

JICA SUPPORTS CHO RAY HOSPITAL TO FIGHT COVID-19

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) handed over the first batch of essential equipment including ECMO system and PCR test kits to Cho Ray Hospital on July 27, 2020. The agency has decided in June to provide essential equipment (valued at a total of 60 million yen) to support Cho Ray Hospital in fighting COVID-19.

JICA has implemented technical cooperation since 2016 at Cho Ray Hospital to strengthen patient safety management, multi-professional team approach, and infection control with an aim of providing high-quality medical services. The provided equipment will be used to treat COVID-19 patients, and will help improving the capacity of Cho Ray Hospital in COVID-19 infection control as well.

Cho Ray Hospital is the key hospital in the Southern Region that accepts COVID-19 patients and is responsible for the disease diagnosis and treatment. The hospital received and cured the first two Chinese COVID-19 patients in January this year, and treated a British pilot who is the most severe case of COVID-19 with ECMO (the patient has recovered and returned to the UK in early July 2020). In addition, Cho Ray Hospital is responsible for providing guidance and support to all hospitals in 21 provinces in the Southern Region for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

At the hand-over ceremony, Dr. Nguyen Tri Thuc – Director of Cho Ray Hospital said: “The timely support from JICA is so critically and effectively important to us, especially in this timing when we are facing another wave of COVID-19 in Da Nang city after nearly 100 days with no locally transmitted infections in Vietnam. We sent one existing ECMO system together with one medical staff to Da Nang city to provide support for treatment of the COVID-19 patient number 416. A good news for us is that after using ECMO, the condition of this patient has improved. Cho Ray Hospital is not only responsible for the treatment of COVID-19 cases, but also for patients with other serious diseases, so today's support of JICA is very important in terms of providing better health services to the Vietnamese people”.

As of July 29, 30 new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, and Da Nang city is making all-out effort to combat another wave of the disease.

JICA will continue working with the Japanese Government to support Vietnam to fight against infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

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