

## **Regional Training Course on Mass Casualty Management and Hospital Preparedness**

### **Background**

In October 2006, an “Asia Pacific Meeting on Health Emergencies and Human Resource Development” was organized by WHO WPRO and SEARO together with SEAMEO TROPMED Network. The meeting aimed to: (i) define the HRD needs within the context of emergencies in Asia Pacific; (ii) map the status of training and HRD in Asia Pacific to include major training institutions; (iii) identify the gaps in HRD in the areas of preparedness, response, recovery and transition; and (iv) recommend training and HRD measures to fill the gaps identified. In the same October 2006 meeting, management of mass casualties and hospital preparedness were also defined as priority areas that need to be strengthened.

To address these priority areas, a regional training curriculum had to be developed. A consultant developed the training modules and these were then packaged as part of regional training curriculum.

The following activities were then undertaken to further develop the regional training course:

#### ***1. Development and Packaging of the Regional Training Course***

A three-day writeshop was organized in Manila, Philippines, 31 July-2 August 2007. The participants of the writeshop included experts and resource persons involved in the development and packaging of the regional training package for Management of Mass Casualty (MCM) and Hospital preparedness. The resource persons were experts in the field of emergencies and disasters, hospital preparedness, curriculum designing and graphic designing.

#### ***2. Pilot Testing of the Regional Training Course***

For the pilot testing, three countries were involved (Cambodia, Philippines and Vietnam). The training package was pilot tested in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 24-28 September 2007. A focal person from Lao PDR participated as an observer. The country teams for the pilot testing were composed of national focal persons for hospital preparedness/disaster, hospital directors and a representative from the academe/training institution.

The final draft of the training package was utilized in the pilot testing.

### **3. *Second Regional Training Course***

The evaluation conducted during the pilot testing served as inputs to the revision of the course. There was an addition of a risk communication session, and improvement in a number of the teaching/learning activities. The revised training package was then utilized for the second round of the regional training.

The second regional training was organized 24- 28 November 2008 in Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

A total of 20 participants from Lao PDR (8) , Mongolia (5), Vietnam (3) and Peoples Republic of China (4) attended the regional training. The participants were Ministry of Health officials of the participating countries who are involved in the national disaster and emergency program, directors of referral and provincial hospitals. There were also 1 course coordinator and 7 resource persons/facilitators.

#### **Rationale**

The HRD Meeting in October underscored the need for a training program on mass casualty management and hospital preparedness. In response to this HRD need, several activities were undertaken. A pilot tested and revised training package is now available in the region that can be utilized for regional training and that can be rolled out for national training as well. It is in this context that this regional proposal for another round of training is being proposed.

#### **Objectives of the training**

At the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Perform vulnerability assessment
- Plan for the development or strengthening of Emergency Medical Services System (EMSS)
- Facilitate the development or strengthening of Hospital MCM Response Plan
- Facilitate in the development of public health MCM preparedness plan
- Prepare a training development framework for Mass Casualty Management and Hospital Preparedness

#### **Participants**

The countries to be involved are: China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. The participants should be Ministry of Health officials of the participating countries who are either involved in the

national disaster and emergency program, directors of referral and provincial hospitals and one person involved in training for disasters. A total of five persons is the maximum for each country team.

### **Tentative date and venue**

November 2009 in Singapore

### **Implementing Agency**

SEAMEO Tropical Medicine and Public Health (SEAMEO TROPMED) Network in collaboration with WPRO will organize the training to include invitation, travel arrangements and organization of the training as well as secretariat services.

SEAMEO TROPMED Network is a regional cooperation network established in 1966 for education, training and research in tropical medicine and public health under the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. The mission of SEAMEO TROPMED is to promote health and to prevent and/or control diseases, thus improving the living conditions of people through relevant programmes and services. One specific objective of the Network is to develop the capacity of individuals and institutions in delivering quality healthcare. The Network operates through the Regional Centre for Community Nutrition in Indonesia; Regional Centre for Microbiology, Parasitology and Entomology in Malaysia; Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration and Occupational Health in the Philippines; and Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine in Thailand. These Regional Centres are affiliated with academic and research institutions which provide the physical facilities, faculty and technical staff in respective Member Countries. A Network Coordinating Office is based in Bangkok, Thailand.