

Good morning. I'm Yasushi Okada, President of JPMA. We are very pleased to be holding the 12th APAC not only on-line but also face-to-face for the first time in four years, with many participants, government officials, regulators, academia, and industry from all over Asia.

The rising energy and commodity prices due to the situation in Ukraine are no exception for pharmaceutical companies. We are experiencing a variety of effects, including higher costs for raw materials, active pharmaceutical ingredients, and transportation, as well as increased R&D costs, including overseas clinical trial costs. I sincerely hope safe and peaceful days will return as soon as possible.

In preparation for the G7 Hiroshima Summit to be held in May, the JPMA and IFPMA jointly submitted "Proposals from the Pharmaceutical Industry for the G7 Hiroshima Summit Health Agenda" to the Japanese government. "Sustainable Universal Health Coverage (UHC)," is the first pillar, in which we requested various discussions, such as securing stable supply chain that can achieve stable supply of medicinal products regardless of peacetime and crisis situations. In the second pillar, "Pandemic preparedness and response", we recommend discussions for real-time epidemiological information sharing and that the discussions be promoted on international regulatory cooperation, based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, in "Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) ", we requested comprehensive and strategic support to tackle infectious diseases, which is a difficult business area.

Th COVID-19 pandemic provided an international understanding that "no one is safe until we are all safe". We need to further promote global collaboration among the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory authorities, and academia, which APAC has been working toward under the banner of " To expedite the launch of innovative medicines for the peoples in Asia".

The theme of this year's APAC is "We're all together again -Deliver tenacious power for Access to Innovative Medicine by reaffirming cooperation in Asia". We will report and discuss critical issues we need to consider in the pharmaceutical value chain, by focusing "Reliance" and "Agility".

Lastly, I would like to express my deep 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.