IFMSA Action Summer Camp 2018 (2018/8/13)

Topics: Medical Student Leaders for local and global context
Venue: National Institute for Youth Education (Tokyo, Japan)

On Aug. 13, 2018, Professor Shinichi Egawa in Disaster Medical Science Division gave a special lecture in the Action Summer Camp 2018 organized by International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA). IFMSA is an international NGO that “brings people together to exchange, discuss and initiate projects to create a healthier world. It gives its members the skills and resources to be health leaders. It advocates for pressing issues that matter to shape the world we want. And it does deliver: our projects, our campaigns and our activities positively impact the physicians-to be and the communities they serve.” IFMSA is the only medical student association that has official relationship with World Health Organization (WHO), World Medical Association (WMA) and various international organizations including UNESCO and UNICEF.

IFMSA-Japan organized the Action Summer Camp 2018 in Tokyo. About 100 students from various countries including Japan, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Pakistan joined this Camp from Aug. 11-17. They planned various topics and opportunities to learn and encourage friendships.

Prof. Egawa delivered a lecture entitled “Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness”. He lectured about the nation-wide disaster medical system in Japan initiated by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, that was activated and improved through the Great East Japan Earthquake. Prof. Egawa conducted the Hinanzyo Unei game (HUG®) that he had translated into English with the permission of Shizuoka Prefecture as a role playing learning material for the local community to learn about the evacuation center management.

Prof. Egawa provided the interactive lecture using the answer pad real time data collection system. He insisted that disaster medicine is not only the emergency medicine nor trauma care, but also the three factors of disaster risk (Hazard & Exposure, Vulnerability and Coping Capacity) defines the risk (damage) of disaster. He focused on the medical needs in disaster. Each disaster has different medical needs and future disaster might have different complex aspect such as radiological disaster or bio-hazard disaster. He insisted the importance of flexible coping capacity with understanding the core knowledge and core competencies of disaster medicine.

Prof. Egawa conducted the HUG in one table because of restriction of the venue. After brief explanation, a team of representatives from all participating country managed the evacuation center in the designated elementary school. How to set the walking path, how to decide the staying area for individual family with various conditions. There were many elder people, people with disability, pregnant women, small children, international residents, and travelers and many of them had various physical and mental health issues ad needs. They discussed how to deal with pets, various information from local government headquarters, media and relief aids.

The managing team seemed perplexed at the beginning, but they made an active discussion on how to deal with the problems. At the end of HUG, we discussed the impression, difficulties and good practices. Very interestingly, the managing team developed a Green, Yellow and Red zone for the evacuees according to their specific needs. The whole delegates were of age 18-24, 90% of medical students with few nursing students and pharmacological students and 75% of females. The evaluation of the lecture got 85% of “very interesting” or “interesting” while 14% of “difficult”. It was a very interesting and precious opportunity for IRiDeS to contribute such international medical leaders of next generation.

Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division)
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Age distribution of delegates

Gender of delegates

Picture with delegates