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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

JICA SUPPORTS TO IMPROVE MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Hue, April 9, 2021 – The Vietnam Office of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA Vietnam) held today a ceremony to handover three medical equipment with a total value of 50 million JPY, including an ECMO machine (the heart-lung by-pass machine), to Hue Central Hospital. The handover is within the framework of JICA’s COVID-19 prevention support program in Vietnam and in response to the request of the hospital.

Strengthening the capacity of the health sector in central Vietnam to respond to the possible recurrence of COVID-19 epidemic and prepare for new infectious diseases is an urgent task. Since Hue Central Hospital is the leading hospital in the central region, playing the role of training and mentoring medical staff of affiliated hospitals in the whole region, the provided equipment would contribute to improving the quality of medical services for the central region of Vietnam.

During the previous COVID-19 outbreak in Da Nang in July 2020, when the first case of infection was detected in the community after 99 consecutive days without new cases, the number of deaths increased to 35 cases, Hue Central Hospital immediately received seriously affected patients who required intensive treatment and special care. To assist the central region in controlling the epidemic, the Ministry of Health mobilized support from multiple groups of health workers at major hospitals in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Since 1990s, JICA has been cooperating with key hospitals in each region of Vietnam to improve medical examination and treatment capacity and also implementing training activities to enhance the capacity of health workers at the provincial level in Vietnam.

From 2005 to 2010, the Japanese Government had supported the construction of a High-tech Center in Hue Central Hospital with Grant Aid and provided many advanced medical equipment through JICA. At the same time, the technical cooperation project implemented by JICA has helped enhancing the capacity of over 1,000 health workers at Hue Central Hospital and hospitals at the provincial level. After the completion of the project, Hue Central Hospital has kept organizing capacity training for the provincial hospitals.

JICA will actively work with the Government of Japan to continue the cooperation and enhance the medical service quality in Vietnam.

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