

POST - CONFERENCE REPORT

Annual Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Response 2015: From Community to Emergency Room

30 October to 1 November 2015



Co-organised by:



Funded by:

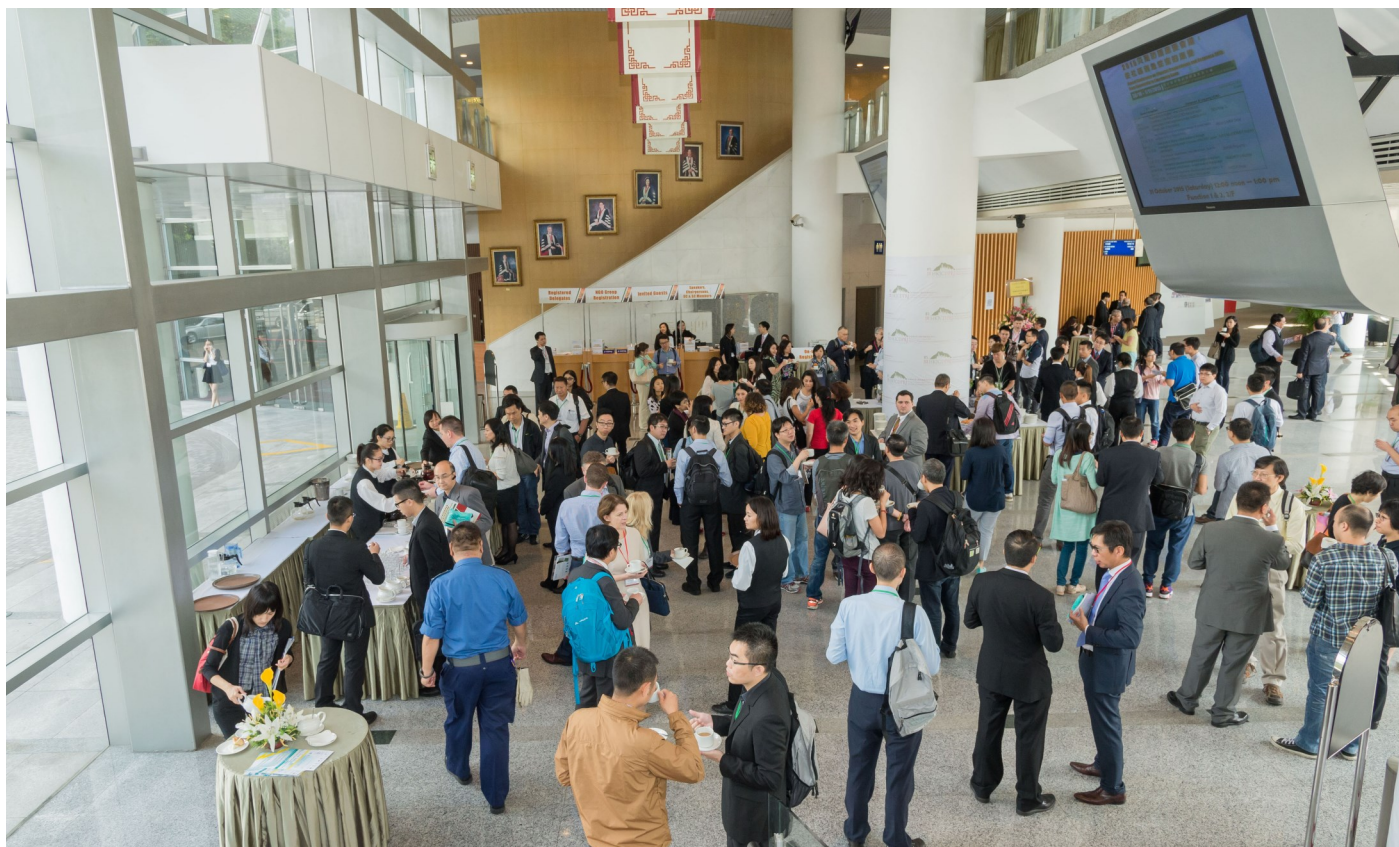


香港賽馬會慈善信託基金
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
同心 同步 同進 RIDING HIGH TOGETHER

About the Annual Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Response 2015

The Annual Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Response 2015: From Community to Emergency Room (ACDPR) was held from 30th October to 1st November, 2015 at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The Conference was co-organised by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute (HKJCDPRI) and the Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine (HKCEM).

