

## 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2014/6/22-26)

Venue: Centara Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Topics: Bangkok Declaration and recommendation from Asia Pacific Region for HFA2

From Jun 22-26, the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Bangkok, Thailand. IRIDeS hosted several side events and set up its booth to publicize its achievement. Prof. Shinichi Egawa presented the medical and public health perspective of Great East Japan Earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda. He presented that hospitals can be a victim and preparedness of health sector is critically important so that HFA2 should focus on people's health as its central goal.

The conference was composed of plenary sessions and 6-14 breakout sessions in intervals. In the breakout sessions of many topics and stakeholders, the participants can freely discuss after the presentations. The agreed points and the critical discussions should be reported by the chairs and facilitators to the organizer as a formatted report to be finally drafted as the Bangkok Declarations and the recommendation to HFA2.

In the morning of Jun 24, the grand opening ceremony advocated the history of AMCDRR starting from Beijing in 2005, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Incheon, and Yogyakarta every two years. Through these processes, the disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific region has been implemented. The linkage with Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was also stressed in many part of the sessions.

I attended the sessions related to health, especially about disability and school safety. It is quite natural thinking that people with disability are vulnerable population in disaster, but the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction was emphasized. People with disability can be the partner and light holder of DRR. It is important and understandable to increase the accessibility, participation and inclusion. Physical, functional and mindset barrier free society is beneficial for everybody. The visibility of people with disability in the process of DRR is important, as well as the health and educational professions. This can be one of the realistic and promising solutions within two years. Especially, the SDG has poverty, health and education as its goals, it is important to implement the development focusing on the needs of beneficiaries. At the session of UNOPS, WHO insisted that Health should be an explicit outcome of HFA2 and the new set of Post Disaster Needs Assessment is now being implemented. Asian Development Bank presented the development process with disaster risk reduction for sustainability. UNOPS has independent funding to implement the project and specialized technics. UNOPS presented how the infrastructure of health facilities can be strengthened from the view point of safety net in the community.

New standardized application, VISUS, to evaluate the school safety was introduced from UNESCO to evaluate objectively and standardized comparable manner. Young

generation from various countries was attending with active passion and opinions. The participation from Japan should be encouraged.

The monitoring after HFA2 is a challenging issue. It is expected every four years pacing with SDG. The output and outcome based evaluation rather than the inputs are recommended but the realistic indicators are still debatable and should be scientifically examined..

In the sessions of disability, not only the simultaneous translation, but the capturing and hand language, translation to Indonesian were provided. The person with deaf-blind needed four people who translate English to Japanese and Japanese to tactile sensation to convey the message from presenter and audience, but she responded correctly and actively with her own speech. The Sendai declaration for DIDRR was made in Apr. 2014. From barrier free view point, the accessibility in Sendai was excellent, except for the hotel accommodations. This can be a hint for what is left in Sendai after the World Conference.

The overall participants of AMCDRR were about 3,000 and the passion of each participant and country was very high. The World Conference should much bigger than this. From Sendai City, Vice Mayor Mr. Yukimoto Ito was attending. Hundreds of participants visited the booth of IRIDeS and appraised the Bosai Furoshiki and related goods, English narrated video of GEJE by SBC, educational video, IRIDeS HFA Report, the Position Paper of the outcome of International Symposium in Washington, promotion brochures and fans from Sendai City. We are looking forward to seeing the participants in Sendai in next March.



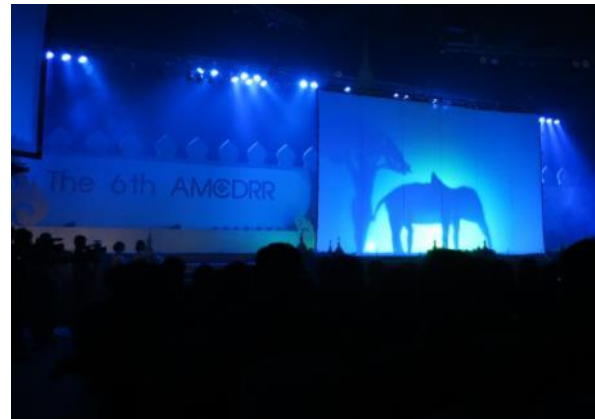
Prof. Egawa presenting the lessons and future perspectives of health in disaster



Prof. Virginia Murray (UNISDR STAG) questions to Prof. Egawa



Centralize peoples Health in HFA2



Silhouette Performance at the grand opening ceremony expressing the earth environment, disaster and people's life.  
Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science)