

Memorandum of Understanding with Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine and IRIDeS (2016/11/16-19)

Topics: Promotion of education, research and cooperation
Venue: Tribhuvan University (Kathmandu, Nepal)

On Nov. 16-19, 2016 (Wed – Sat), Prof. Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division) on behalf of Director Fumihiko Imamura visited Tribhuvan University in Nepal and exchanged signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IRIDeS and Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine (TU-IOM). The “Fact-finding and network building mission to Nepal” after 2015 Nepal Earthquake, the International Workshop on Disaster Medicine, and World Bank Symposium on Nepal Earthquake deepened mutual relationship and achieved this MOU.

Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TU-TH) is the oldest and largest medical college and most of the staff in Ministry of Health in Nepali Government graduated TU. TU-TH has 60 seats for each year medical students, but the examinees exceeds 10,000. The tuition fee is for free, but students should serve as physicians in the remote area after graduation. Hospital Preparedness for Emergency (HOPE) course is provided in TU-TH and it served full functional at 2015 Gorkha Earthquake. Immediately after the shake, TU-TH transferred all in-hospital patients to the open space in front of the hospital for safety and accepted number of mass casualty patients. Green, Yellow, Red and Black area were set according to the plan and drills before disaster.

MOU promotes exchange of students, faculties and collaborations. Especially, mental health issues and HOPE program will be research topic for both sides. HOPE course is 4-day curriculum with 26 interactive lecture, six exercises for the hospital faculties including director, administrator, emergency doctors, nurses, hospital technicians. The capacity of instructors is standardized by instructor course, tasking as an assistant instructor under evaluation by the monitor.

Prof. Egawa met with the staffs from Ministry of Health, WHO Nepal Country Office, JICA Nepal Office, National Society of Earthquake Technology (NSET) and international NGO Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMED). Prof. Egawa introduced the Global Center for Disaster Statistics under MOU with UNDP and the significance of incorporating health statistics as a background social data into the database. The disaster statistics in Nepal is collected by NSET by various sources including governmental open data and media sources. The annual health report from Ministry is also available as an open data. District level comparison can be possible using these data.

AMDA Nepal is promoting three projects: a) improving remote area health standards by managing three AMDA hospitals, b) education of health professionals, and c) disaster medical response including international dispatch from Nepal. AMDA hospitals are providing health care to the people in remote area at minimal cost, and the profit from the hospitals are used for the promotion of other activities. It resembles the situation in Japan where Japan Red Cross owns hospitals in many area and promotes public health and disaster response. Nepal Red Cross is managing blood bank and does not own any hospital. Nepal AMDA has only 24 memberships who had devoted to the humanitarian activities and high motivation. Prof. Egawa enhanced the network with TU-TH Professors who is also member of AMDA Nepal.

Kathmandu is under many constructions for the reconstruction from Gorkha Earthquake. New administration made it possible to maintain power supply for several consecutive days. Before that, power outage was everyday routine. Prof. Egawa visited the largest governmental Bir Hospital. One of the wards were severely damaged by the earthquake and demolished for the reconstruction with support from JICA. But it suffers from the lack of water resource. More than 300 m depth of well or water tunnel from remote water source is necessary for appropriate water supply for the hospital. Reconstruction from disaster requires multi-asset of social resource and building back better should be achieved. Collaboration and education between IRIDeS and Nepal will promote the practical disaster risk reduction.

Reported by Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science)
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From left, Acting Dean Prof. Bimal Kumar Shinha, Prof. Egawa, Prof. Saroj Ojha, former AMDA Nepal President



TUTH main entrance, where served as an open space at Gorkha Earthquake 2015



Bir Hospital demolished the severely damaged ward, but securing water source is current problem



HOPE course coordinator Prof. Pradeep Baidya