The Conference successfully brought together a wide range of stakeholders including government representatives, healthcare professionals, NGO practitioners, and academics working in the field of disaster preparedness and response. The three-day conference provided an opportunity for experts across different sectors to share experiences and update on a wide variety of disaster management and emergency medicine related topics. The Conference Organising Committee believed that disaster preparedness and response should be a collective effort across a wide range of stakeholders and ACDPR has provided a platform for knowledge exchange and communication among relevant stakeholders.



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Conference Statistics



PLENARY AND SCIENTIFIC TRACKS

3 Plenary Lectures covering **HK Disaster Preparedness**
Hospital Preparedness
Community Resilience

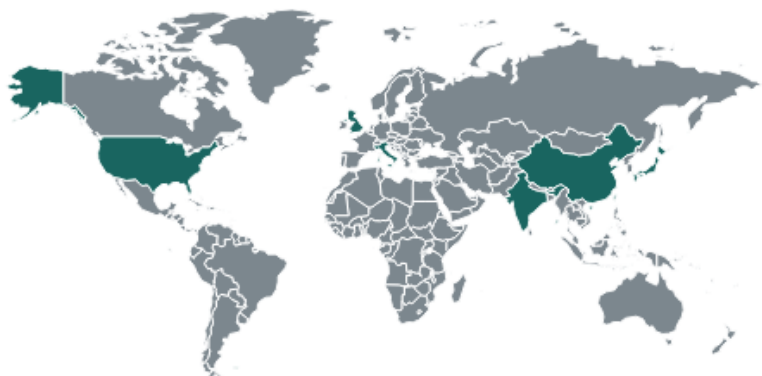
2 Parallel Scientific Tracks with **24** Sessions

61 Speakers from **8** Countries

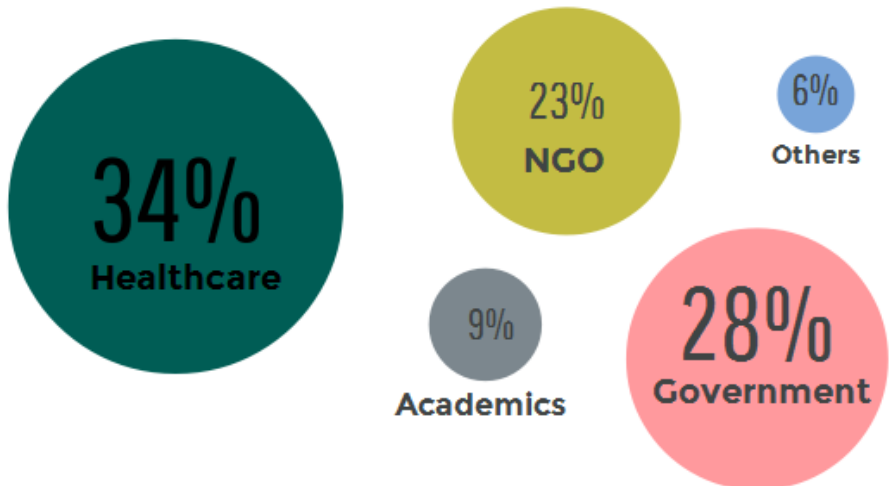
PARTICIPANTS PROFILE



311 Participants from **8** Countries



Sectors participants represented



Opening Ceremony



30 October, 2015

The Opening Ceremony of the Annual Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Response was held at Run Run Shaw Hall at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building. The Ceremony successfully engaged a wide spectrum of audiences, including senior officials from 5 government bureaus comprising 10 departments; prominent disaster management and emergency medicine experts around the world; representatives of local and international NGOs; academics from local and overseas academic institutes; frontline healthcare professionals; fellows of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine; and other local disaster preparedness and response players.

The Ceremony was officiated by Dr Donald Li, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine; The Honourable Lai Tung Kwok, Secretary for Security; Dr the Honourable Ko Wing Man, Secretary for Food and Health; and Mr Anthony Chow, Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The Officiating Guests collectively called for actions to enhance disaster response and preparedness in our city, particularly in engaging community in disaster preparedness and cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange.



