

The 1st BCP Seminar in Tohoku University Hospital. (2019/1/24)

Topics: How to make a practical hospital BCP
Venue: Tohoku University Hospital (Sendai, Japan)

On Jan. 24, 2019, Profs. Shinichi Egawa and Hiroyuki Sasaki in Disaster Medical Science Division organized the 1st BCP Seminar in Tohoku University Hospital (TUH). BCP stands for Business Continuity Plan.

This Seminar was organized as a program of TUH BCP Committee, in which Profs Egawa and Sasaki are the key members.

We started to establishing TUH BCP in Nov. 2016 and implemented it in Nov. 1, 2018 as the Version 1 after two years of intensive discussions. We are now entering the Business Continuity Management (BCM) phase by identifying the vulnerabilities and gaps and reducing the possible risks. BCP seminar is one of the capacity building through education and training.

The lecturer is Prof. Yasufusmi Yuasa from Research Center for Management of Disaster and Environment in Tokushima University. Prof. Yuasa made a lecture entitled “How to make a practical hospital BCP” . He stressed on the importance of improving the capacity and preparedness of the hospital against disaster apart from the making of BCP documents. BCP is not making a final document, but by making the BCP, it is important to increase the capacity to cope with disasters and emergencies in the hospital. By indicating several examples of hospitals involved in recent disasters, Prof. Yuasa showed the difference of recovery or reconstruction of hospital businesses. Hospital that had implemented the past experience into practical capacity, could restart the business quickly after involved in a disaster. On the other hand, if the hospital is not well prepared, it will take months to return to the normal business.

Prof. Yuasa also mentioned on the BCP drills. BCP requires the awareness of Hospital Director. One possible example of BCP drill can be the question from Director, “What will you do in a timeframe, if our hospital were involved in a disaster like XXXX?” . The delegates will memorize the time and actions on memo pads, and the arrangement of the memo pads according to the time course will clarify the differences and gaps between the related departments of the hospital. By performing such drills once or twice a year will make the mindset of employees more active to BCP and BCM.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan is now enforcing the Disaster Base Hospitals (DBH) to implement BCP for accreditation. This is a mandatory for every DBH, but it is more important to enhance the preparedness and response capacity of each hospital against disaster. Tohoku University is one of the DBH that was actually involved in Great East Japan Earthquake and has an important role to promote the capacity building of related hospitals.

There were fruitful questions and answers in the seminar. The seminar was recorded and will be accessible through ISTU.



Prof. Yasufumi Yuasa



Lecture

Shinichi Egawa, Hiroyuki Sasaki (Disaster Medical Science Division)