

**Topic:- Public Health Interventions****Country:- Japan****Committee:- A**

From the Spanish flu of 1918 which claimed millions of lives to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the world is facing a critical challenge in the form of effectively responding to public health emergencies. Limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, lack of coordination among different agencies and stakeholders, misinformation, and social stigma are some of the significant challenges that need to be addressed (Kodama et al., 2022). Understanding the most effective path forward during times of uncertainty are paramount to containing the spread and saving lives. Japan, like many other countries, initially faced challenges in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a slow response in vaccine development.

Japan has a strong interest in the topic of global health security through containing the spread of infectious disease in a timely manner. Furthermore, Japan has been impacted by infectious diseases in the past, such as the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 (Jecker, & Au, 2022). As a result, we recognize the importance of investing in pandemic preparedness and have established the Strategic Center of Biomedical Advanced Vaccine Research and Development for Preparedness and Response (SCARDA) to address this critical issue (Mallapaty, 2022). SCARDA will initially invest in vaccine research for eight pathogens, including coronaviruses, monkeypox, dengue virus, and Zika virus. The goal of SCARDA is to produce diagnostic tests, treatments, and vaccines ready for large-scale production within the first 100 days after a pathogen with pandemic potential is identified.

The \$2-billion initiative aims to solve the problem of the slow and cumbersome process of developing and producing vaccines in response to a pandemic. The traditional vaccine development process takes several years, which is not ideal when faced with an outbreak that spreads rapidly and can cause widespread harm. Japan's initiative proposes a combination of technological innovation, collaboration, and regulatory reform to enable the rapid development and deployment of pandemic vaccines.

Public health emergencies, like COVID-19, transcend boundaries and Japan recognizes the importance of building global solidarity for worldwide health security. Furthermore, just like the virus evolves over time, the regulations and protocols must adapt in light of new findings and changing times. As a result, Japan supports revision of the International Health Regulations (2005) to include revisions such as “rapid sharing of pathogen genetic sequence data and introducing shorter deadlines for reporting and responding to emerging threats” (The Lancet Global Health, 2022, p. 927). Furthermore, Japan is committed to working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), other countries, and international organisations to promote adoption of the International Health Regulations in a manner that is equitable for all countries.

Japan's position on the issue of global health security is one of proactive engagement and collaboration. We recognize the importance of investing in pandemic preparedness and building global solidarity to ensure that we are ready to respond promptly to future epidemics. Our goals for this conference are to promote dialogue, exchange ideas and best practices, and work towards a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the international community in responding to public health emergencies. We hope to achieve outcomes that involve shaping current policies to incorporate the learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic while strengthening the global response to public health emergencies.

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### **Resources**

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# Building a Resilient Health Workforce for Primary Healthcare in the United States

United States of America

Universal Health Coverage – Reorienting Health Systems to Primary Health Care

## **Introduction**

The US healthcare system is facing workforce shortages and maldistribution, particularly in primary care settings, resulting in limited access to care. This challenge is more significant in rural and underserved areas with inadequate healthcare providers and services. Emergencies and disasters highlight the need for a resilient health workforce, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Current Policies and Initiatives**

The United States has introduced diverse policies and initiatives to tackle workforce deficits and retention predicaments in the healthcare domain, including the National Health Service Corps and the Nurse Corps. These policies offer scholarships and loan repayment programs to healthcare experts who serve in underprivileged regions. Nevertheless, the efficacy of these policies has come under scrutiny, and there are ongoing discussions and disagreements concerning the most suitable approach towards developing a sturdy health workforce.

## **International Collaboration and Partnerships**

The positions taken by other nations can significantly influence the United States' standpoint on the subject matter, given that international cooperation and partnerships play a crucial role in building a robust health workforce. The United States may seek insights from other countries to obtain best practices and pioneering solutions to confront workforce scarcities and retention issues.

## **Proposed Solutions**

A viable remedy to the existing and forthcoming dilemmas of developing a robust health workforce for primary healthcare in the United States could comprise augmented funding towards training and education initiatives, amplified availability of monetary incentives for healthcare personnel, and enlarged collaboration and partnerships with foreign nations and international entities. This proposition conforms to the United States' foreign policy objectives of endorsing global health and reinforcing healthcare systems.

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## **Conclusion**

The position of the United States on the matter of building a resilient health workforce for primary healthcare centers around escalating training and education programs, supplying financial incentives for healthcare personnel, and enhancing cooperation and partnerships with other countries and international organizations. The United States acknowledges the significance of a potent and sturdy health workforce in responding to calamities and emergencies, bridging healthcare disparities, and ensuring access to high-quality healthcare for everyone. During the conference pertaining to this topic, the United States endeavors to attain objectives such as sharing best practices and innovative solutions, promoting international collaboration and partnerships, and devising strategies to tackle inadequacy and imbalance in the healthcare workforce.

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