Opening Ceremony

“The theme of this year’s conference, “Disaster: from Community to Emergency Room” focuses on utilising prevention and preparedness measures to minimise the impact of disasters and develop ourselves into a more disaster resilient city. We pose a very important question to ourselves, are we truly prepared for disasters? ... Let us however not forget that resilience cannot be achieved without the support and acceptance by the local community. “

Dr Donald Li, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine



“Just about the same time last year, I had the honor to officiate at the [Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response] Institute's Launching Ceremony. I am excited to see the Institute's rapid growth in the past months and the immense effort it has made in providing quality training in disaster preparedness and response and in cultivating disaster resilience in our community...There is a need for us to engage the community more actively in enhancing their awareness and capability for building resilience, and reducing our vulnerability to disasters. “

The Hon Lai Tung Kwok, Secretary for Security

“The Annual Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Response 2015, titled from Community to Emergency Room, on the other hand, would be the most riveting platform for local workers from various disciplines to interact and share with world-renowned experts in disaster medicine and disaster management on best practices, policy issues, as well as on innovation and research. “

Dr the Hon Ko Wing Man, Secretary for Food and Health



“Last year, we [The Hong Kong Jockey Club] took, perhaps, our most important step forward today by partnering the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine to setup the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute With so many emeritus experts and professional gathered from all over the world today for this three-day conference. I am sure there will be much valuable sharing of experiences and many productive discussions.”

**Mr Anthony Chow,
Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club**

Plenary Lectures



Plenary Lecture 1

Disasters in Hong Kong: Community Risks and Community Awareness

Chaired by Prof Chak-sing Lau, Vice-President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Vice-Chairman of HKJCDPRI Governing Board, the first Plenary Lecture was delivered by **Prof Jennifer Learning**, Director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to speak on community disaster risks and awareness in Hong Kong. The lecture echoed the appeal of enhancing community engagement in Hong Kong by the Officiating Guests of the Conference. Prof Learning first provided an overview of disaster risks around the world and highlighted that many of the risks could be attributed to climate change. The latter part of the presentation focused on the scope of Hong Kong. She highlighted **community awareness, as an important parameter, could be strengthened and built in a more robust way in Hong Kong society.**

Following Prof Learning's address, **Dr Satchit Balsari** of the Harvard University, along with **Dr Rex Lam** of the University of Hong Kong, **presented preliminary findings of the Disaster Preparedness in Hong Kong: A Scoping Study** jointly conducted by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard University, the Emergency Medicine Unit at the University of Hong Kong, and the Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC).

Plenary Lectures

Plenary Lecture 2

Hospital Preparedness for Disastrous Infrastructure Failure



Dr Hiu-fai Ho, chairman of the session presenting souvenir to Dr Katherine Henderson

On the second day of the Conference, **Dr Katherine Henderson** delivered a lecture on hospital preparedness for disastrous infrastructure failure. Dr Henderson started the Plenary Lecture by emphasising the **importance of a functioning hospital in disaster** which is in line with the objective of **Safe Hospitals from Disasters** promoted by World Health Organization. She urged hospital managers to identify and mitigate risks of their hospitals not only by strengthening the physical infrastructure, but also through careful contingency planning.

Safe Hospitals Initiative

The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated the concept of “Safe Hospitals from Disasters” to reduce risk, protect health facilities and save lives. In addition to the focus on physical integrity of health facilities when facing hazards, it also emphasises on the accessibility and functional integrity at the acute phase of disasters.

In 2015, the Initiative proposed the *Comprehensive Safe Hospital Framework*. The framework provides a structured approach to strengthen the safety and preparedness of hospitals and other health care facilities for all kinds of hazards.

For additional information please visit: <http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/safehospitals/en/>

Dr Henderson applied the concept of **Business Continuity** to healthcare facilities for contingency planning. She highlighted that **Business Impact Assessments (BIA)** and **Service Business Continuity Plan (BCP)**, which fit into emergency preparedness resilience and response, are essential for planning process. Frequent drills and communication exercises across hospital departments are essential to ensure the applicability of the plans.

To conclude the session, Dr Henderson walked through a few real-life examples of disastrous events in the UK to guide the thinking process of Business Continuity with the audience, and demonstrated how early planning assisted hospitals to withstand both internal and external incidents.

Key Messages

What is Business Continuity in Hospital Setting?

The ability to continue to provide high quality patient care even in times of disruption, and to recover quickly and safely from incidents.

