

Regional Training Course on Health Emergency Response Operations (HERO)

Background

The “Asia Pacific Meeting on Health Emergencies and Human Resource Development” in October underscored the need for a training programmes related to health emergency response operations. Several training courses were developed and implemented in collaboration with regional academic and training institutions. One of these activities was the “Regional Emergency Response Operation Training” developed and offered by Hanoi School of Public Health, one of the leading academic institutions for Public health in Vietnam.

The course was offered February 2009 with the participation of key health staff from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, People Republic of China and Vietnam. The course was designed as a Training of Trainers with the objective of the course to be rolled out to the countries in the region.

An evaluation of the course was done by the organizers, facilitators and resource persons together with the participants of the course. After the evaluation of the pilot offering in Vietnam, a decision was arrived at to review and revised the modules and packaged the entire course similar to what has been done with other regional courses on health emergencies and disasters in the region. This packaging will also standardize all the related regional courses for roll out to the Member States.

In 28-30 September a consultative meeting of experts will be organized to review the modules and develop the outline of the revised training package. Module writing will follow this consultative meeting to develop the package. This series of activities will end by the last week of November in time for the proposed regional training in December 2009.

Rationale

The HRD Meeting in October of 2006 underscored the need for a training program on health emergency response operations. In response to this HRD need, several activities were undertaken. A revised training package will be available needs to be pilot tested in the region before it can be rolled out for national training in the Member States. It is in this context that this proposal for a regional training is being proposed.

General Objective of the Course

The course will strengthen the capacities of the Member States in general and the professionals in particular to respond to emergencies and disasters in a more efficient and effective manner.

(Specific objectives of the course will be provided after the consultative meeting)

Participants

The countries to be involved are: China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Vietnam. The participants should be Ministry of Health officials of the participating countries who are involved in the national disaster and emergency program specifically in the emergency response operations. A total of three persons is the maximum for each country team.

Date and venue

December 14-18, 2009 in the Philippines

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.