

The 3rd Regional Collaboration Drill in ARCH Project (2018 / 12 / 5)

Topics: Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management

Venue: Dusit Thani Manila (Manila, Philippines)

On Dec. 5 (Wed), 2018, Prof. Shinichi Egawa in Disaster Medical Science Division joined the 3rd Regional Collaboration Drill of ARCH project in Manila. This drill is a part of strengthening the **ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management** (ARCH project). ARCH project started in 2014 with support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and it was endowed by ASEAN to fit “One ASEAN, One Response” concept. ARCH project is aiming at the standardization of disaster medical response by encouraging the capacity building, collaboration and cooperation between health clusters and other clusters and international standardization within this disaster prone region. This is the third and last drill of the first three years.

The primary aim of this drill is confirming the disaster medical response and collaboration within ASEAN region. The secondary aim is the learning of disease surveillance tool, iSPEED, the command and control of emergency medical teams (EMTs), and communication system in disaster.

The Philippine government generously supported this drill. The drill is assuming that there was a huge earthquake in Metro Manila, “The Big One” on Nov. 28. The drill itself was from Dec. 3 to 5. On Day 1 (Dec. 3), international EMTs have arrived the Manila International Airport and every single step of Immigration, Customs, Registry to Philippine International Health Aid Registry Center (PIHARC), Registry to National EMT Coordination Cell (NEMTCC), Submitting Authority Standard Operational Protocol (SASOP), and confirmation of the equipped level of the EMT were simulated with help of actual Airport Staff of related authorities. There was a tabletop drill on safety of the disaster affected area, level of damage, coordination of dispatch, learning practice of iSPEED system and communication tools. The Day 2 (Dec. 4) was the actual field exercise in the Philippine Army Ground. Individual national team set up the tents assuming evacuation center or field hospitals. EMTs were actively performing the care on simulated patients, communication and coordination using iSPEED and tools. The Day 3 (Dec. 5) is assuming about one week after onset. The table top exercise was health cluster meeting and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) meeting. Individual EMTs have to submit the exiting report to NEMTCC, PIHARC, Customs, Quarantine and Immigration. Every simulation was very realistic by the support from Philippine government and airport staff. At the entrance and exit to the affected country, EMTs have to resolve the various events, such as cash more than 10,000 USD, forgetting the submission of exiting report, infected by febrile disease without precaution so that the EMTs can realize the importance of preparedness.

Total 12 EMTs from ASEAN (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines (2 teams), Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam) and the Japanese Disaster Relief Team joined this regional collaboration drill. There were also many taskforces from Japan, Thailand and Philippine ARCH project teams. The taskforce was disaster health responders, Non-Governmental Organizations, and governmental organizations including JICA.

This regional collaboration drill enables the sharing of knowledge, tools, problems and gaps of disaster medicine. The output is not only the level up of international cooperation, but also directly improve the coping capacity of individual country. This ARCH project initiative is a continuous effort of member states to sustain the capability of efficient response in this disaster prone region. IRIDeS is aiming to contribute from the education and research perspectives.



ARCH Project Logo



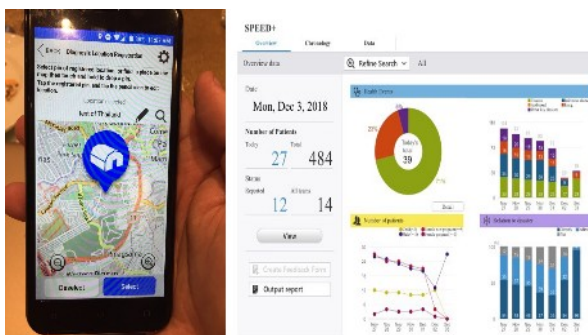
Realistic simulation of entrance. Immigration, Customs and registration to the national authorities.



Field drill at the Philippine Army Ground



Patient care simulation



iSPEED system to report and summarize the medical needs.



Health Cluster Meeting consisting of Department of Health, WASH, Nutrition, Financial and other sectors.



Suitcase box containing the documents and stress injection for the exit.



Security Check, Custom, Quarantine and Immigration was performed by real airport staffs.



Team appreciation: JDR from Japan.



ASEAN commitment

Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division)