Process of developing a Business Continuity Management System

1. Business Impact Analysis
2. Business Continuity Plan
3. Test, Improve, Review and Communicate

Plenary Lectures

Plenary Lecture 3

Building Coalitions to Enhance Community Resilience: A Global Effort



Photo of Dr CC Lau , chairman of plenary lecture 2; Dr Kevin Hung, Director of HKJCDPRI; and Ms Rebecca Scheurer and Mr Omar Abou-Samra

The last Plenary Lecture was co-delivered by **Ms Rebecca Scheurer** and **Mr Omar Abou-Samra** from the Global Disaster Preparedness Center ('the Center'), a reference center established by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the American Red Cross to support innovation and learning in disaster, on the last day of the Conference. The session started with an introduction of the Center, followed by highlighting the **paradigm shift of disaster response and preparedness from rural to urban setting**. Mr Abou-Samra illustrated challenges of disaster response in urban settings with the case study of Hurricane Sandy. With the New York example, he urged the audience to reassess the resilience level of Hong Kong and suggested that there is a need to look into how the volunteer engagement system might look like when disaster strikes.

Following the case study, Ms Scheurer led the audience to rethink the concept of "community" in a complex urban setting like Hong Kong, from the traditional emphasis on the idea of a shared living area to the emphasis of shared networks in social life. She introduced strategies to engage urban communities effectively before and during disasters. In the final part of the presentation, speakers introduced a new partnering platform for disaster preparedness and response worldwide, the **One Billion Coalition initiative**. The Initiative is planned to be launched at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2015.

One Billion Coalition for Resilience is a new initiative, proposed by Red Cross, designed to scale-up community and civic action on resilience. It is a global movement for change which connects and engage individuals and organisations, not only limited to Red Cross and Red Crescent society. Through collaboration and partnership amongst like-minded actors, the initiative aims to engage at least one billion people in every household around the world to take active step to become safer, healthier and more prosperous.

With the belief that one size fits all cannot work, the Coalition offers a range of options of initial actions toward resilience at individual, household, community, city, national and global level.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ifrc.org/one-billion-coalition>

Scientific Sessions



To maximise delegates' learning experience, the Conference organised 24 scientific sessions within three days. They were categorised into two scientific tracks – Disaster Management (DM) Track and Emergency Medicine (EM) Track. Topics covered by each track are listed below,

DM Track

- Use of national guidelines for post-disaster mental health
- Public mental health challenges in resource deficit settings
- Disaster training: from Australia to Hong Kong
- People with disability in disaster
- The impacts of climate change in health, medical response and policy
- Hong Kong disaster risk assessment and mitigation measures
- Community engagement on disaster preparedness
- Emergency response to infectious diseases crisis
- Volunteering in emergency response
- Professionalising disaster response
- Innovation and technology in disaster management
- Disaster rehabilitation and management in China

EM Track

- Making controversies even more controversial
- Disaster response in Great China
- Emergency Response to Major Incidents in HK: From pre-hospital to hospital
- Tactical and transport medicine disasters
- Emergency nursing
- Disaster simulation in the new era
- Poisoning disaster
- Pre-hospital ultrasound medicine
- Disaster: the good, the bad and the ugly
- Disaster in sport medicine
- Triage and evidence based medicine in emergency medicine
- Trauma

Highlight Topics

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts in Hong Kong (I)

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) refers to the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

DM-5

Hong Kong Disaster Risk Assessment and Mitigation Measures

Mr Hepn-wing Sun

Senior Geotechnical Engineer,
Geotechnical Engineering Office,
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Ms Esther KW Yuen

Senior Engineer/ Flood Control,
Drainage Services Department

Mitigation is the lessening or limitation of adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters. The adverse impacts of hazards often cannot be prevented fully, but their scale or severity can be substantially lessened by various strategies and actions. Mitigation measures encompass engineering techniques and hazard-resistant construction as well as improved environmental policies and public awareness.

Source: UNISDR, 2009

Identify, Prevent and Mitigate Potential Hazards

Historically, Hong Kong has experienced major incidents of landslide and flooding due to adverse weather conditions. The Hong Kong government has been working to combat these incidents through various mitigation measures. DM-5 had invited speakers from two different government departments to introduce mitigation efforts HK has made and is making in the past decades.

Mr Hepn-wing Sun, Senior Geotechnical Engineer with the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), presented measures that the Department has taken to mitigate and prevent landslides which cost significant fatalities and economic loss in the past decades. CEDD set up design and maintenance standards for slopes through robust local research. It also introduced the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme which aims to upgrade man-made slopes and to construct mitigation works for vulnerable hillside catchments.

In the same session, **Ms Esther Yuen** from Drainage Services Department (DSD) shared DSD's strategies and works on minimising flooding risks in Hong Kong. She provided an overview of flooding risk assessment conducted by DSD and introduced strategies and hazard-resistant construction conducted by DSD based on the assessment including Village Flood Protection Scheme and underground tanks stormwater storage.

