



PRESS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

## **JICA CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 IN VIETNAM**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has continued its support to Vietnam's fight against COVID-19 by handing over a batch of medical equipment including 5 ventilators, 5 electrocardiogram measuring devices and 7 infant incubators to the Hue Central Hospital on December 27, 2021. This batch was the 1<sup>st</sup> support within the framework of the technical cooperation project entitled “The Project for Enhancing Hue Central Hospital Capabilities in responding to SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19)”.

The project will deliver all together 6 batches of 11 different types of equipment, with the total value of 200 million yen (roughly 39.3 billion VND).

The new SARS-CoV-2 virus infection continues spreading throughout Vietnam, and the daily number of new infections has exceeded 15,000, well on top of the peak number recorded during the fourth wave of infection in September 2021.

In Thua Thien Hue and the neighboring provinces, the number of new infections per day is on the rise. There is concern that the number of infected people will increase rapidly due to the intensification of domestic traffic toward the Lunar New Year holiday which falls in the end of January 2022.

Since the 1990s, JICA has been working to strengthen the functions of central hospitals in the North, Central, and South of Vietnam and to improve the capabilities of medical staff through various training activities conducted by these hospitals.

From 2005 to 2010, JICA provided grant aid to build a new ward and provided medical equipment for Hue Central Hospital. Through technical cooperation, JICA has helped to strengthen the capacity of more than 1,000 medical professionals of the hospital and its affiliated provincial hospitals.

By strengthening Hue Central Hospital which plays a major role as the leading hospital in the Central region, it is hoped that the Central region as a whole will improve its ability to respond to infectious diseases, including the novel coronavirus infection.

On December 28, 2021, JICA also provided 168,000 kits of rapid antigen test (Trueline, Medicon) to Ministry of Health with a price tag of 50 million yen (about 9.8 billion VND), at the request of the Ministry.

JICA will continue to work with the Government of Japan to support Vietnam with measures against infectious diseases, including the new coronavirus.

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