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## 6TH ANNUAL TB EXPERTS COMMUNITY MEETING “GETTING TO ZERO BY ADDRESSING LATENT TB IN ASIA”

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The TB Experts Community Meeting was held on 4-5 August 2018 in Hanoi, Viet Nam. During this conference strategies for ending TB were discussed with focus on addressing the seedbed of latent tuberculosis infection. There was consensus among all participants that community involvement must increase in order for tuberculosis prevalence to decrease. Participants also agreed on the need for stronger emphasis on preventive care, especially among contacts of active tuberculosis patients, in high-burden areas, and among other individuals at high risk of developing active tuberculosis. The Stop TB Partnership Japan opened the conference followed by a warm welcome from the Viet Nam Ministry of Health and the Viet Nam National TB Control Programme. Both reiterated Viet Nam’s commitment to end tuberculosis and serve as pathfinding country for the Asian region and high tuberculosis burden countries around the world. Both the keynote speaker and Stop TB Partnership representative emphasized the need for comprehensive intervention to search, treat and prevent all – latent and active – forms of tuberculosis. The WHO representative stressed the importance of prevention as part of the End TB Strategy and the foundation for country-level implementation laid by the updated and consolidated guidelines. In a transition from policy to practice, representatives from Viet Nam, South Korea, Pakistan, China, Taiwan and Indonesia shared country-level aspirations and experiences about intensified interventions to address latent tuberculosis infection in the various countries. These presentations informed two subsequent lively panel discussions in high and low tuberculosis burden settings.

On the next day, industry representatives shared ongoing developments and new research for rifapentine and interferon gamma release assays sparking engaged discussions on the role of industry in

facilitating greater uptake and broader implementation of comprehensive actions. Following these presentations, conference participants broke out into groups to discuss enablers and barriers to scale-up for comprehensive interventions against active and latent tuberculosis in their respective country settings. At the end of an intensive two days of discussions, all participants renewed their commitment to return to their communities and actively promote comprehensive actions to end TB in Asia with a stronger focus on integrated intervention against latent and active tuberculosis.