Translating disaster risk information to risk knowledge

As the government department responsible for monitoring and forecasting weather, the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) collects comprehensive local climatological data. In DM-4, **Mr Hing-yim Mok**, representative of HKO, provided the audience with a different perspective in using these climatological data. In DM-4 session titled 'The impacts of climate change in health, medical response and policy', he demonstrated HKO's efforts in translating these available data into more granular information which may potentially inform health policy such as association between temperature and humidity with incidence of Influenza A and B, as well as the relationship between weather and infectious or vector-borne diseases.

DM-4

The Impact of Climate Change in Health, Medical Response and Policy

Mr Hing-yim Mok

Senior Scientific Officer, Hong
Kong Observatory

Highlight Topics

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts in Hong Kong (II)

Resilience is not only determined by how robust and comprehensive a disaster risk reduction plan or emergency response system is, it also relies on every individual in the community. The capability of organising community members prior to and during times of need are essential. The Conference had invited various speakers to talk about community engagement strategies and activities in Hong Kong.



Group photo of DM- 6 speakers, chairperson and audience

DM-6 Community Engagement on Disaster Preparedness

Mr David Begbie
Director (Global Experience),
Crossroads Foundation

Creating Sense of Ownership: DRR is Everyone's Responsibility

Various speakers had mentioned the challenges of engaging community in local DRR and preparedness activities due to low perceived risk among public. In DM-6, **Mr David Begbie** started his presentation by pointing out **optimism bias** which he observed among general public in Hong Kong, i.e. to believe that Hong Kong is unlikely of experiencing disastrous events.

In order to get people involved into DRR and disaster preparedness activities, he believed that education alone was not sufficient to create behavioral change. He and his team from Crossroads developed Global X-perience simulation, an experiential learning tool the organisation has been using for 10 years, to arouse participants' awareness and empathy towards various global issues such as HIV/AIDS, refugee crisis, as well as disaster. Through immersing participants into simulated scenarios, his team aimed to engage people by creating sense of ownership, thus to take up their responsibilities in different global issues including DRR.

EM-2a Emergency Response to Major Incidents in Hong Kong: From Pre-hospital to Hospital

Mr Sam WK Hui
Chief Staff Officer, Auxiliary
Medical Service

Integrating volunteers in disaster response mechanism

Mr Sam Hui from Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) gave audience an overview of how AMS, as an auxiliary force of disaster response in Hong Kong, **mainstreaming volunteers through structured training and deployment mechanism in disaster response**. He also provide a review on AMS's previous emergency mobilization including Lamma Island ferry collision in 2012, SARS outbreak in 2003, Garly Building Fire incident in 1996.

Highlight Topics

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Disaster (I)

Disasters cause devastating immediate effects to individual and society including loss of life, serious injuries, destroyed homes and properties, displacement and disruption of social activities, it as well affects mental health and psychosocial well-being at individual level. Addressing the mental and psychosocial needs of both victims and emergency responders should be a key component in disaster management.



Prof Timothy Sim presenting the SICHUAN Model at DM-1 session



Prof Yoshiharu Kim delivering a presentation on disaster mental health in Japan

DM-1

Use of National Guidelines for Post-disaster Mental Health

Prof Yoshiharu Kim

President, National Information Center of Disaster Mental Health, Japan

Prof Timothy BW Sim

Director, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University-United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Office Collaboration Programme

Experiences from Japan and China

In DM-1, speakers shared their experiences in developing and implementing post disaster mental health countermeasures in Japan and China respectively. Using 2011 East Japan Earthquake as an example, **Prof Yoshiharu Kim** illustrated mental health care challenges Japan faced in disaster aftermath, for instance **disruption of regular mental health services** and **potential high demand of psychological support service provision** to community. He also introduced efforts Japan has made in the past decade to better prepare for foreseeable mental health challenges including **formulation of National Guideline for Post Disaster Community Mental Health Care**, **training mental health professional** for mental health intervention and psychosocial support.

Prof Timothy Sim introduced the Wellness Enhancement Programme for 2008 Sichuan Earthquake Survivors and Disaster Relief Personnel to showcase how mental health and psychological intervention was delivered in a community-based post-disaster setting with the use of **SICHUAN Model**. He also drew experience from 2014 Ludian Earthquake to demonstrate the use of **post-disaster psychosocial needs assessment** to prioritise and identify people who were most in need.

