

# DEMOCRACY AND PANDEMIC



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**From COVID-19 to Future Pandemics:  
Global Trends and Japan's Preparedness  
and Response.**

Creation of healthier and safer society to respond to the next pandemic better

# Reflections: Japan's COVID-19 Response

- **Inadequate Preparedness**
- **Lack of Flexibility**
- **Shortcomings in Risk Communication**

# Inadequate peacetime preparedness: Japan

**Inadequacies in national governance and  
command structures**

# Government's command and control system for infectious disease crises

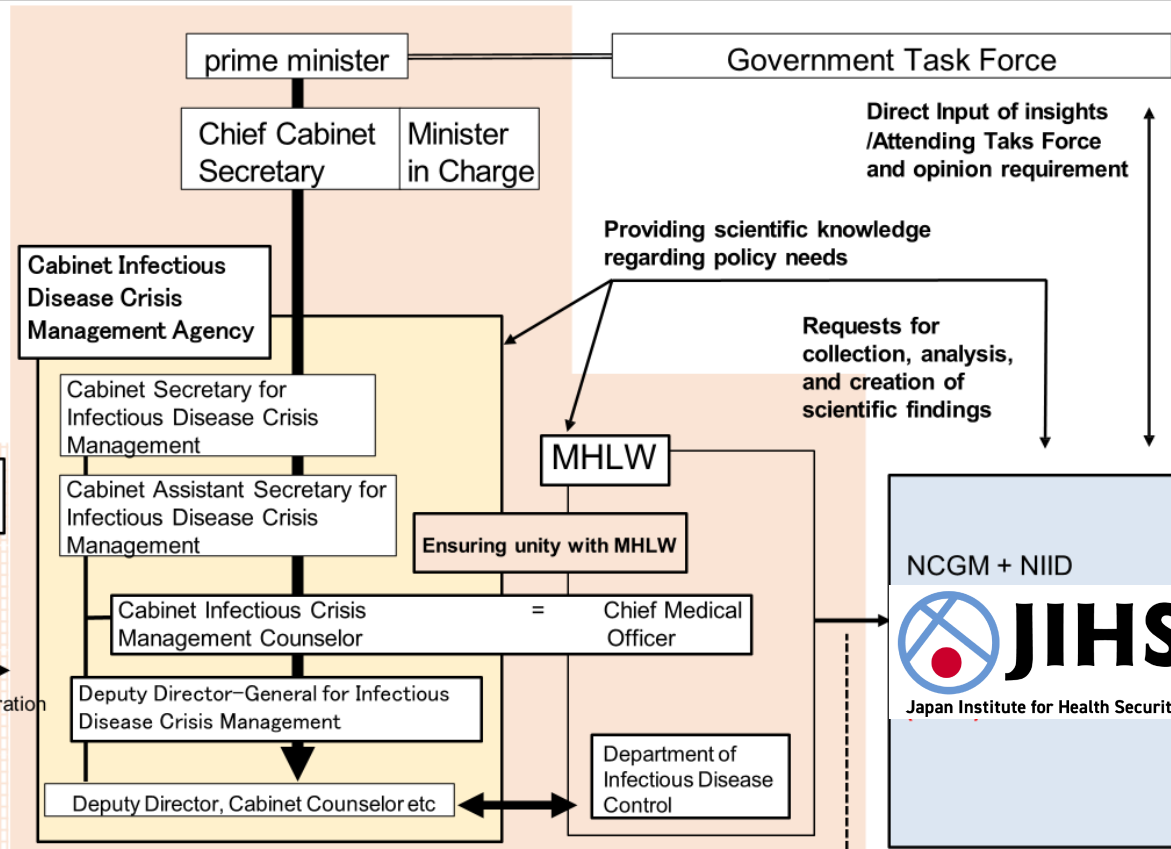
○ In order to strengthen the command tower function for responding to infectious disease crises, and establish a system that can respond quickly and accurately to the next possible infectious disease crisis, Cabinet Act was amended and the Cabinet Infectious Disease Crisis Management Agency was established inside the Cabinet Secretariat (As of September 1, 2023)

★ The Agency directly supports the Prime Minister and the Chief Cabinet Secretary for the planning of infectious disease response policies and the overall coordination of each ministry

Chief Cabinet Officer for Crisis Management

The Chief Cabinet Officer for Crisis Management has received an extraordinary order and cooperates with the Supervisory Agency on crisis management related to infectious diseases.

Cooperation



Set the interim goals and supervise operations

## We must accelerate R&D during crisis.

Without rapid access to diagnostic tools, treatments, and vaccines, we cannot save lives or restore normal societal activities.

