



31 January 2020

Precautionary Measures against Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

1. Background

The Novel Coronavirus has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 30 January 2020. As of now, China has reported more than 9,000 confirmed cases and the deaths of at least 200 people from the virus. There have been more than 100 cases in 18 other countries including 10 APO member countries. The APO is issuing these guidelines to help ensure the safety of all participants and resource persons (referred to jointly as “participants” below) involved in APO projects.

2. Predeparture Arrangements

2.1 Self-monitoring: Participants are advised to regularly check their medical condition at least two weeks prior to leaving their residence for the venue. If participants experience any symptoms associated with the coronavirus e.g. high fever, they must immediately cancel attendance in the project, inform the NPOs of the home and host countries as well as the Secretariat.

2.2 Medical Travel Kit: Participants are strongly advised to prepare and take with them a medical travel kit, which should include a supply of surgical masks, thermometer, and antiseptic/disinfectant. The participants may seek the advice of a Doctor about other essential items to supplement the kit.

3. During Project Implementation

3.1 Participants are recommended to monitor their health condition carefully while on the venue and immediately inform the organizers in case they do not feel well. In such a situation, arrangements will be made to find an appropriate medical treatment.

3.2 Participants must follow the health instructions of the host country and the organizers during the project period.

4. Roles of NPOs:

4.1 NPOs are requested to ensure that participants from their countries fully comply with these guidelines and include the guidelines among the priority information items to be conveyed to the selected participants during their predeparture briefing.

4.2 Host NPOs are requested to identify specific clinics or hospital facilities if participants develop the symptoms of coronavirus for immediate medical treatment. Host NPOs should also help in liaising with the appropriate health and medical authorities in the host country.

5. Financial Implications: The APO and NPOs will not bear any additional expenses incurred by participants who develop the coronavirus.

These guidelines were prepared on 31 January 2020 and remain valid until further notice. In addition to these guidelines, participants and host NPOs are advised to follow the recommendations made by WHO and national health authorities. APO will continue to monitor the situation and update the guidelines when necessary.

More information on the general precautions regarding the coronavirus is available on the WHO Web site:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
<https://www.who.int/ith/2020-27-01-outbreak-of-Pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/>