SICHUAN Model

[S]-STEP BY STEP
[I]-INVOLVEMENT
[C]-CONTEXTUALLY
[H]-HELP people to self-help and mutual help;
[U]UNITED effort
[A]-[N]-Add-NO trouble, Add-NO chaos, and Add-NO harm.

Highlight Topics

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Disaster (II)

The Conference also invited speakers from both Hospital Authority and Hong Kong Red Cross to introduce various efforts made by healthcare and NGO sectors in order to prepare Hong Kong to better cope with potential mental health and psychosocial needs of major incidents and disasters.



Dr Rosalie Lo presenting at EM-2a session



Group photo of speakers and chairperson of EM-6a session

HK's effort in disaster mental health and psychosocial support

EM-2a **Emergency Response to Major Incidents in HK: From pre-hospital to hospital**

Dr Rosalie Lo
Senior Clinical Psychologist,
Corporate Clinical Psychology
Services, Hospital Authority

In EM-2a, **Dr Rosalie Lo** from **Hospital Authority (HA)** introduced scope of work of Disaster Psychosocial Services (DPS) in HA including,

- Staff preparedness and support
- Coordination of disaster responses
- Provision of professional resources
- Publication of psycho-educational materials
- Integration of psychosocial services in Contingency Plans
- Participation in Emergency Response Operation Outside Hong Kong

EM-6a **Disaster: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly**

Dr Eliza Cheung
Clinical Psychologist, Hong Kong
Red Cross

Dr Eliza Cheung from **Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC)** shared psychological support service provided by HKRC during EM-6a. HKRC service focuses on providing timely psychological support to reduce emotional distress and sufferings to population who are affected by disasters and foster their adaptive functioning and coping. The scope of services include local and overseas disasters affecting HK people, as well as standby emergency service at hospital emergency departments and mass gathering events.

Highlight Topics

Disaster Management in China



Dr Hiu-fai Ho, chairman of EM-1b session presenting souvenir to Prof Zonghao Li

DM-9b Disaster Rehabilitation and Management in China

Prof Linsheng Gu
Executive Dean, Sichuan University—Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR)

Overview of Disaster Management in China

In DM-9b session, **Prof Linsheng Gu**, Executive Dean of IDMR, presented an overview of disaster management system in China and strategies implemented to enhance disaster management after Sichuan Earthquake in 2004 including policy planning, disaster responder team building and school based preparedness interventions.

Development of Disaster Medicine in China

Prof Zonghao Li provided an overview of current development of disaster medicine in China at EM0-1b session. He argued **medical rescue as an essential building block of disaster response**. Further, he pointed out that despite the plentiful experience in disaster response, China medical response teams were lacking evidence to back up their practice. To achieve continuous improvement, he also stressed future development of Disaster Medicine in China should pay attention to post-response evaluation.

EM-1b Disaster Response in Greater China

Prof Zonghao Li
Chairman, China Association for Disaster and Emergency Rescue Medicine

Dr Hong Zeng
Chief, Emergency Department,
Beijing Chao-Yang Hospital
Jingxi Campus

Medical Response in Disaster at City Level

Using Beijing as an example, **Dr Hong Zeng** from Beijing Chao-Yang Hospital (Jingxi Campus) introduced the **three pillars which support medical response during emergency and disaster at city level in China** including medical professionals, paramedics and volunteers. In her presentation, she proposed means to enhance disaster medical response at city level by strengthening each pillar, particularly highlighting the need to standardise and professionalise trainings for medical professionals and paramedics; and equip general public with basic first aid skills.

Highlight Topics

Professionalising Emergency Medical Team in Disaster Response

DM-8 Professionalising Disaster Response

Prof Anthony D Redmond
Professor of International Emergency Medicine, Deputy Director of Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, University of Manchester; Chairman of UK-Med



Dr Ta-wai Wong, moderator of DM-8 session; Prof Anthony Redmond and Dr Satchit Balsari together at the Q&A session

Lessons learnt from the UK and the Global Direction

Prof Anthony Redmond, Deputy Director of the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute and Chairman of UK-Med, presented an overview the **UK National Emergency Medical Teams Programme** in DM-8. The Programme rides on readily available databases of deployable specialist staff from medicine, logistic, physiotherapy and rehabilitation fields. In his sharing of UK humanitarian emergency response, he highlighted that, in terms of cost effectiveness, medical teams would be way more effective than search and rescue (SAR) teams. Therefore, apart from retaining UK's capability in SAR, UK government has put a lot of emphasis on emergency medical teams development in recent years. Besides introducing the structure of the Programme, Prof Redmond also introduced trainings coordinated by UK-Med which equipped team members to adapt to emergency settings.

