

Symposium in 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Japan Surgical Association (2013/11/21)

Venue: Nagoya International Convention Center (Nagoya)  
Topics: Establishment of disaster medical and public health coordinator in Japan.

On Nov. 21, Prof. Shinichi Egawa lectured in the Symposium 1 “How to prepare and response to large scale disaster” in the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Japan Surgical Association in Nagoya. According to the nation-wide questionnaire survey about the disaster medical and public health coordinator implementation and their roles, Prof. Egawa discussed about how the medical and public health needs should be matched with the supports and aids.

After the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, Japan had established Disaster Base Hospitals, DMAT, Staging care unit and wide area transportation system, Emergency Medical Information System and Disaster Medical Coordinators to provide efficient response from the health sectors, and they functioned well in the Great East Japan Earthquake (GEJE). Only four prefectural governments, however, had assigned medical coordinator before GEJE and the number is rapidly growing (Fig 1). Name, assigned number and responsible bureau differs by prefecture. Most of them are DMAT or managing DMAT, but only a small number of Public Health Directors are assigned. Fig. 2 shows that most of the expected roles are the coordination of medical assistant team during the acute phase after onset, but not the middle-long term medical and public health coordination or preparedness and educative role before disaster. Resource: <http://www.irdes-icdm.med.tohoku.ac.jp/index.html>

Attendees are the clinical surgeons who will be involved in the front line. Prof. Egawa stressed that common language will help you to receive more efficient support from outside. Not only the high probability of Tokyo Metropolitan Area and South Trough Earthquakes, but also frequent climatological disasters like Oshima and Philippine Typhoons made the audience very active to learn about disaster response.

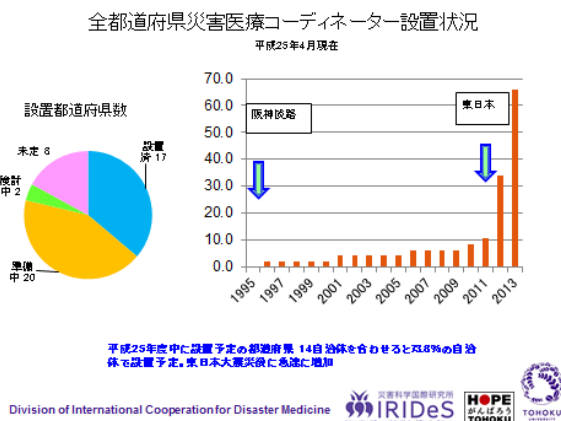


Fig. 1 Assignments of coordinators

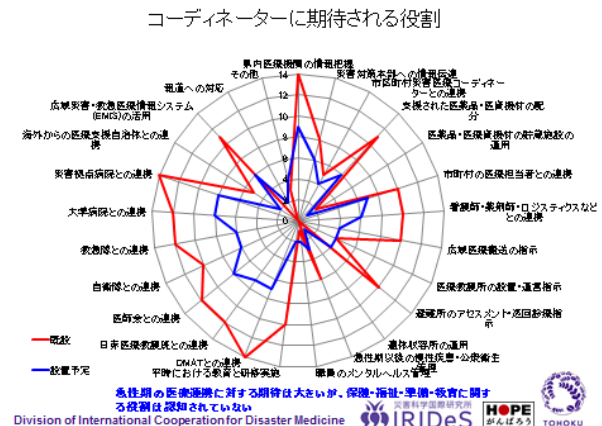


Fig. 2 Expected roles of coordinators  
Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medicine)