

Follow up investigation of Typhoon Haiyan Disaster in Philippines. (2015/1/8-9)

Venue: Tacloban, Palo, Philippines

Topics: Health facilities in large scale disaster:

On Jan 8-9, Prof. Shinichi Egawa visited the Leyte Island, Philippines to re-investigate the area especially the health related facilities affected by Typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda). He visited the 11 facilities to investigate the review of damage by Haiyan, recovery and future preparedness by personal interview. Prof. Egawa visited the area on Jan 17-19, 2014, two months after Yolanda attack as the member of third investigation team by IRIDeS. Revisiting was possible after one year time span.

The translator, security guard and the driver were local people and told me that they feel that the recovery of the town has achieved to 80% level. This may be one aspect but it was possible to see the damage of Haiyan everywhere and furthermore the additional damage of Typhoon Hagpit (local name Ruby) that attacked the area on Dec. 6-8, 2014. And in the beginning of January 2015, heavy rain induced flood in the area. People and town, however, vividly promoted the recovery and reconstruction. The hospital director, chief nurse and disaster managers welcomed Prof. Egawa although the visit was unexpected. Hotels, shopping mall and restaurants were newly built and renovated. Pope, Francisco I, will visit Tacloban on Jan 15-19, 2015 and the area and whole nation was preparing his visit.

Prof. Egawa visited the hospitals and facilities below and made the interview.

1 st day	2 nd day
UP Manila School of Health Sciences	Divine Word Hospital
Schistosomiasis Hospital	Mother of Mercy Hospital
Bethany Hospital (Closed)	Tacloban Doctor' s Medical Center
Leyte Provincial Hospital	Tacloban Maternity Hospital
UP Tacloban	Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center
Anibon area (Coastal area)	
Tacloban City Hospital	
R T R Medical Foundation	

All the hospitals were rehabilitating their own facilities with significant efforts. The support from the national government and oversea is definitely necessary, but the local people reconstructing their own society with dignity. Prof. Egawa interviewed after one year time span from his last visit and could figure out the whole picture of the hospitals and the society. Typhoon Ruby' s attack caused the significantly different response of the people and the hospitals that partly made the damage far less than Yolanda. Most of the hospitals brought up the equipments and beds to the upper floor

as much as possible and strengthened the glass window with thick boards. Stock of the foods and water for patients and employees and emergency power generators were prepared. Ruby was as strong as Yolanda, though the actual human damage was minimum, number of glass windows and doors, sometimes roof were destroyed.

Ruby also stayed much longer time in the area and frustrated the people. It was ironic that even the smaller typhoons after Ruby poured heavy rains and caused land-slide that killed more people, said the people.

Interview consisted of the basic information of the hospital, the human damage of in-patients and the medical staff, structural, non-structural and functional damage of the hospital including laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, diet and communication, lifeline of the hospital including electricity, water, drinking water and gas for cooking, the relief aid from outside and its role and finally the preparedness before and after Yolanda. In some hospital, the interview lasted up to one hour, but the people in charge answered them very politely and eager fashion. They also told Prof. Egawa about the background level of medical and public health resource is not sufficient, so most of the hospitals are now thinking of the expansion of the hospital beds and facilities in the concept of “Building Back Better” . WHO also summarizes the basic level of care was not sufficient in terms of the vaccination rates for measles and large number of deliveries in that area that lead to the early phase priorities for medical and public health responses.

Interview in EVRMC revealed that Tacloban City Reconstruction Plan was developed and the relocation of the EVRMC to the northern part of the city will occur together with the relocation of part of the down town. Hospital and primary health care facilities plays an important role in the community. Different from Japan where the governmental medical insurance covers most of the population, the public hospitals are for the poorer people in Philippines. The relocation of EVRMC, the largest tertiary center, will influence the people’ s health in the community. Also hospitals provides job opportunity to the community. It is strongly recommended that Building Back Better is for larger part of the community.

The translator has once worked in a hospital helping dietician and the security guard was working in Bethany Hospital as a medical manager and Prof. Egawa could hear about the reasons why Bethany cannot reopen the practice and could see some people who were transferred from Bethany to other hospitals. Disaster drastically changes the life of affected people. The result of this investigation will be published with the co-authorships from the people in charge in each hospital.



Bethany Hospital is still closed and seeking the chance of reopen.



The Operating Room of Leyte Provincial Hospital in use, but the ceiling is still bare.



Hospital director of Psicosomiasis Hospital and Prof. Egawa



Centered toilet of the temporary shelter.



Dean of UPM-SHS working to reconstruct temporarily in UP Tacloban and Prof. Egawa



Tacloban City Hospital expanding the facility.



Glass window beside the entrance of RTR Medical Foundation was destroyed by Typhoon Ruby



The wrecked house by the grounded ship in Anibon. People are still cooking by burning the debris and has toilet on the sea. Electric power is supplied to the barrack houses by their own payment. Small amount of rice and water are supplied twice a month.



Hospital manager (Sister) of Divine Word Hospital and Prof. Egawa



Mother of Mercy Hospital for the first time visit. The boards on the widows were not removed after the Typhoon Ruby for the next typhoon.



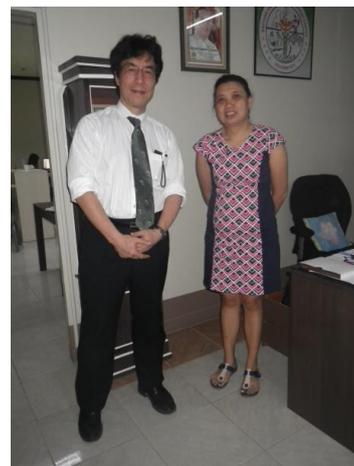
Tacloban Doctors Medical Center
enstrengthened the glass windows with
thicker glasses. The fifth floor has roof,
but the inside is still as it was one year ago.



Shopping mall reopend in Oct. 2014,
People can enjoy shopping and dining.



Tacloban Maternity Hospital that lasted
nearly 100 years, was reopened and
deals with normal deliveries.



The EVRMC Director and Prof. Egawa

Shinichi Egawa (Medical Science Research Division)