The Asian National Cancer Centre Alliance (ANCCA)

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

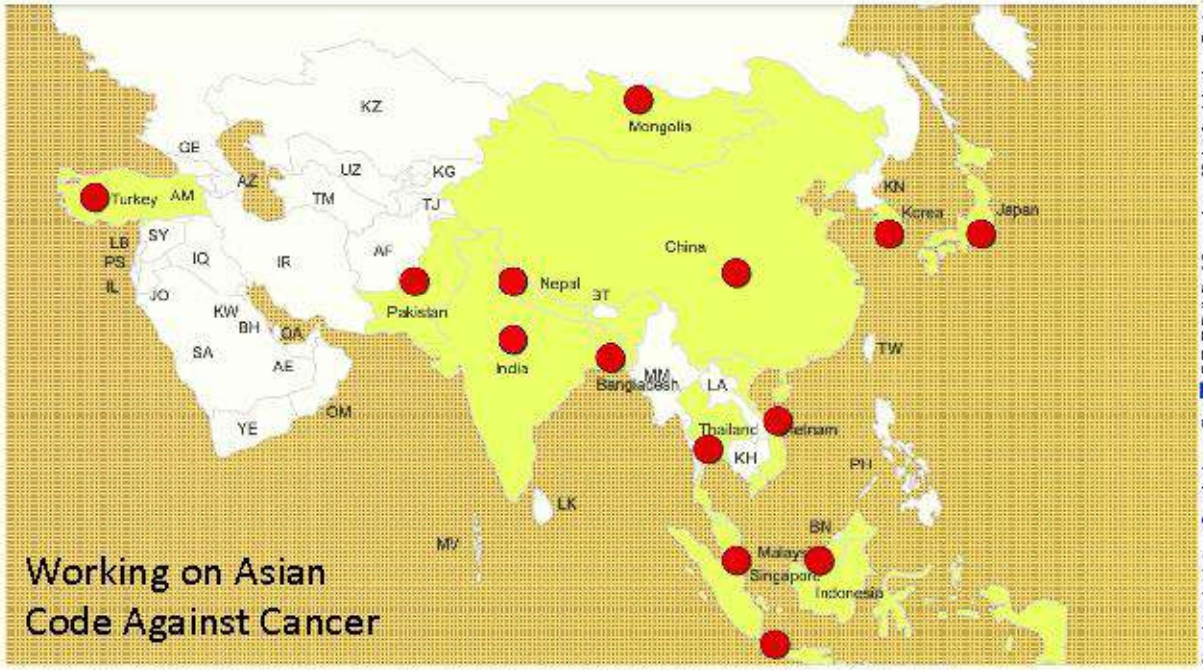
An Asian Body to Tackle Cancers in Asia – The Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance

Laureline Gatellier[1*], Tomohiro Matsuda[1], Kanaga Sabapathy[2], Min Dai[3], Luh Komang Mela Dewi[4], Tran Thanh Huong[5], Kardinah Kardinah[6], Tran Van Thuan[5], Jong Bae Park[6], Jie He[3], Erdenekhuu Nansalmaa[7], Bayarsaikhan Luvsandorj[7], William Ying Khee Hwang[2], Manju Sengar[8], CS Pramesh[9], Tatsuya Suzuki[1]

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Care in the Post Pandemic World: Five Major Lessons Learnt from Challenges and Countermeasures of Major Asian Cancer Centres

Laureline Gatellier[1*], Abhishek Shankar[2*], Luh K Mela Dewi[3*], Quazi Mushtaq Hussain[4], Tashi Dendup Wangdi[5], Dato Babu Sukumaran[6], Nina Kemala Sari[3], Subur Tawakkoli Shiraji[7], Mohammad Biglari[7], Mamak Tahmasebi[8], Satoshi Iwata[1], Tatsuya Suzuki[1], Seung-Kwon Myung[9], June Young Chun[1], Jong Soo Han[1], Fen Nee Lau[10], Suhana Yusak[10], Luvsandorj Bayarsaikhan[11], Khin Thin Mu[12], Kishore K. Pradhananga[13], Aasim Yusuf[14], Ching-Hung Lin[15], Ruru Chun-Ju Chiang[16], Suleeporn Sangrajrang[17], Quang Tien Nguyen[18], Giang Nguyen Huong[18], Aung Naing Soe[19], D N Sharma[20], Manju Sengar[21], C S Pramesh[13], Tomohiro Matsuda[1], Alireza Mosavi Jarrahi[22&], William Hwang[23*]



National Cancer Center (NCC) cooperation network in Asia Pacific countries, founded in 2005 and currently with 14 member countries.

