
Venue: Marvin Center, George Washington University, Washington DC, USA
Topics: 国際シンポジウム：災害医学と公衆衛生管理のレビュー：ヒョウゴフレームワーク

Prof. Shinichi Egawa co-hosted the International Symposium on Disaster Medical and Public Health Management: Review of Hyogo Framework from May 21–22, collaborating with Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, George Washington University, USUHS/CDHAM and Children’s National Health System. (http://hfa2-symposium.cdham.org/).

The five co-organizers formed the core-planning group and discussed every week on a telephone conference and equally contributed. There were about 80 participants for the first day breakout sessions, and 120 participants in the second day plenary discussion. Experts of disaster medical and public health from Japan, United States, Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Israel, UN-organizations including WHO, OCHA/INSARAG, PAHO and World Bank joined to discuss how “Health” should be incorporated in HFA2 through the processes toward the World Conference of Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai 2015 March.

Several months before the symposium, five breakout sessions started discussion in internet-based system Base Camp on 1) Framework and Policies, 2) Vulnerable Population, 3) Sociomental Health, 4) Infrastructure, Logistics and Funds and 5) Education and Training. Each participants were requested to submit consultative themes that conforms the basis of discussion on the first day. Co-leads and facilitators in each breakout session collaborated to organize the discussion. On the second day, the summarized consultative themes were presented and discussed in the plenary session where OCHA gave Key-note Address and UNISDR STAG concluded the summary of breakout groups according to the steps toward the World Conference.

Even though the process of discussion was not well decided due to the late submission of consultative themes, all discussion was very enthusiastic and collaborative to finally fell into a conclusion that “Health Integration is Imparative for HFA2”. Not only the response to disaster, but also the disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management (DRR/DRM) should be ensured. Community resilience should be measured through health indicators and risks should be measured according to the emerging crises including climate change, poverty and lack of resources, rapid and unsustainable urbanization and loss of biological diversity. Therefore, integration and enhancement of health component in UN initiatives such as Climate Change, Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to response well, the risk assessment and preparedness is vital. Only the words “Safe Hospitals” are included in the current HFA. Safe Hospital itself should
be improved further in structural, non-structural and functional aspects. Preparedness about people with special needs in disaster including elderly, expected mothers, children, disabled person, person with chronic illness, foreigners, about mental health, coordination mechanisms, infrastructure and logistics, standardized and registered medical team establishment are all necessary as DRR/DRM.

Community is the first and most important responder. Risk reduction through not only the health professionals, but also through increasing the resilience of the community as a whole make the life safe and secured.

The network of national and international experts was strengthened through this symposium. By integrating health in HFA2, continuous effort to improve the baseline health status of the community can be the ultimate disaster risk reduction and our mission has just started.

Prof. Egawa opened the symposium.

WHO Representative Dr. Arturo M. Pesigan

Breakout Session #1: Prof. Yasuhiro Otomo from Tokyo Medical Dental Univ. (left), Harvard Univ. Prof. Frederick “Skip” Burkle

Breakout Session #2: Tohoku Univ. Medical Megabank Organization Prof. Junichi Sugawara (right), Former US—DHHS Dr. Kevin Yeskey (center)
Breakout Session #3: Disaster Psychiatry  
Prof. Hiroaki Tomita (center), USUHS Prof. Robert Ursano (left)

Breakout Session #4: WHO Sri Lanka Dr. Arturo Pesigan (center), USUHS Thomas Cullison (second from the right)

Breakout Session #5: Indonesia Thamlin Univ. Prof. Abdul Radjak (left), USUHS Prof. Charles Beadling

Minister of Economic Affairs Mr. Kanji Yamanouchi gives an address to welcome and support the symposium at Embassy of Japan to the United States.

Key Note Address on the second day

Secretary Dr. Shinichi Nozaki from
morning from OCHA Mr. Terje Skavdal


Prof. Burkle, Otomo and facilitators were on stage to present and discuss the summary presentation of Breakout Session #1

UN-ISDR STAG Prof. Virginia Murray summarized the all breakout sessions and perspeced the steps to the World Conference. WHO, OCHA and PAHO representatives were also on the stage.

Organizers indicating the Wrapping Cloth developed by IRIDeS as a tool to increase community resilience. (From left to right, JSPS Washington Prof. Osamu Shimomura, USUHS/CDHAM Prof. Charles Beadling, Prof. Shinichi Egawa, Children’s National Mr. John Walsh)

After closing remarks, all core-planning team gathered on the stage for picture. (From left to right, USUHS/CDHAM Prof. Charles Beadling and Dr. Metin Demir, George Washington Unif. Prof. Anthony Macintyre, JSPS Washington Prof. Osamu Shimomura, Children’s National Mr. John Walsh, Prof. Shinichi Egawa)

Shinichi Egawa (Division of Disaster Medical Science)