

## **“Toward A Climate-Resilient Health Care in Asia”**

### **Yogyakarta Declaration on Climate and Health**

As representatives of Asian hospitals and health systems, we come together to express unity in responding to climate change and its impacts on both human health and the environment.

Since last year’s Declaration in Seoul, Korea — where we implored our governments to take urgent actions on climate change prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris — health has become a necessary element in the climate discourse.

At the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2016, ministers of health worldwide have recognized the crucial role of the health sector in mobilizing to create greater awareness on the links between climate and health.

As we tackle the most pressing issue of our time, our oath as health professionals to do no harm becomes an even more daunting task. We recognize that while we have a responsibility to protect our people’s health and that of the planet from the adverse effects of the climate crisis, hospitals and health facilities themselves are also vulnerable to climate change.

Likewise, we acknowledge that as a sector, health care itself contributes to our environmental problems, and we must address this by consciously working on reducing the carbon footprint of hospitals and health facilities.

Once again, we stand together to call on our colleagues in the health sector in the region, as well as our respective governments, to protect public health from climate change. We implore our governments to:

- 1) Push for policies and programs that address the public health threats of climate change;
- 2) Invest in and provide support to the establishment of climate-resilient hospitals and health facilities to help them prepare for the impacts of climate change;
- 3) Acknowledge and provide support to health sector as key partner in addressing climate change and energy policies;
- 4) Support the implementation of low-carbon strategies in health care; and
- 5) Support the rapid phase out of coal and other fossil fuels, and fast-track transition to clean, renewable energy.

As health care leaders and workers, we commit to:

- 1) Invest in building health care facilities that are resilient in the face of extreme weather and other climate impacts, by incorporating sustainable design and construction;
- 2) Mobilize the health sector in educating both policy makers and the public on the health impacts of climate change and serve as anchors in our own communities to better adapt and mitigate to adverse climate effects;
- 3) Build network among and within the health sector to support low-carbon, green, and resilient hospitals and health care facilities;
- 4) Be advocates of clean and healthy energy and begin the transition from fossil fuel-based energy by phasing-in and installing renewable energy in our health facilities in order to educate the public on the health impacts of energy choices; and
- 5) Progressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our health care facilities and join the Global Green and Healthy Hospital Network's 2020 Health Care Climate Challenge.

As one sector, we will work together in order to turn the greatest health threat of our time into an opportunity to make our people healthier.

Agreed upon, 5th of August, 2016 during the 2016 Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Asia Regional Conference and 3rd Health Promoting Hospitals Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.