for issues they have in common. The target of this project is to form a strong network of experts who are in constant contact and cooperation, and to conduct joint surveys and research. Each year, officers from health departments meet at the Conference on Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia which is hosted by member cities in turn.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic from FY2020 to now, the meeting in FY2021 was focused on the situations in the participating cities and the countermeasures they are carrying out. The meeting had been conducted through 6 weeks as an online information exchange event this year, with Tokyo serving as the secretariat, with the hopes that measures to prevent spread of the infection in participating cities will benefit from sharing their experiences and expertise.

#### Content of the presentation

#### Bangkok

"Countermeasures to combat COVID19 Crisis: The Bangkok Model"

- The epidemic situation began with a mass outbreak in entertainment venues, etc.
  followed by the disease spreading to many different professions.

  Most of the clusters were found at "construction sites and camps" and "factories or companies."
- The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration announced the temporary closure of construction sites where the outbreak was found, and implemented "Bubble and Seal", regularly conducting sentinel surveillance (randomized) testing for early detection and to isolate confirmed cases to prevent further spread of the infection.
  - Reference: https://www.jetro.go.jp/biznews/2021/08/4977d9874e8776a7.html
- Outbreak control through social measures (control by area/transportation route, etc.) and individual group measures, etc.
- Classified positive patients into one of four different categories, from home isolation to hospitalization, taking severity of symptoms and whether they are in an at-risk group into consideration.
- Implemented the vaccination of bed-ridden patients, set up Bangkok mobile vaccination units to facilitate vaccination of the vulnerable population: the elderly, homeless, pregnant women, and other target groups

#### Metro Manila

"PHAP Cares Initiative on Covid19"

- Set a five-staged COVID-19 Alert Level System
- Undertook a campaign to raise money to procure immediate medical needs at hospitals, including designated referral hospitals for COVID-19 patients.
- · Held online forums to get rid of "vaccine hesitancy".
- In 2014, The Philippines established the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) created by the Philippine president to respond to infectious disease in the country. For COVID-19 vaccines, it serves as the National Coordinating Council.

#### Seoul

"COVID-19 Comprehensive Report —SEOUL—"

- Using KI-Pass (an app to record and track when people visit public facilities or largescale commercial facilities, etc.), a KCDC QR code connected to COVID-19 vaccine certificates are issued.
- Home treatment: There are two types of home treatment, which are local government-led (10-day quarantine management with a supply of support materials) and medical institution-led (7-day health management). There are also medical institution-led home treatments.
- Home treatment utilizes online tools (treatment support system, video communications, and so on).
- To determine their quarantine status, patient guardians and cohabitants are classified into one of two groups, according to whether or not they are vaccinated.
- The vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson is used for booster shots.
- An immunity passport ("Quarantine Pass") was initiated for people who have been vaccinated.
- A system was established to deal promptly with vaccine-related adverse events, classifying each incident using five-stage causality assessment.

## Taipei

"HIV/AIDS in the era of COVID-19: Taipei City's response"

Implemented the following measures, after cluster outbreaks of COVID-19 among people living with HIV in July 2021.

- Contact tracing for the vulnerable population (MSM)
- Distribute free home-based COVID-19 testing kits
- Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage
- Educate health professionals on LBGT-friendly approaches

#### Tokyo

"Tokyo COVID-19 Measures"

"Joint Survey (COVID-19 Risk Communication)"

"COVID-19 Infection Control at Tokyo 2020 Olympic/Paralympic Games"

- HER-SYS centrally manages and shares information on infected persons: age, gender, symptoms, movement history.
- The COVID-19 Call Center is for Tokyo residents who are worried but have no symptoms.

Tokyo Fever Consultation Center is for residents with symptoms but no primary care doctors, or whose doctors are off-duty.

The capacity is 97,000 PCR tests a day.

• Tokyo vaccinations began in March 2021 for health care workers, then for 65 years and older, followed by 64 years and younger.

As of December 6, 2021, 82.5% of residents aged 12 and over are fully vaccinated, and 90% of those 70 and older.

• In March 2021, this survey studied how to effectively collect and disseminate COVID-19 information among foreigners in Tokyo.

Avoiding the three C's (closed spaces, crowded places, and close contact), is more difficult and requires improvements in schools, workplaces, and residences.

The next step will be surveying managers of schools, workplaces, and residences, focusing on infection control barriers to help control infection among foreigners.

• Tokyo 2020 Games were held during the fifth wave, which peaked at a record 5,773 cases on August 13, 2021.

The number of officials from abroad was decreased, border control and testing were thorough during Games.

• An average of 14,000 athletes and participants were tested each day (max. 36,225) throughout during the Games.

# List of participants (presenters)

# Bangkok

Name	Department and position
Ms. Veeranuch Naowasak	Foreign Relations Officer
Dr. Thitisant Palakawong Na Ayuthaya	Medical Doctor
Ms. Supunnee Jirajariyavej	Infectious Physician
Ms. Sarin Khahakaew	ID Specialist
Mr. Prat Pairattanakorn	ID Physician
Dr. Paveena Angkhananukit	Medical Doctor
Dr. Pailin Phupat	Medical Doctor
Mr. Kanthon Chaloernpoj	Infectious Physician
Dr. Gun Wongpanich	Medical Doctor
Dr. Chantapat Brukesawan	Medical Doctor

## Metro Manila

Name	Department and position
Dr. Maria Rosarita Quijano-Siasoco	Executive Director, the PHAP Cares
	Foundation
Mr. Dennis Romerick Tuazon	Project Manager, the PHAP Cares Foundation

# Seoul

Name	Department and position
Dr. Haesook Seo	Director of Infectious Disease Research Center
	Citizens' Health Bureau

# Taipei

Name	Department and position
Dr. Lian-Yu Chen	Director, Kunming Prevention and Control Center, Taipei City Hospital
Dr. Huang Shier-Chieg	Director, Taipei City Department of Health

# Tokyo

Name	Department and position
Jun NEGISHI	Director for HIV/AIDS and Emerging Infectious
	Diseases, Infectious Disease Control Division,
	Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health,
	TMG
Yoshitake HAYASHI	Deputy Director, Disease Prevention and
	Information/Data Section, Infectious Disease
	Control Division, Bureau of Social Welfare and
	Public Health, TMG
Yousuke TSUKIYAMA	Senior Staff Member, Disease Prevention and
	Information/Data Section, Infectious Disease
	Control Division, Bureau of Social Welfare and
	Public Health, TMG