

12th Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine (2014/9/17-18)

Venue: Tokyo Dome Hotel (Tokyo, JAPAN)
Topics: Ready for Action, are you ready?

On Sep. 17-18 (Wed-Thu), Prof. Egawa and Assistant Prof. Sasaki presented the research report of disaster medical and public health coordinator and support receiving capacity in the 12th Asia Pacific Conference for Disaster Medicine. Prof. Egawa co-moderated the symposium 2 on the Health care response to Super Typhoon disaster in the Philippines: Coordination and collaboration.

APCDM biannually gathers the responders and researchers of disaster medicine and public health from Japan, China, South Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Turkey, U.S.A. and Australia. One of the founders, Prof. Gunn described the scarcity of surgeons in disaster medicine and attributed its reason to the change of needs in disaster and the scarcity of surgical care especially in developing countries. In the poorer countries, the inaccessibility to surgical care causes the health risks. Prof. Burkle introduced ELRHA (Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance) for standardization of humanitarian assistance. ELRHA has regional HUB and actively enhances the professionalism of donors, NGOs and health professionals.

In the Symposium 2, Philippine DOH made a detailed report on the health responses from the landfall of Yolanda up to now and the management of health clusters to coordinate 151 foreign medical teams (FMTs) with future perspectives. From Japan, Japan Red Cross, JICA-JDR, Self Defense Force and NGO HuMA reported individual health relief activities and the reality of the coordination and collaborations during their stay in the affected area. One of HuMa member reported the After Action Review Meeting that was held in Manila August 2014 summarized the review and evaluation of the FMTs. Prof. Egawa moderated the discussion to deepen the knowledge about registration process, coordination process through health cluster, the information sharing of needs/relief aids and decision making process.

Prof. Egawa also insisted the importance of increasing visibility of health professionals in the disaster risk reduction and next Hyogo Framework for Action in a plenary session to evaluate the disaster medicine. In APCDM the discussion among health professionals is very active while the attendees from non-health sectors are very scarce. It is vital to raise the voice and to share the vision with other field of disaster risk reduction through the World Conference in 2015.

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