Preparing for the Next Pandemic: An Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance (ANCCA) Initiative

Laureline Gatellier[1], Sok King Ong[2], Tomohiro Matsuda[1], Noraslinah Ramlee[2], Fen Nee Lau[3], Suhana Yusak[3], H.R. Soeko Werdi Nindito D[4], Achmad Mulawarman Jayusman[5], Ayu Hutami Syarif[4], Kishore K. Pradhananga[5], Aasim Yusuf[6], Giang Nguyen Huong[7], Manju Sengar[8], CS Pramesh[9], Alireza Mosavi Jarrahi[9], Tatsuya Suzuki[1], William Y Hwang[2,10*]

Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, **22 (9)**, 2945-2950

Abstract

The COVID pandemic has shown significant impact on cancer care from early detection, management plan to clinical outcomes of cancer patients. The Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance (ANCCA) has put together the 9 "Ps" as guidelines for cancer programs to better prepare for the next pandemic. The 9 "Ps" are: Priority, Protocols and Processes, Patients, People, Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs), Pharmaceuticals, Places, Preparedness, and Politics. Priority: to maintain cancer care as a key priority in the health system response even during a global infectious disease pandemic. Protocol and processes: to develop a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and have relevant expertise to run the Disease Outbreak Response (DORS) Taskforce in the outbreak. Patients: to prioritize patient safety in the event of an outbreak and the need to reschedule cancer management plan, supported by tele-consultation and use of artificial intelligence technology. People: to have business continuity planning to support

An Asian Perspective of the Management of COVID-19: the Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance Led Regional Comparison

Luh Komang Mela Dewi[1], Laureline Gatellier[2], Kanaga Sabapathy[3], C S Pramesh[4], Min Dai[5], Tran Thanh Huong[6], Murat Gultekin[7,8], Erdenekhuu Nansalmaa[9], Khin Khin Htwe[10], Aasim Yusuf[11], Mamak Tahmasebi[12], Kishore Kumar Pradhananga[13], Jong Bae Park[14], Suhaila Md Hanapiah[15], Suleeporn Sangrajrang[16], Rajendra Prasad Baral[17], Achmad Mulawarman Jayusman[18], Satoshi Iwata[2], Jin Wei Kwek[3], Manju Sengar[4], Girish Chinnaswamy[4], Jie He[5], Gu Tian[5], Phung Thi Huyen[6], Tran Van Thuan[6], Bayarsaikhan Luvsandorj[7], Yi Yi Myint[19], June Young Chun[14], Jong Soo Han[14], William Ying Khee Hwang[3], Nina Kemala Sari[1,18], Tomohiro Matsuda[2]

Secretariat:
Korea □
Japan □
Singapore

Do participate in the activities through your center to help shape cancer care and prevention for the world!

ANCCA 2005 – 2020

1st - 2005 in Korea

2nd - 2007 in Japan

3rd - 2009 in China

4th – 2011
in Turkey

5th – 2014
in Korea

6th - 2016
in Mongolia

7th - 2018
in Indonesia

Attending and hosting countries

Year	2005	2007	2009	2011	2014	2016	2018
Australia							
Bangladesh							
Bhutan							
China			3rd HOST				
India							
Indonesia							7th HOST
Iran							
Japan		2nd HOST					Secr
Kazakhstan							
Korea	1st HOST				5th HOST Sec Gen	Secr Gen	Secr Gen
Malaysia							

Year	2005	2007	2009	2011	2014	2016	2018
Mongolia						6th HOST	
Nepal							
Pakistan							
Russia							
Singapore		Secr Gen	Secr Gen	Secr Gen			
Sri Lanka							
Thailand							
Turkey				4th HOST			
Vietnam							
Others			IPRI	IPRI	IARC		

Current ANCCA Member countries (14 countries)

ANCCA attending country

Hosting country

ANCCA new Vision

Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance
ANCCA
Asians United Against Cancers

Asian United Against Cancers

#	Mission	Tasks
1	**Promote Collaboration**	1.1 Increase ANCCA visibility (incl. through a dedicated website or journal)
		1.2 Share information on cancer control management and NCCP in each country, promote aligned advocacy for cancer prevention
		1.3 Promote Asian cancer registries and share epidemiology data; collaboration with IACR
2	**Elevate Medical Standards**	2. Set strong platform for education toward precision medicine (expert visits, multi-disciplinary trainings, courses)
3	**Accelerate Cancer Research and Development**	3. Share information and concrete support for joint research and development

