

The 14th Asia Pacific Conference for Disaster Medicine (2018/10/16-18)

Topics: Building Bridges for Disaster Preparedness and Response
Venue: Hotel Maiko Villa (Kobe, JAPAN)

In the 14th Asia Pacific Conference for Disaster Medicine (APCDM), Professor Shinichi Egawa made a lecture in the WKC Forum and Expert Round Table Discussion. APCDM started 30 years ago to promote the emergency, trauma and humanitarian medicine. The biannual congress counted 14th this year under Congress President, Dr. Shinichi Nakayama in Hyogo Emergency Medical Center. The delegates are experts in disaster medicine, researchers, responders and international stakeholders including World Health Organization (WHO) and governmental health sectors. The total delegates were 522 from 35 countries.

WKC Forum was organized by WHO Research Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre: WKC) in collaboration with APCDM. The thematic title of the WKC Forum was “Global Action for Scientific Evidence Improvement in Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management –Expected Contribution from Asia and Pacific Region–”. The first day symposium and the second day round table discussion were aiming at promotion of evidence making and usage in the complex field of disaster medicine.

The WKC Symposium had three parts. The first part was Keynote Lectures on the current situation of disaster medicine including WHO initiatives for management of disaster risk and health emergencies, the importance of disaster medical research, medical information management in emergency medical team (EMT) and the standardization of disaster medical response in ASEAN countries (ARCH Project). The second part was on the key areas of research including capacity building of DMAT, DPAT, DHEAT and the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics in Tohoku University. The third part focused on the mental health support after disaster including the mental health response system in Japan, public health approach in Canada, the role of nurse and public health nurse in disaster, the mental health support in ARCH Project.

Prof. Egawa presented the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics by the collaboration of national governments, United Nations Development Programme, Fujitsu and Tohoku University (IRIDeS). Prof. Egawa indicated the strong correlation between the life expectancy of country and the INFORM disaster risk index. Life expectancy is a total indicator and achievement of health promotion in the country and its correlation with disaster risk supports the concept “healthy society is resilient against disaster.” The symposium was very fruitful with multidirectional inputs from experts.

On the second day, the symposium member and additional delegates from ARCH Project members and WHO Western Pacific and South Asia regional offices conformed a round table discussion. During the pre-meeting, the member discussed the purpose and product of the session and decided to take World Café style. Each group of the five topics has Café Master and Rapporteur. The guests and general audience other than Master and Rapporteur discuss in a relax mode like Café. The guests should move to another Café so that new wave of discussion will be possible.

The five topics are:

- 1) Health data management after natural disasters and extreme events.

- 2) Psychosocial management following disasters and extreme events.
- 3) Disaster response and disaster risk literacy.
- 4) Health workforce development for disaster risk management
- 5) Research methods and ethics

Five groups of people discussed in a large room of round table very actively. After the two sessions of discussion, each Rapporteur presented the discussion and the round table discussion has agreed to collaborate together for better evidences and promotion of research. This is a rare opportunity as an academic congress, but because of all-hazard and multi-disciplinary nature of disaster medicine.

APCDM is an important opportunity for young responders and researchers. Many presentation was actively discussed in both oral and poster sessions. Investigators, industries and governmental organizations are also trying to apply cutting edge technologies in disaster. City of Sendai is planning to launch autonomic drone for the immediate flying over the possible tsunami inundation area after alert to promote evacuation and to facilitate damage surveillance within a few years. Several investigators reported drone application in disaster medicine and insisted the importance of consensus formation at the launching and management of drone in disaster response.

The next 15th APCDM will be in Shang Hai, 2020. Asia Pacific region is sharing various disasters in common and the promotion of disaster medicine and collaboration with other sectors are warranted.



Symposium and Round Table discussants



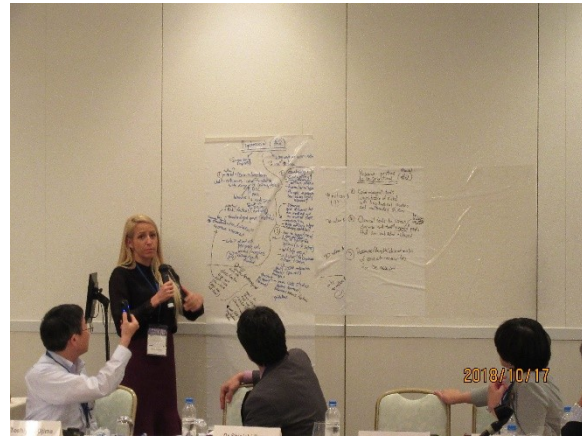
Jonathan Abrahams lectures on WHO initiatives in disaster risk management



Sarah Barber, Director of WHO Kobe Centre



World Café discussion on five topics in disaster medicine



Rapporteur summarizes the discussion and presented in plenary
Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science)