Apart from presenting the UK system, Prof Redmond also briefed the audience with the ongoing evolvement of **Emergency (Foreign) Medical Team (FMT) Initiative** under the leadership of WHO including **formulating international guidelines, developing FMT accreditation system**. He stated that development of training course to both FMT and emergency medical team of disaster prone countries; as well as minimum data set for FMT reporting would be the future direction of the emergency medical team development.

WHO Emergency (Foreign) Medical Teams Initiative is a global coordination mechanism which aims to support governments and build capacity during sudden onset disaster or disease outbreak. In order to provide timely and effective medical response, the Initiative advocates pre-registration of Emergency (Foreign) Medical Team.

For further information, please visit: <https://extranet.who.int/fmt/>

Social Event



30 October, 2015

The joint Conference and HKCEM conferment banquet was held in the evening of day one. The banquet was attended by officers of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM), representatives of various government departments, academic institutes, and NGO and business sectors; conference speakers, moderators and delegates; and new fellows of HKCEM and their families.

Dr Hiu-fai Ho, advisor of ACDPR Organising Committee and the President of HKCEM, began the banquet by welcoming conference guests and congratulating new fellows of HKCEM. Dr Donald Li, advisor of ACDPR Organising Committee and President of HKAM took the opportunity to thank the members of the DPRI governing board for their invaluable input and support to the effective running of the Institute.



Dr Donald Li and Dr CS Lau with government officials, Conference Speakers and guests



Dr Donald Li with HKJCDPRI Governing Board Members. From left: Dr CS Lau, Dr CC Lau, Dr Donald Li, Mr Jimmy Yuen, Mr Gregory Lo

Symposium & Workshops

To allow in-depth discussion for selected topics, 1 symposium and 3 workshops were held during pre- and post-conference period. Details of all sessions are listed below,

Symposium

Pre-hospital and Emergency Ultrasound Symposium

Date: 29 October 2015

Venue: Hong Kong Jockey Club Innovation Learning Centre for Medicine,
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building

Workshops

Basic Mechanical Ventilation for Emergency Physicians

The workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge of health care professionals in caring for patients requiring mechanical ventilation. It covered basic theory of mechanical ventilation and provided participants hands-on operation of ventilators on simulated diseased lungs with carefully designed clinical scenarios.

Date: 29 October 2015

Venue: Hong Kong Jockey Club Innovation Learning Centre for Medicine,
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building

Immediate Care in Sport

It is a sports-specific course that addressed the immediate medical care and training needs of those involve in sports. The course integrated existing prehospital management and in-hospital caring, i.e. BLS, ACLS, PHTLS and ATLS, with specific stress on sport-related aspect.

Date: 2-3 November and 5-6 November 2015

Venue: Olympic House, Hong Kong Stadium

Radiation Emergencies

This course covered basic knowledge on radiation physics, acute and local radiation syndrome and up-to-date information on radiation emergencies management. It also provided hands-on practice on handling victims of radiation incidents.

Date: 3 November 2015

Venue: Hong Kong East Cluster Training Centre,
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital

Media Coverage

The Conference successfully generated media attention. It was reported by 6 local newspapers (1 English & 5 Chinese), 1 new media platform and 1 radio programme. Media coverage as followed,

South China Morning Post
Oriental Daily
Sing Pao
Sing Tao Daily
The Sun
Ming Pao
Newsweek, RTHK Radio 3
LiteNews.hk

Exhibitors

The Conference provided an excellent chance for exhibitors to meet delegates across different sectors and establish new contacts. It also served as an exchange platform for NGOs, academics, and policy makers to showcase their works and promote exchange of practices and ideas.

Medical Equipment Suppliers

- Baxter Healthcare Ltd.
- Goodwin Health Care Ltd.
- IDS Medical Systems (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd
- Pacific Medical Systems Limited



Frontline Responders and NGOs

- Ambulance Service Institute
- Auxiliary Medical Service
- Civil Aid Service
- Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC)
- Emergency Hong Kong
- Health in Action
- Hong Kong Red Cross

The Way Forward

With the belief that adequate prevention and preparedness could minimise impact of disasters and develop Hong Kong into a more disaster resilient city, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, with the generous support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, established the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response (HKJCDPRI) in late 2014. This ACDPR is the first conference since the inception of HKJCDPRI and the first disaster related academic conference in Hong Kong. The Committee posed a very important question to the audience - **Are we prepared?** The three-day conference attempted to cover a wide range of disaster management related topics including disaster risk reduction and mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation. From the presentations, three areas were identified to equip Hong Kong to become a more resilient city.

