

Korea focuses on international co-operation in healthcare

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Minister Park Neung-hoo emphasizes international cooperation in healthcare at the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting



The Ministry of Health and Welfare, Korea announced that Minister Park Neung-hoo attended the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting held in Okayama, Japan recently. Minister Park shared Korea's experience in achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and emphasized the importance of international coordination to ensure access to medicine.

In the discussion on UHC, Minister Park expressed his support for the declaration, which highlights the sustainability of health financing, and shared Korea's experience and efforts (such as Premium hike at an adequate level, government subsidy increase, addressing loopholes in financial management) to increase financial sustainability of its national health insurance system.

Minister Park also stressed the importance of actions by Member States and international organizations to ensure access to medicine, including the implementation of the WHO roadmap, 'Access to medicines and vaccines'.

Minister Park shared the government's efforts to respond to an aging population— i.e., Community Care, a comprehensive community-based care project and the National Dementia Initiative—and added that Korea aims to further improve related policies through active policy sharing and discussion with Member States.

Meanwhile, the Minister highlighted the importance of international coordination and collective response to address health risks and antimicrobial resistance, and asked for interest and support for the 3rd High level member state technical meeting on AMR surveillance, which will be co-hosted by Korea, Sweden and the WHO in 2020.

Minister Park added that it is meaningful to discuss health and welfare challenges that require collective efforts by the international community. He also promised to further strengthen international collaboration to improve health issue response and policy design capacity.