

**Message from Mr. George Nakayama, President of JPMA**

“It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the online Convention for the 9<sup>th</sup> APAC. First of all, I appreciate your continued effort and great contribution to enhance APAC activities throughout the year since last April. I have been looking forward to seeing you again in Tokyo in person and listening to presentations and discussions, but current spread of the novel coronavirus was dramatically changing the world and didn't allow us to get together. In the history of APAC, as far as I know, this is the first time to conduct Convention on a web basis. Although I can imagine difficulties you have for preparing today's convention, perhaps this may become a unique opportunity for all of us to explore more flexible international communication with more reasonable costs. Sorry about talking about costs. Now our industry has got the big expectation from the world to create and deliver effective medicine and vaccines against novel coronavirus. As you know, in Japan, many pharmaceutical companies together with academia are working on R&D using both existing molecules and new molecules. JPMA is also committed to contribute a lot. We are requesting to Japanese government to support R&D activities through funding and incentives. Especially for innovative pharmaceutical companies, we are arguing that government is expected to provide appropriate guarantees to compensate for risky investment and to accelerate international convergence for regulation and approval. “To expedite the launch of innovative medicines for the people in Asia” is the mission of APAC and our common goal. I'm convinced that our APAC activity towards the realization of this common goal are becoming more and more important under this extraordinarily challenging situation. Let's work harder and smarter for the victory of human being against novel coronavirus by the end of the day. Hope you have fruitful discussion today. Thank you very much for your attention.”