An Asian Body to Tackle Cancers in Asia – The Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance

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Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, **21 (5)**, 1207-1212

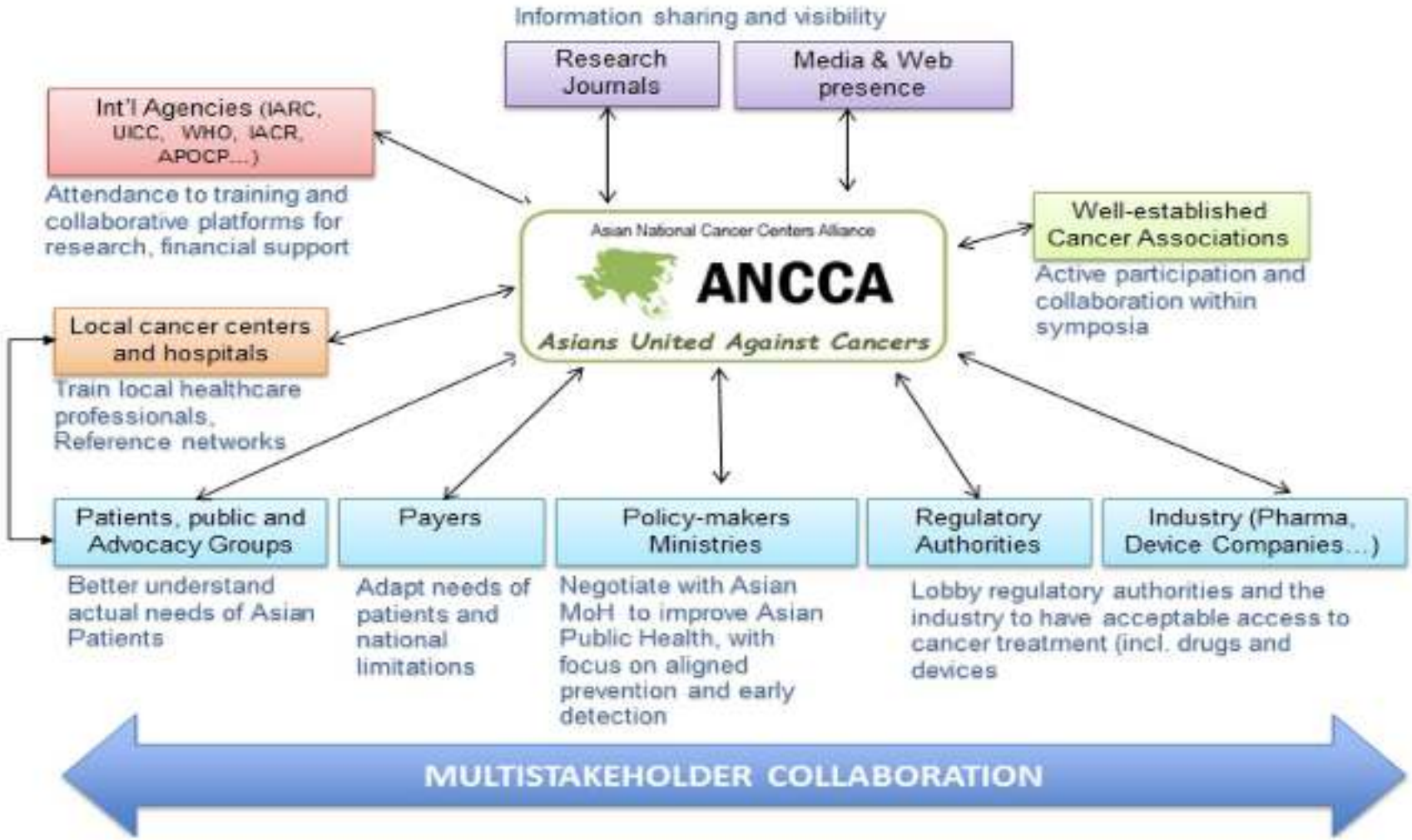

Figure 1. ANCCA as a Key Player in Asia, to Promote the Best Cancer Care for the Asian Continent

