

For G7 2016 Global Health ; Tokyo, Tokyo Prince Hotel, December 15, 2015
'Universal Health Coverage'

My Closing Remarks at Luncheon Session hosted by GHIT Fund.

Thank you Health Ministers of the Kingdom of Thai and Japan, Peter (Piot) for moderating and Tachi (Yamada) for sharing your insight and perspective.

Thank you all here today, visionaries, leaders and those care and engage in a major global issue, that is GLOBAL HEALTH.

Global Health is tightly coupled with inequity, poverty and gross income disparity, all underlie the very fragmented and fragile, 'HOT, FLAT and CROWDED world we live.

Japan has been the leader in GLOBAL HEALTH, for example, in setting an agenda for the first time on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis or GLOBAL HEALTH when it hosted G8 Summit in year 2000 in Okinawa/Kyushu, the birth of Global Fund.

At its G8 Summit in 2008 in Toyako, one of Japan's agenda was 'Health Systems Strengthening and Human Security; Again on the core of Global Health

Hosting G7 Summit next year in Ise-Shima, we are expecting and supporting Japan to maintain its leadership legacy in Global Health- and that is the reason why we are here today.

There are three major awards in medicine recognized by the world science community and the public. They are the Nobel of Sweden established in 1901 (or 115 years history), the Lasker of US since 1945 (or 70 years history), and the Gairdner of Canada since 1959 (or 55 years of history).

The LASKER created PUBLIC SERVICE Award in year 2000, and Gairdner created GLOBAL HEALTH Prize in 2009, recognizing the critical importance of GLOBAL HEALTH.

The Gairdner Global Health Awards recipients include Peter Piot for this year, right here with us today, and for last year Prof Satoshi Omura of Japan for his discovery of ivermectin, that cured and prevented hundreds of millions of people of river blindness

and filariasis.

LASKER awardees for Public Health include Dr Bill and Mrs Melinda Gates in 2012 and to Medicine San Frontier this year.

This year, Nobel Prize in Medicine celebrated Drs Satoshi Omura of Japan, William Campbell of Ireland and YouYou Tu of China – for their major contribution to GLOBAL HEALTH in, respectively, River blindness and Malaria. Dr Youyou Tu is also a recipient of LASKER clinical medicine award in 2011.

Last week, I was fortunate to be there in the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony in Stockholm.

Such recognition by world major awards clearly indicates GLOBAL HEALTH is the major global challenge of this fragile world as you may see everywhere and anytime such as Ebola, massive migration and refugees.

Another major prize is Prince Mahidol Award of Thailand since 1992, which also addresses Public Health. Its recipients include, again Peter Piot, Margaret Chan, Jim Yong Kim now of World Bank, Prof Omura, many of such names are familiar to you here.

Again back to Japan. The only official prize of the government of Japan is Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize began in 2008 by Prime Minister Koizumi. Recipients are DR Brian Greenwood of UK and Miriam Were of Kenya for 2008, and Peter Piot of London, here, and Alex Coutinho of Uganda for 2013.

These world major recognitions again indicate GLOBAL HEALTH matters of our global world.

Lastly, a 2 year-old GHIT fund has made a significant progress as we introduced to you today.

This is quite an innovation as you already recognize, an unusual public - private - partnership with strong Japanese pharma technology with the Gates Foundation, the global leader of GLOBAL HEALTH and the government of Japan.

With your support, we shall advance and expand this new Initiative GLOBAL HEALTH Innovation Technology or GHIT Fund further to reaching out to those who need our support in the wide wide world.

Thank you for conference organizers, (JCIE, MOFA, MHLW, JICA) and two Ministers, Peter and Tachi, and not least BT and his team that created this program

THANK YOU