Public Awareness Raising as the First Step to Strengthen Disaster Resilience of the City

A number of speakers concluded from lessons learnt and best practices worldwide that community involvement, at all phases of disaster management, is an important determinant of building a disaster resilient city. However, various local speakers, representing different sectors, pointed out that despite all efforts the government and other stakeholders had made in promoting disaster preparedness, **community participation is still a missing piece in the jigsaw of disaster management in Hong Kong.**

HKJCDPRI believes that **community engagement is a collective behavioural change process. Raising disaster risk awareness** is the first step of community engagement. Awareness raising campaign provides community a chance to reflect on the current disaster management in Hong Kong and the individual's perception of Hong Kong disaster risk and self-management.

Creating a Shared Platform to Facilitate Cross-sector Understanding and Communication

The current disaster management in Hong Kong is mostly government-centered. Lessons learnt around the world demonstrated that an **inclusive environment, involving multiple stakeholders from planning to execution, is vital for successful disaster preparedness and response.**

Disaster management is a coordinated effort where mutual understanding and frequent communication are necessary. Creating a shared platform for policy discussion, knowledge exchange and bringing in international insights do not only provide an opportunity to enhance cross-sector understanding but also to facilitate regular communication during non-emergencies and emergencies. Ultimately, to facilitate a seamless coordination in disaster management.

The Way Forward

Structuring and Aligning Disaster Medical Training with International Best Practice

Accountability of medical personnel and teams are a major concern as reflected in recent disasters worldwide. There are a variety of disaster medical training available worldwide that are designed to fit their own purposes. To date there is still an absence of widely accepted disaster medical core curriculum and competencies. Even in Hong Kong, there is no consensus on the expected core competency of disaster medical responders.

To align quality of medical teams and enhance coordination in disasters, WHO established the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) (formerly known as Foreign Medical Team) working group to provide standardisation on the expected functions (classification), and the minimum standards for each of these levels. HKJCDPRI believes that working towards a **core competency model of EMT personnel** based on WHO's recommendation will be able to bring together and harmonise widely disparate trainings available and to assist EMT providers for selecting suitable personnel for deployment.



Acknowledgement

The Conference Organising Committee would like to thank the Conference Advisors, Dr Donald Li and Dr Hiu-fai Ho, for their invaluable time and advice.

Special thanks to the generous support from the funder, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, and conference sponsors, Abbott Laboratories, Baxter Healthcare Ltd., Goodwin Health Care Ltd., IDS Medical Systems (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd. and Pacific Medical Systems Limited.

The Committee expresses their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event for the invaluable assistance with the Conference preparation.

Lastly, the Organising Committee Chairman would like to thank all the following speakers, moderators, and members of Organising Committee and Scientific Committee.

Speakers		
Mr Omar Abou-Samra	Mr Frank Kwok	Dr Hing-yu So
Dr Satchit Balsari	Dr Heston Kwong	Mr Rick Stone
Mr David Begbie	Dr Kin-kwan Lam	Dr Hepn-wing Sun
Dr Jimmy Chan	Mr Timothy Lam	Dr Ning Tang
Dr Kenny Chan	Dr Fei-lung Lau	Dr Simon Tang
Mr Sunny Chan	Prof Gabriel Lau	Dr Man-li Tse
Dr Tony Chan	Prof Jennifer Leaning	Prof Kwok-leung Tsui
Mr Wilbur Chan	Dr Larry Lee	Dr Jonathan Wai
Dr Jacky Chan	Mr Leung-ming Li	Mr Rhys Williams
Dr Eliza Cheung	Dr Chi-biu Lo	Dr Zoie Wong
Dr Jonathan Choi	Dr Rosalie Lo	Dr Wing-wa Yan
Mr Cheuk-pong Chiu	Dr Wei-kwang Luk	Dr Wah-hon Yau
Ms Lucy Clarke	Mr Hing-yim Mok	Ms Esther Yuen
Prof Robert Cocks	Prof Malik Peiris	Ms Esther Yiu
Dr Gloria Enriquez-Fabrigas	Ms Sheila Purves	蔡易廷教授
Prof Siang Hiong Goh	Dr Natasha Reyes	顧林生教授
Dr Tatsuya Hayakawa	Prof Anthony Redmond	李浩博士
Dr Katherine Henderson	Ms Rebecca Scheurer	李雁先生
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