

## Sphere Project Seminar (2013/12/6)

Venue: Institute of Development, Aging and Cancer, Tohoku University (Sendai)

Topics: Public Health and Medical Assessment in Disaster: Introduction to Sphere Project

On Dec. 6, Div. International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine had the Sphere Project Seminar inviting Mr. Mitsuya Kodama (Assistant Professor, Yokohama Municipal College) as the lecturer. Sphere Project was originated by Int. Assoc. Red Cross and Red Crescent with core NGOs to develop the minimum standards in the humanitarian response. All the participants received the free Japanese translated Sphere Handbook as a text. Mr. Kodama had finished Training of Trainers that was held for the second time in Japan in Tokyo last August. He has profound experience both as governmental and non-governmental agent in disaster affected countries and explained the main concept of Sphere.

Sphere aims at the propagation of Humanitarian Charters that people affected by disaster or conflict have a right to life with dignity and to assistance, and that all possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflicts. Responders should be aware that **A**, Their actions do not bring further harm to affected people. **B**, Their activities benefit in particular those who are most affected and vulnerable. **C**, They contribute to protecting affected people from violence and other human rights abuses, and **D**, They help affected people recover from abuses. Mr. Kodama insisted that achieving the quality standard is more important according to the culture of the country, district and individual circumstances, rather than the numerical standards.

Staffs from Intergraduate School for Global Safety and Dept. Disaster Medicine attended and had a fruitful discussion about the impact of Sphere in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Typhoon Haiyan Disaster and about the cluster approach including governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. IRIDeS will promote the adaptation of Sphere in Japanese society.



Mr. Mitsuya Kodama



Active discussion of the participants  
Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medicine)