Congratulatory Comment

Congratulatory comment from Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health

Keizo Takemi

Chair of the Program on Global Health and Human Security at the Japan Center for International Exchange

Editor's note: Prof. Keizo Takemi is a Senator of Japan and current president of Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health. He was appointed as the president at the 3rd Forum for sustaining consistency for coming forums: the 4th Forum, hosted by Philippine in 2018 and 5th Forum, which will be hosted by Fiji in 2019. 1st Forum and 2nd Forum were hosted by Korean Parliamentary Forum on Global Health.

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As chair and senior fellow of the Program on Global Health and Human Security at the Japan Center for International Exchange, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the inauguration of the international journal of the Korean Society of Global Health (KSGH)—*Journal of Global Health Science (JGHS)*. It is very timely when we—all united as inhabitants of the same globe—need to accelerate our efforts if we are going to achieve the sustainable development goals.

In the global health arena, it is critical that we create sustainable national and global systems that ensure that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need, when they need them, without suffering financial hardship as a result. In other words, we need to ensure universal health coverage (UHC). Since 2007, I have devoted myself to engaging key Japanese stakeholders, including relevant ministries, government agencies, academics, businesses, medical associations, and civil society organizations in strengthening our global health agenda under the goal of promoting human security and UHC globally. Achieving UHC globally requires efforts not only by medical experts but by all members of society. The creation and dissemination of scientific evidence that can be utilized by multiple stakeholders is a key for achieving our global goal. This is precisely what this new journal aims to do.

I am confident that, under the leadership of Prof. Juhwan Oh—whom I had the opportunity to get to know while he was at Harvard University as a Takemi Fellow—the editorial board will guide this journal to become one of the leading joint learning platforms for better health and wellbeing around the world. The bilateral relationship between Korea and Japan has faced many challenges. However, in the global health context, we have unique lessons and comparative advantages that can be shared with others. It is therefore encouraging to see the *JGHS* including key academics from throughout Asia and around the world on its editorial board, making it truly an international journal. I hope that the collaboration between KSGH and the Japan Association for International Health will be further enhanced by the inclusion of two Japanese editors, Profs. Masamine Jimba and Yasuhide Nakamura.