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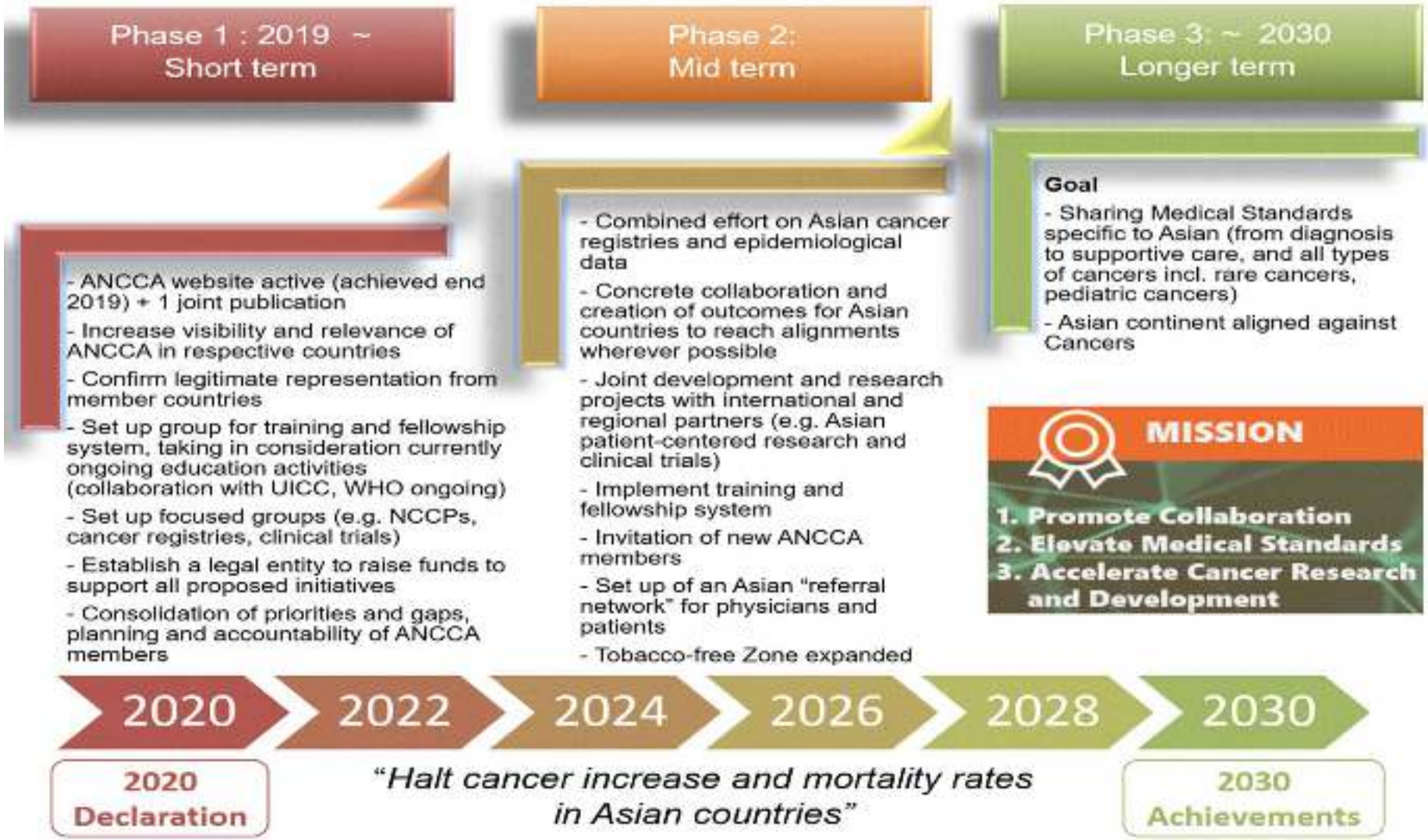


E-Meetings of 2021

Regular e-Meeting (3 times)	NCCP Tastforce Meeting (8 times)

Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
Increased Visibility Through Website Update (Annual Maintenance fee paid by Dharmais NCC Indonesia)		**Ongoing** (Dharmais NCC Indonesia to present current status later)

2019	2020-2021
· Opened by NCC Dharmais Indonesia's lead and finance (https://ancca.asia/)	**· Posted latest information from ANCCA** **· Consulted IARC on moving ANCCA Website hosting** **· Maintained by finance and human resources of NCC Dharmais Indonesia** **ANCCA web hosting by IARC** • Pros 1. Branding 2. Increases the visibility of the website 3. Affordable cost • Cons 1. Requires more technical efforts 2. Requires commitment to develop web focal points 3. Maintenance cost

Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
Increased ANCCA Members (Newly Incoming Full Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Malaysia and Laos)	☺	**Achieved & Ongoing**
Membership Status (Associate Entities: Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, Cambodia, Iran, Myanmar, C/CAN and APOCP)	☺	**Ongoing**

2005 6 full members (and 3 associate entities)	**2005-2019** 2 full members (and 3 associate entities)	**2020-2021** 5 full members with 2 A.E.s turned to F.M.s
(Bangladesh), China, Japan, Mongolia, (Pakistan), Republic of Korea, Singapore, (Thailand), Vietnam	India, Indonesia, (Malaysia), (Nepal), (Turkey)	**Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan, Laos, Malaysia**

Other 5 associate entities	
Cambodia, Iran, Myanmar	City Cancer Challenge (C/CAN), Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention (APOCP)

Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
Increased ANCCA Members (Newly Incoming Full Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Malaysia and Laos)		**Achieved & Ongoing**
Membership Status (Associate Entities: Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey) (Not yet officially added: Cambodia, Iran, Myanmar)		**Ongoing**

2005 (6 full members, 3 associate entities)	2005-2019 (2 full members, 3 associate entities)	2020-2021 (5 full members with 2 A.E.s turned to F.M.s)
(Bangladesh), China, Japan, Mongolia, (Pakistan), Republic of Korea, Singapore, (Thailand), Vietnam	India, Indonesia, (Malaysia), (Nepal), (Turkey)	**Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan, Laos, Malaysia**

Not yet officially added centers	Other associate entity
Cambodia, Iran, Myanmar	City Cancer Challenge (C/CAN)

Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
NCCP Taskforce (NCCP Collaboration and 'Asian Code Against Cancer')	☺	**Achieved & Ongoing**

NCCP Collaboration

· 9 members actively participating since 2021 (Brunei, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Vietnam, C/Can)

· **held NCCP e-meeting 8 times during 2021**

- Completed NCCP survey on 16 members

- Under discussion on mentorship between NCC India (Mentor) – NCC Dharmais Indonesia (Mentee)

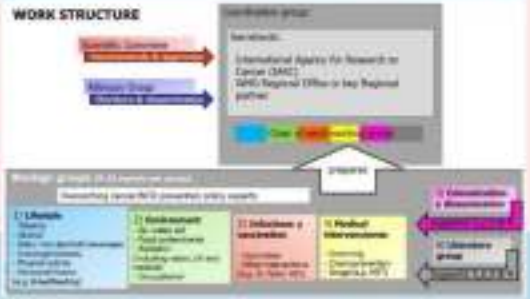
Asian Code Against Cancer

· 9 members, IARC joined and also still opened to other ANCCA members to join

- **still gathering information on cancer prevention and also each members own codes**

· **Organizing its scientific committee and fundraising process will be implemented in 2022**

Working structure and process:



Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
COVID Taskforce (to be made regularly)		Ongoing

Future COVID taskforce plans – Open for discussion (from eMtg 12)

Should we evolve the taskforce into a **Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness subcommittee?** - focused on

1. Surveillance of International news for news of any outbreak or major catastrophe of international importance,
2. Assemble over virtual platforms for Discussion of news, information and updates,
3. Development of Recommendations relevant to cancer centres,
4. Dissemination of news and recommendations over email, publications and presentations at international meetings

Other suggestions?

Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
Education and Training (3 Successful UICC Technical Fellowship Awardees : China, Mongolia and Vietnam)		**Ongoing**

· 2021 UICC-NCCK Technical Fellowship Program

	Quota	Awardee
2019	3~4	**3 (NCC China, NCC Mongolia, 1 NCC Vietnam)**
2020	3~4	
2021	3~4	

Achievements 2020-2021

Topic	Status	Comments
Collaboration with C/CAN [Discussion Series (3 Workshops) (Jul. – Sep. 2021)]	☺	**Achieved & Ongoing**

"Driving Quality Cancer Care in Asia Discussion Series"

Discussion Series

30 July 2021

16:30 (New Delhi), 19:00 (Kuala Lumpur / Singapore), 20:00 (Tokyo / Seoul)

Mapping barriers and opportunities in implementing and strengthening a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care in Asia