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# Inadequate peacetime preparedness: Japan

Inadequate systems for  
rapidly obtaining scientific  
insights

Investment and  
preparedness for research  
and development

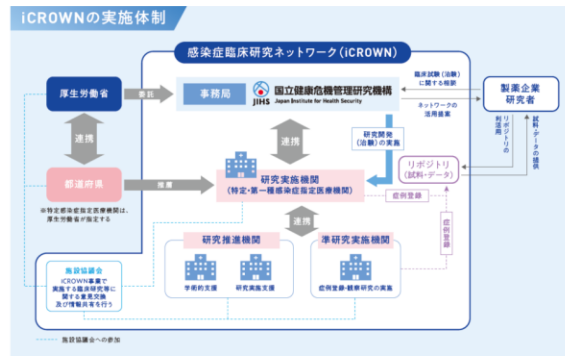
Weak data utilization  
systems and insufficient  
digitalization

# Revitalizing Japan's R&D Infrastructure and Innovation Ecosystem

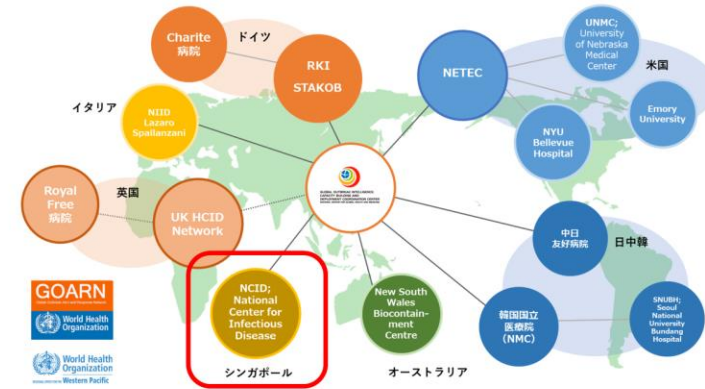
## Infectious Disease Clinical Research Network with National Repository



Collaborative system among designated infectious disease medical institutions, JIHS, local government and MHLW

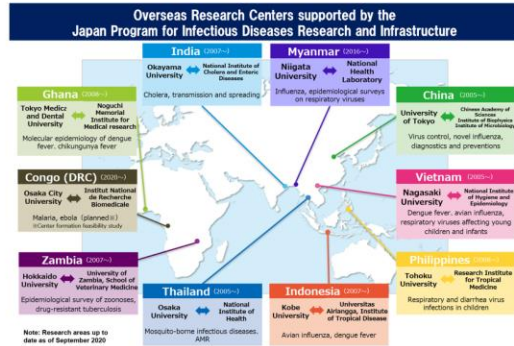


## Exchanges with infectious disease networks of governments and other organizations worldwide



## Rapidly obtaining scientific insights from a global network

JGRID+: Global Research Infrastructure, Collaborative Research via Overseas Research Centres by AMED

