



ASEAN EOC NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Events:

VC on the application of CRISPR in microbiology

EDITORIAL

For this month, we are consolidating all we have done tying up loose

Certain members states have yet to share their EOC survey response to us yet and I hope they will do so soon.

We are also keeping in touch



with our NADMA counterpart in order to implement our in country i-Net which will be the EOC network within Malaysia.

Sincerely,

Dato' Dr Chong Chee Kheong

**For Lead Country Malaysia
Director of Disease Control
Ministry of Health Malaysia**

FEATURE OF THE MONTH: PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

HEMB Operations Center (OpCen)



The Philippines ranks 3rd in the 2016 World Risk Index for the most disaster-prone country. As it is located in the ring of fire, it faces several natural disasters. From earthquake to volcanic eruptions to super typhoons, expected increased in death tolls follow after these cataclysmic events. The major earthquakes in the past and recent earthquakes that happened in Leyte, Bohol and Batangas, typhoons such as Yolanda (international name Haiyan) and Ondoy (international name Ketsana) and other unforeseen events such as armed conflict in

Mindanao, disease outbreak and major road accidents are just a few of the hazards that the country encounter annually. For such emergencies and disasters, monitoring, coordination, data and information management are often required to address the need for an Emergency Operation Center. In 1992, the Public Health Emergency Operation Center started when the Department of Health created the Disaster Management Unit (now Health Management Bureau), a nerve center where all vital information is sent to process and facilitate

DOH COMMAND CENTRE



DEPARTMENT WIDE COMMAND SYSTEM IS ACTIVATED

response and mobilization of DOH in times of emergencies and disasters. The issuance of Department Order No. 369 series of 1997, indicates that the Operations Center of the Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB) DOH, should operate on a 24-hour monitoring system. Its role is to detect any health or health related event that would require DOH's intervention and report to the Secretary of Health and other concerned offices of the Department. It is organized internally using the principles of Incident Command System (ICS) which is a management system designed to control and direct the resources on the ground. The Public Health Emergency Operations Center has the following functions in the preparedness and response plan organized internally

- a. To monitor all health and health related events on a 24/7 basis, including all national events, mass gatherings and public health emergencies.
- b. To coordinate all health-related emergencies and disasters and ensure a timely and integrated health sector response.
- c. To facilitate the issuance of appropriate warnings to the Regional Health Offices, health facilities and the public in anticipation of impending hazards,
- d. To mobilize technical experts and all types of medical teams needed during emergencies and disasters, both locally and internationally.
- e. To mobilize all logistical requirements of the Department of Health needed in the affected region.
- f. To coordinate with all agencies of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, other partners in health emergencies, and members of the Health Sector and the Health Cluster to respond to emergencies/disasters, as well as to facilitate movement of all resources.

g. To collect, validate, consolidate and analyse data for the preparation of reports needed by decision makers for appropriate response interventions, prioritization of resources, and enhancement of policies and guidelines in managing response to emergencies or disasters.

h. To disseminate information to all those concerned

The DOH-Emergency Operation Center (OpCen) is linked with the 17 DOH Regional Offices and other government agencies through the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council – Operation Center. Through this, all member agencies including Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices located in the Local Government Offices are interlinked and information and data collection from the grassroots are easily gathered thus, immediate and accurate response assistance is provided.

Currently, the DOH OpCen is temporarily housed in a small space. It is operational 24/7 and is manned by a total of 16 personnel who goes on an 8-hour shift. Located in the same building is also where the temporary Command Center is stationed. It is where meetings and conferences are held especially during occurrence of mega disasters and major health related events. Once the construction of the new building has been done, the vision for the Command Center as the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) shall be a venue for Senior Public Health Officials to assemble and conduct decision making, command and control, coordination and planning for response management operations. These functions and processes are necessary to ensure effective and repeatable performance of an emergency operation center at any level.

Protocols have been developed to guide the Emergency Officers on duty for their daily operations. Listed below are the following: **Protocols in Raising and Downgrading Code Alert; Emergency Officer On Duty Endorsement Protocol; Monitoring, Verification and Classification Protocol; Radio Protocol; Reporting Protocol, Protocol on the Issuance of Alert Memorandum, Protocol on Notifying Superiors.** It is important that EOC personnel is equipped with up to date knowledge and skills. Thus, they are capacitated on the following trainings: Basic Incident Command System (ICS), Integrated Planning, Technical Writing, Basic GIS and Advance GIS System, Risk Communication, Health Emergency Response Operations, Radio Communications, Surveillance In Post Extreme Emergencies , HEMB Integrated Information System, Information Management System in WASH and Nutrition, Mental Health Psychosocial Support, Rapid Disaster and

Needs Assessment and Post Damage and Needs Assessment.

The Department of Health- Health Emergency Management Bureau is continuously striving to achieve a state of the art Public Health Emergency Operation that is well-organized, functional and well-equipped with effective and appropriate technologies to ensure efficient inter-agency coordination. In the future, the DOH-HEMB envisions that its EOC will serve as a role model for other ASEAN member states to adapt and replicate the mechanisms for a harmonized coordinating systems among ASEAN member states strengthening the “One ASEAN, One Response” policy.

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VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH AHA CENTRE AND ASEC



During video conference

This VC was conducted on 19 September 2017. The purpose of having the video conference is to explore on the future collaboration between the ASEAN EOC Network and AHA Centre. The discussion was started with identification of areas for collaboration with AHA Centre. Among the proposed collaboration that was discussed in detail was the possibility of using DMRS as a surveillance software for infectious diseases and public health emergencies and coordinating public health response during disaster and crisis. The MOH Malaysia was advised by representative from AHA Centre to submit a Concept note and letter to the AHA Centre Executive Director through ASEAN Secretariat concerning the intention and requirement of using DMRS and possible funding implication.

STUDY ON PHEOC AND RARC

One of the activities under the ASEAN RARC, is to conduct and share study or research related to RARC. After a small group discussion and brainstorming we have decided to conduct a study on the Establishment of Country Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) and the Implementation of Risk Assessment and Risk Communication through the PHEOC.

The study questionnaire has been distributed to all AMS on 17 July this year. At this stage we have received feedback from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. We do hope that other AMS will participate and submit their response in order to allow our team starting to analyse the study.

IN PARTING...

We welcome any questions, suggestions, and comments. Please email: noviakuswara@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Dr Novia Kuswara
Project Coordinator

