

Good morning. I'm Yasushi Okada, president of JPMA. As we start this international conference, I would like to tell you that we share deep concern about the situation in Ukraine. We sincerely hope that safety and peace will return as soon as possible. As an industry dedicated to saving lives, we prioritize to ensure that medicines reach the patients in need. We are also providing humanitarian support.

While the COVID pandemic continues, it is unfortunate that we cannot meet in person. However, I am happy to welcome participants from regulatory agencies, academia, and industries from all over Asia.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses many challenges to our industry. Regarding vaccines, we realized that global provision is the key for ceasing pandemic in its early stage. Last year, the Japanese Government launched "Strategy for Strengthening Vaccine Development and Production Systems". G7 countries agreed on "100 days mission" to quickly develop vaccines. To realize these missions, we must cooperate and improve vaccine development environment such as utilizing international clinical trial network, enhancing the manufacture and procurement of therapeutic drugs, and so on.

Over the ten years, APAC has achieved so much. One example is standardization of new drug application and approval represented by Good Registration Management. Another is streamlined confirmation of GMP compatibility by Site Master File template. These became possible thanks to public and private cooperation. Our discussion evolved and we started e-labeling initiative last year. This is in line with the digital transformation our industry must work on including utilization of real world data.

The theme of this year APAC is "Building a platform and delivering valuable innovation for the peoples in Asia". Revolution of the drug discovery is necessary to realize the APAC vision. Since the beginning, the drug discovery alliance expert working group has focused in drug discovery based on natural products in Asia and training of researchers. As the drug development environment evolves over time, we thought that it is important to discuss precision medicine which uses big data including genomic information.

This year, we have launched a new taskforce, aUHC to realize quick approval of new medicines and access to them. A stands for Asia. We hope to contribute to the extension of healthy aging and economic growth in Asia through close collaboration in APAC and development of new medicines and solutions.

Lastly but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the support of the government, regulatory agencies, academic societies, and everyone else in APAC. I hope we will have a successful and fruitful meeting. Thank you.