23 August 2021

13:00 (New Delhi), 15:30 (Kuala Lumpur / Singapore), 16:30 (Tokyo / Seoul)

How Cities can lead the development of resource-appropriate guidelines for the management of patients with invasive breast cancer

24 September 2021

14:30 (New Delhi), 17:00 (Kuala Lumpur / Singapore), 18:00 (Tokyo / Seoul)

How cities can lead the development of resource-appropriate guidelines for the management of patients with invasive cervical cancer

ANCCA Manuscript : COVID-19 Cancer Study

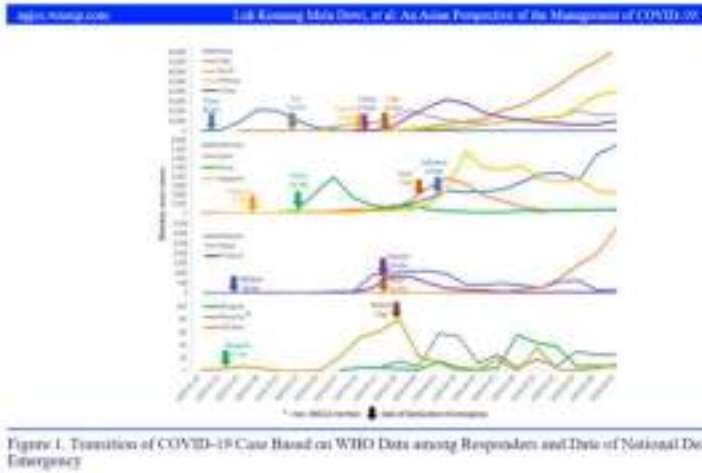


Figure 1. Transition of COVID-19 Case Based on WHO Data among Responders and Date of National De Emergency

