Facing our Future with Reduced Risks
preparedness…collaboration…action

Regional Office for the Western Pacific

World Health Organization

Thematic Session:

Capacity Building

and Disaster Reduction

Hazards in the Region

Natural Hazards

1. Sudden impact or acute onset: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, tsunami, tropical storms, cyclones, typhoons, floods, avalanches, cold weather, dzud, large-scale outbreaks (SARS), Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

2. Slow or chronic onset: drought, environmental degradation, chronic exposure to toxic substances

Hazards inducing Human-generated Disasters

1. Industrial/technological: explosions, fires, system failures/accidents, chemical/radiation, spillages, pollution, terrorism

2. Transportation: vehicular crash, plane crash, maritime accidents

3. Deforestation

Hazards inducing Complex Emergency

Wars and civil strife, armed aggression, insurgency, and other actions resulting in displaced persons and refugees

EHA/WPRO Programme Summary

Regional Goal

To reduce avoidable loss of life, burden of disease, and disability in emergencies and post-crisis transitions.

Regional Objectives

- To strengthen national capacity building activities for emergency management
- To assist Member States to develop community-based risk reduction initiatives;
- To provide support to Member States in major emergencies;
- To promote collaboration with partner agencies
- To enhance WHO's institutional capacity for emergency management

Activities in the Western Pacific Region

- Managing crisis situations
- Capacity building
- Development and dissemination of health knowledge
- Health emergency & humanitarian action projects
- Strengthening collaboration with national and international partner agencies

Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP)

- Context
  - Globally there are numerous training courses
  - Many focused on complex emergencies and refugee health care
  - Gap for the need of a course for government policy makers
- Partner Agencies
  - WHO Western Pacific Regional Office
  - WHO South East Asia Regional Office
  - Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
  - Japan International Corporation for Welfare Services (JICWELS)

- Course Design
  - Series of integrated courses
  - Customised courses targeted to needs of different levels of health managers
    - National (policy & guidelines)
    - Provincial (programme management)
    - Local (implementation)
    - Directors of relevant institutions
      - Major hospitals
      - Academic institutions

- Training curriculum focuses on
  - Mass accidents, floods, storms, earthquakes
  - Long term post-disaster public health needs and the public health needs of displaced peoples
  - Policies & guidelines for mass casualty management and hospital planning
  - Pre-hospital knowledge and skills

Inter-Regional PHEMAP

– Senior public health managers, hospital managers

– Member states: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, India, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Fiji, Vanuatu, China
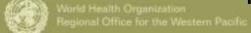
National PHEMAP

- Philippines
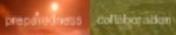- Viet Nam
- Papua New Guinea

Regional Plans

- Continue Inter-regional PHEMAP
  - once a year
- Explore other institutions within the region to offer course
- Regional Trainors Training Course
  - Regional pool of trainors
- Regional Training/Orientation on Rapid Health Emergency Operations Team
- Expand National PHEMAP Courses
  - CHN, CAM, Pacific Island Countries
- Utilize distance learning approach
  - Pacific Open Learning Health Network

Recommendations

- Inventory of existing training programmes on health emergency management

- Standardized regional curriculum

- Guidelines for training
    - eg, training manual for PHEMAP

- Assessment tool

- Database of experts for the Regional Health Emergency Operations Team

- Indicators for evaluation