

The 3rd Annual Meeting of Society of Disaster Medicine and Public Health (2017/9/27-29)

Topic: Global Health Security

Venue: Marriott at City Center Newport News (U.S.A)

On Sep. 27-29, the 3rd Annual Meeting of Society of Disaster Medicine and Public Health (SDMPH) was held in Newport News, Virginia, U.S.A. SDMPH is aiming to the multidisciplinary society with medical, nursing, veterinarian, dental, scientists, private sectors, military and civil collaboration.

The State of Virginia is a leading state to promote the disaster resilience among the nation. The reasons are not only 911 terrorist attack, or hurricanes, but the large naval base made the citizens highly aware of saving life activity. The local health authorities are also actively promoting the disaster medicine. After 911, every state implemented the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Virginia MRC is the leading level among the states.

In Sep. 2017, Category 5 level hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria attacked the Caribbean Islands and the Bay area. State of Texas were prepared to install huge evacuation center and accommodated 3800 affected people. The United States are also facing the aging of society and the medical needs are not only injury, but non-communicable disease, mother and child health and mental health. The clinic in the huge evacuation center and dealt with various medical needs that was remarkably successful.

Number of participants were deployed to the rescuing activities to the Hurricane Maria affected Puerto Rico, in which most of the building lost the roof and the power supply for the hospitals. The meeting participants had an opportunity to get on board to the Hospital Ship Comfort that was in the preparation phase of deployment to Puerto Rico.

The Comfort has 250 ward beds, 15 operating rooms, 40 ICU beds, 90 crew members and more than 1,000 medical staffs. It has all regular tertiary hospital functions except the fine brain surgery. Comfort can be self-standing for more than 30 days without supply of fuel, food and medicine. It had been deployed to many humanitarian missions in all over the world. It also contributes to the improvement of public health in the destinies.

The Captain of the Ship and Medical Director guided us all the facilities and we encountered young soldiers and staffs checking in. The ship was departing the next day and will arrive to Puerto Rico in 4 days. They were expecting to stay about 3 weeks in the mission.

It will take a long time to recover and build the health care system better in Puerto Rico even though it is a U.S. Territory. Disaster risk reduction is closely related with development.

Prof. Shinichi Egawa made a lecture entitled “Health Security in Pacific Basin” . He mentioned about the Sendai Framework, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Adaptation Framework. The lecture also included the on-going ARCH project in ASEAN Countries to implement the disaster medical systems in ASEAN Countries.

Prof. Egawa stressed the importance to promote the public health so that health longevity correlates with the disaster risk reduction.

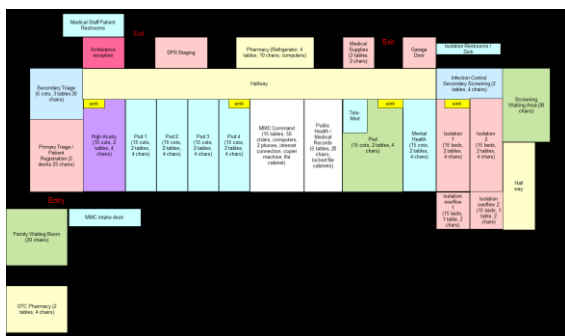
The impact of natural hazard, possibility of conflict and civil unstable is increasing. Hazard is becoming more and more complicated and its damage can be more complex. We have to understand that many of the emerging infectious disease is zoonosis and the acute impact of nuclear detonation is thermoblast injury rather than acute radiation effect so that many people can be saved by appropriate medical response. Significant decrease of critically important structure including hospitals is one of the seven targets of Sendai Framework. National Science, Engineering and Medical Association recommends the implementation of disaster risk reduction in the research laboratories in order to avoid the loss of precious data and resources. DRR is not a problem of others, we have to do this as day-to-day practice.



Prof. Shinichi Egawa lecturing on “Health Security in Pacific Basin”



Dallas Convention Center in preparation of 5000 beds for the affected people in Hurricane Harvey.



Layout of clinic in the evacuation center



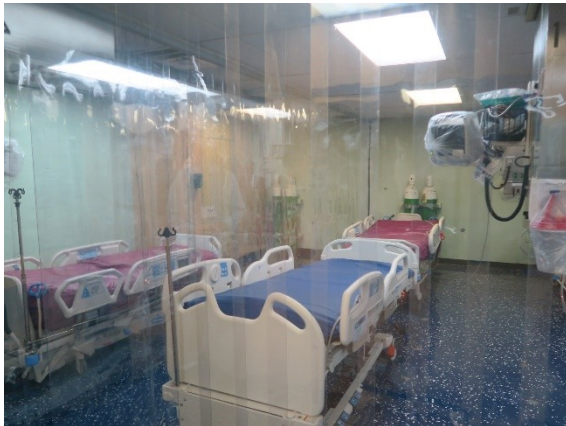
Hospital Ship Comfort is in preparation for deployment to Puerto Rico



Captain explains the hospital ship and the on-going mission.



Admission Room for the patients. Every items are fixed to the floor and the bumps to avoid bloods to spread on the floor



One of the four ICU rooms are isolation room for infectious disease.



Multiple equipment for laparoscopic and general surgeries are provided and fixed to the floor. The sterilization is always available to continuously provide surgical care.



The Comfort Missions.



Young soldiers checking into the Ship.
 Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division)