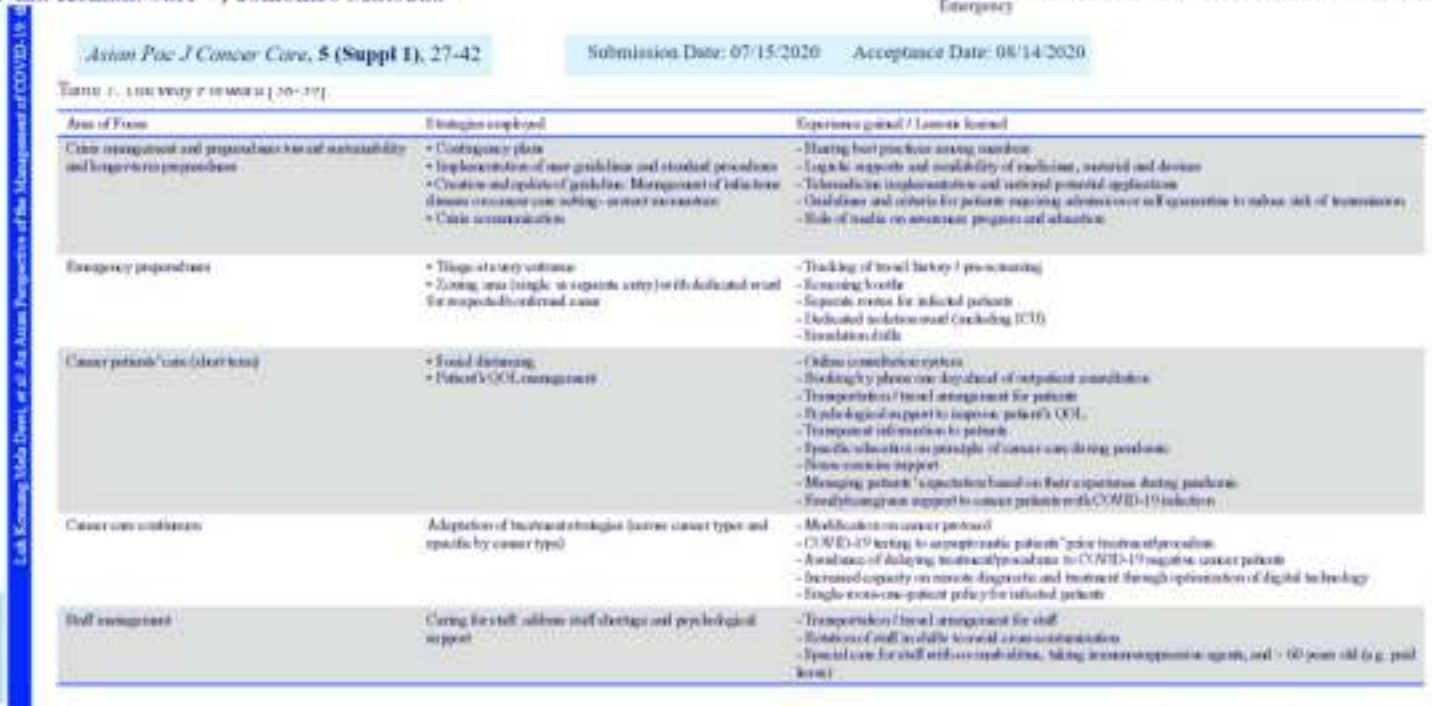


Table 1. Lessons Forward [36-39]

Area of Focus	Strategies employed	Experience gained / Lessons learned
Crisis management and preparedness toward sustainability and longer-term preparedness	• Contingency plans • Implementation of new guidelines and standard procedures • Creation and update of guideline: Management of infectious diseases on cancer care setting - cancer monitoring • Crisis communication	- Sharing best practices among members - Logistic supports and availability of medicines, material and devices - Telemedicine implementation and national potential application - Guidelines and criteria for patients requiring admission or self-quarantine to reduce risk of transmission - Role of media on awareness program and education
Emergency preparedness	• Triage at every entrance • Zoning area (single vs separate entry) with dedicated ward for suspected/confirmed cases	- Tracking of travel history / pre-screening - Screening booths - Separate routes for infected patients - Dedicated isolation ward (including ICU) - Simulation drills
Cancer patients' care (short term)	• Social distancing • Patient's QOL management	- Online consultation system - Booking by phone one day ahead of outpatient consultation - Transportation / travel arrangement for patients - Psychological support to improve patient's QOL - Transparent information to patients - Specific education on principle of cancer care during pandemic - Nurse exercise support - Managing patients' expectation based on their experience during pandemic - Small/homogenous support to cancer patients with COVID-19 infection
Cancer care continuum	Adaptation of treatment strategies (across cancer types and specific by cancer type)	- Modification on cancer protocol - COVID-19 testing to asymptomatic patients' prior treatment/procedure - Avoidance of delaying treatment/procedures to COVID-19 negative cancer patients - Increased capacity on remote diagnostic and treatment through optimization of digital technology - Single-room-one-patient policy for infected patients
Staff management	Caring for staff: address staff shortage and psychological support	- Transportation / travel arrangement for staff - Rotation of staff in shifts to avoid cross-contamination - Special care for staff with co-morbidities, taking immunosuppressive agents, and > 60 years old (e.g. paid leave)

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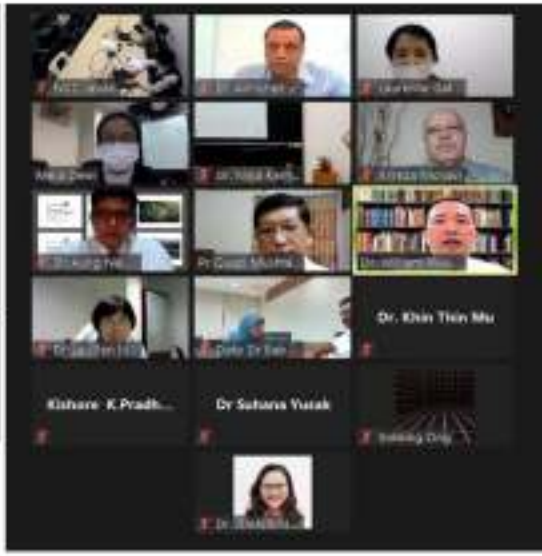
Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, **22 (3)**, 681-690

