

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Afeeya Akhand to our team as a volunteer Expert research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Afeeya was active with our project from 2020-05-20 to 2021-08-20 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Japan. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Afeeya Akhand, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Afeeya has been a country expert for Japan. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Japan as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

Based on their performance, RAs are promoted to Advanced and then to Expert RAs, which is the position held by Afeeya. This role involves coding an outstanding number of 250 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 6 months. Expert research assistants have gained extensive knowledge of PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They are actively involved in the development of the taxonomy and the project structure, and guide other research assistants. With their profound expertise, they play a fundamental role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Afeeya took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Research Article:** Afeeya has written a research article that has been published in the CoronaNet Working Paper Series. This project included developing and executing a research plan, engaging in original data analysis, and writing in clear and concise language accessible for policy makers and the public. Afeeya went through an intensive training and has proven excellent scholarly research expertise. The article can be found online via www.coronanet-project.org

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Afeeya Akhand for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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