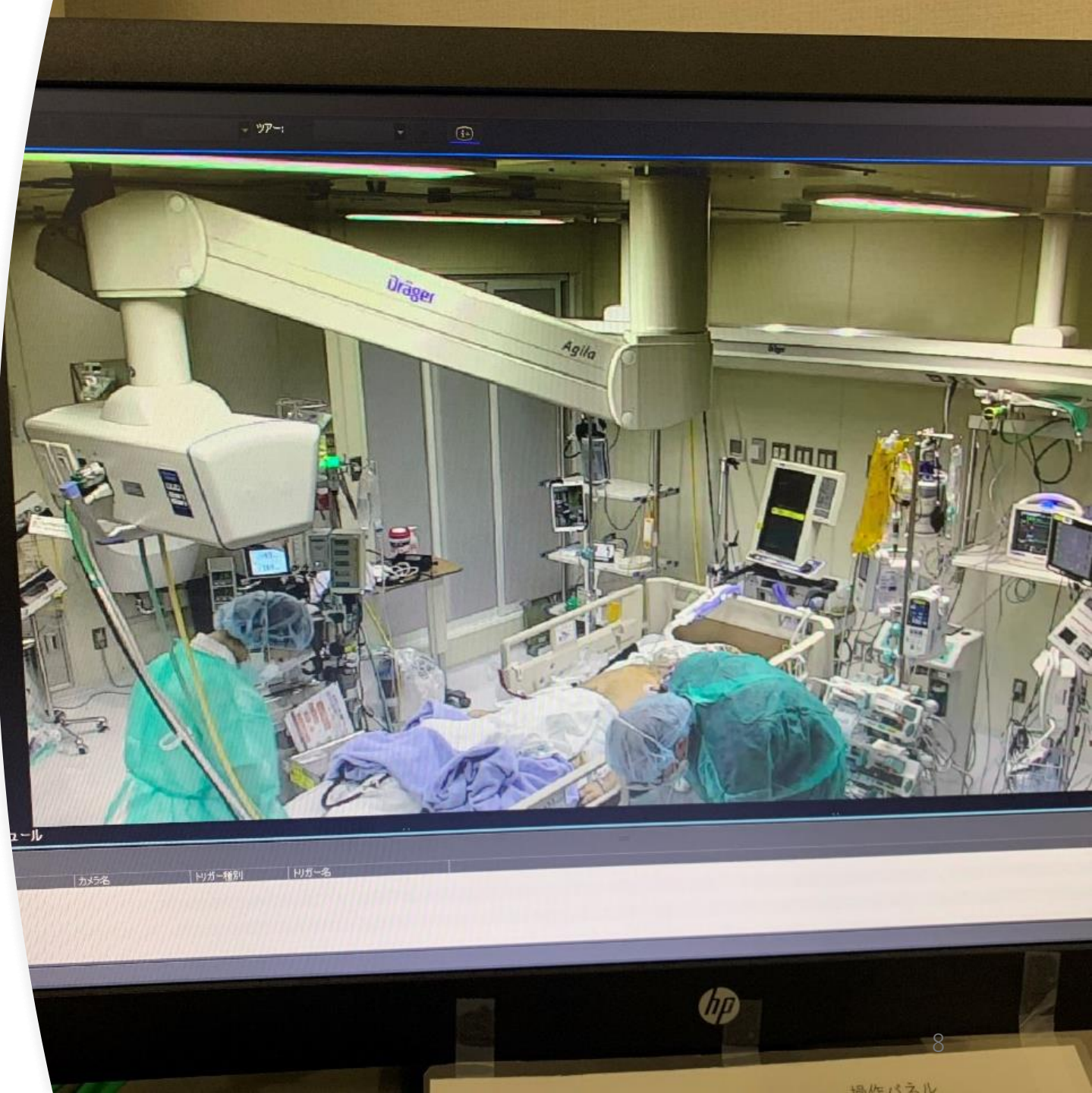


## ARISE: ARO Alliance for ASEAN & East Asia



Participating Countries/Institutions	
Thailand	Mahidol University (Siriraj, Ramathibodi, Tropical Medicine) Chulalongkorn University
The Philippines	University of the Philippines (National Institute of Health, University Hospital) Manila Doctors Hospital Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital
Indonesia	University of Indonesia Mochtar Riady Institute Siloam Hospital Group
Vietnam	Bach Mai Hospital National Hospital of Tropical Diseases AMR Surveillance Group (10 hospitals) National Children's Hospital Hanoi
Malaysia	Clinical Research Malaysia
Singapore	Singapore Clinical Research Institute (SCRI)

**A flexible and rapid  
medical care system  
capable of responding to  
changing circumstances  
is absolutely essential.**



カメラ名	トリガー種別	トリガー名



# Inadequate peacetime preparedness: Japan

Lack of flexibility in  
the healthcare  
delivery system

Vulnerable public  
health infrastructure

Inadequate medical  
and public health  
surge capacity

Inadequate testing  
and surveillance  
capacity

Sharing and access  
of supplies, testing,  
vaccines

# Building a healthcare system capable of flexible crisis response

- **Medical institutions enter into contracts** with governors regarding response during pandemics
- **Subsidies to prepare systems;** in emergencies, governments guarantee losses incurred due to infection response
- **Pandemic countermeasure consultative bodies are organized** to build flexible medical systems
- **In emergencies, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare and governors can now issue “instructions” to medical institutions regarding system changes**

# Sharing and access of supplies, tests, vaccines

- **Stockpiling of Sanitary Supplies and antivirals by the National and Local Governments**
- **Maintaining PCR testing capacity** at regional public health laboratories, research institutions, and medical facilities
- **Conversion of existing biopharmaceutical manufacturing facilities to vaccine production** during emergencies
- **Domestic production, including antimicrobial APIs**
- **Policy on securing access to infectious disease medicines approved abroad** but not in Japan

# Improving the public health system

- **The Local Public Health Act was revised, enabling public health centers to provide mutual support** beyond municipal boundaries.
- **Digitizing data management** will improve operational efficiency.

# Science drives action.

## 'Three Cs' Strategy

- Avoid Closed spaces, Crowded places, and Close-contact settings
- Epidemiological findings were transformed into messages and changed people's behavior.
- Clear and effective public health messaging helped to prevent clusters



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# Key factors influencing public awareness of infectious diseases

- **Strong communication from government leaders determines the tone of public awareness and leads to behavioral change.**
- **Science informs response!** Effective communication based on scientific evidence is essential.

# Challenges in Communication, Japan

- **Lack of understanding of “Science in Motion”**
- **Discrimination and stigma** affected infected individuals and infectious disease control workers
- **Accurate and inaccurate information coexisted, with falsehoods amplified through social media.**

**Create a healthier and safer  
world to respond to the next  
pandemic better .**