Abstract

Objective: The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected healthcare services around Asia. The Asian National Cancer Centres Alliance and the Asia-Pacific Organisation for Cancer Prevention collaborated to assess the mid- and long- term impact of COVID-19 to cancer care in Asia. **Methods:** The two entities organised a combined symposium and post-meeting interactions among representatives of major cancer centres from seventeen Asian countries to outlining major challenges and countermeasures. **Results:** Participating stakeholders distilled five big questions. 1) *"Will there be an explosion of late-stage cancers after the pandemic?"* To address and recover from perceived delayed prevention, screening, treatment and care challenges, collaboration of key stakeholders in the region and alignment in cancer care management, policy intervention and cancer registry initiatives would be of essential value. 2) *"Operations and Finance"* The pandemic has resulted in significant material and financial casualties. Flagged acute challenges (shortages of supplies, imposition of lockdown) as well as longer-standing reduction of financial revenue, manpower, international collaboration, and training should also be addressed. 3) *"Will telemedicine and technological innovations revolutionize cancer care?"* Deploying and implementing telemedicine such as teleconsultation and virtual tumour boards were considered invaluable. These innovations could become a new regular practice, leading to expansion of tele-collaboration through collaboration of institutions in the region. 4) *"Will virtual conferences continue after the pandemic?"* Virtual conferences during the pandemic have opened new doors for knowledge sharing, especially for representatives of low- and middle-income countries in the region, while saving time and costs of travel. 5) *"How do we prepare for the next pandemic or international emergency?"* Roadmaps for action to improve access to appropriate patient care and research were identified and scrutinised. **Conclusion:** Through addressing these five big questions, focused collaboration among members and with international organisations such as City Cancer Challenge will allow enhanced preparedness for future international emergencies.

Five Big Questions:

1) Will there be an explosion of late-stage cancers after the pandemic?"
2) What are the challenges with Operations and Finance ahead?
3) Will telemedicine and technological innovations revolutionize cancer care?
4) Will virtual conferences continue after the pandemic?
5) How do we prepare for the next pandemic or international emergency?



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Seven Ps for the next Pandemic

1. Priority
2. Protocols & Processes,
3. Patients,
4. People,
5. Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs)
6. Pharmaceuticals
7. Places
8. Preparedness
9. Politics

Phase 1 (Short term) → **Toward Phase 2**

Original Goals (set in 2019-2020)	Updated Goals
ANCCA website active	→ Website optimization and maintenance
1 joint publication	→ Other joint publications
Increase visibility and relevance of ANCCA in respective countries	→ Continuous effort such as Satellite event (Nov. 2, 2021)
Confirm legitimate representation from member countries (e.g., MoH recognition)	→ Continuous effort to reach optimal ANCCA member list
Set up group for training and fellowship system	→ Continuous effort of maintenance
Set up focused groups (e.g., NCCPs, cancer registries, clinical trials)	→ Continuous effort of maintenance
Evaluate a legal entity to raise funds to support all proposed initiatives	→ Continuous effort based on ANCCA's activities
Consolidation of priorities and gaps, planning and accountability of ANCCA members	→ Continuous effort in a changing environment

Phase 2 (Mid term)
Some goals already started

Original Goals (set in 2019-2020)	Updated Goals
Combined effort on Asian cancer registries and epidemiological data	→ Continuous effort, task forces, subcommittees
Concrete collaboration and creation of outcomes for Asian countries to reach alignments wherever possible	→ For further discussion among ANCCA members?
Joint development and research projects with international and regional partners (e.g., Asian patient-centered research and clinical trials)	→ For further discussion among ANCCA members
Implement training and fellowship system	→ Continuous effort
Invitation of new ANCCA members	→ Continuous effort
Set up of an Asian "referral network" for physicians and patients	Not yet started → when to be started?
Tobacco-free Zone expanded	Not yet started → when be started?

To timely reach together our evolving goals

Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance
ANCCA
Asians United Against Cancers

- Continuous **commitment** from the **leadership** of all full members and associated entities
- ANCCA **Secretariat team** to consolidate / maximize our Asian characteristics
- Administrative supervision at **each NCC**
  - Main contact person (**point of contact**)
  - (if possible) use address such as jp-ancca@ncc.go.jp or sg-ancca@nccs.com.sg)
- Official **subcommittees** (previously “task forces”)
  see next page

To timely reach together our evolving goals

Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance
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Open for discussion during and after High Level Meeting 2021

- Official subcommittees members
  - Appointment of **leader**
  - Nomination of country representative, **specialist and/or (junior) motivated staff** (appointed by each ANCCA member)
- Official subcommittees
  - Cancer policy and control
  - Registries
  - Education
  - Research and Clinical trials
  - Philanthropy and partnerships
  - COVID-19 and future pandemics
  - Tobacco free zone

Keeping our Vision

Asian National Cancer Centers Alliance
ANCCA
Asians United Against Cancers

Working on our strengths

- Large patient numbers
- National position
- Wide International reach

Making a Difference

- Opportunities for large collaborative studies as well as international opinion pieces
- Helping to shape national and global policy
- International network for referrals, shared knowledge and emergencies
- etc