

NEWS RELEASE

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St. Luke's International University

UNAIDS and St. Luke's International University to work together on ending the AIDS epidemic in Asia, the Pacific and in Japan

Tokyo, Japan, 30 November 2018 - The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the St. Luke's International University, will strengthen their collaboration by signing a memorandum of understanding to combine efforts towards ending the AIDS epidemic in Asia, the Pacific and in Japan. The agreement will call for both organizations to jointly promote the AIDS response in Asia and the Pacific region and epidemiological and public health research regarding HIV and AIDS in Asia and the Pacific and Japan.

Gunilla Carlsson UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director and Jun Itoigawa, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will sign the memorandum of understanding on 30th of November at a ceremony at Hinohara Hall, OMURA Susumu & Mieko Memorial St. Luke's Center for Clinical Academia. Gunilla Carlsson, who was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director in December 2017, will travel to Japan for a three-day official visit from 30th November to 2nd of December to mark World AIDS Day 2018.

World AIDS Day takes place on the 1st December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the HIV response. This year's theme will be "Know your status" to encourage everyone to get tested for HIV. HIV testing is essential for expanding treatment and ensuring that all people living with HIV can lead healthy and productive lives. It is also crucial to achieving the 90-90-90 targets and empowering people to make choices about HIV prevention so they can protect themselves and their loved ones.

After the MoU signing ceremony, Gunilla Carlsson will deliver opening remarks at the World AIDS Day public event at St Luke's International University. On the following day, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director will travel to Osaka, to attend World AIDS Day commemorations. She will speak at Osaka World AIDS Day Event and she will visit the World AIDS Day exhibition at Osaka City Central Public Hall. Her agenda includes meetings with key partners of the HIV response including civil society. During her stay she is also scheduled to deliver remarks at the 32nd Meeting of the Japanese Society for AIDS Research's Open Citizen's Forum "Leave no one behind".

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