The 4th International Symposium on Development of CBRN Protection Capabilities (2018/9/3-5)

Topics: Development of CBRN Protection Capabilities
Venue: Berlin Maritim pro Arte Hotel (Berlin, Germany)

On Sep. 5th, Prof. Shinichi Egawa, Disaster Medical Science Division of IRIDeS, made a key note lecture in the 4th International Symposium on Development of CBRN Protection Capabilities in Berlin. CBRN is the acronym of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear hazards and the protection from CBRN requires specific capabilities.

This CBRN symposium was organized by German Government to increase local, national, regional and global capacities to deal with increasing CBRN hazards both coming from natural disasters and man-made disasters. Delegates are from EU, NATO member states and many other areas of the world. Delegates are military, government, scientists and corporates dealing with CBRN related products.

Only a very limited number of health sector attended the symposium, but it was a rare opportunity for Prof. Egawa to understand the current situation of CBRN hazard and its protection capability in the region. Educator of CBRN hazards in UK showed the specific educational methods to build the capacity to the medical students.

Prof. Egawa made a lecture entitled “Resilience, a scientific perspective” and covered the Tokyo subway station sarin attack (1995), Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident in Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) and the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa (2014-2016) as the representative examples of CBRN hazards. Prof. Egawa showed the response of the community and health sectors, and the gap identified. After his lecture, Prof. Egawa joined the panel discussion about the social resilience against CBRN hazards. The discussants were representatives from the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, South Carolina University, and the French Ambassador moderated by the German Radio Broadcasting Agent.

Because CBRN requires specific capabilities, education and training are most important and the flexibility to deal with unknown hazardous materials and situations. CBRN hazards are closely related with terrorism and there are increasing possibility of CBRN hazards combined with natural hazards. In order to response appropriately without being panic, it is necessary to understand the characteristics of the hazard and local vulnerability context and capacities. Terrorism is not a story of far counties in this globalism. The discussants also stressed the public awareness of CBRN hazards.

Prof. Egawa insisted the identification and intervention of the root causes of poverty and social unstableness that may lead to terrorism. The Paris Agreement for Climate Change Adaptation and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in the same year with the Sendai Framework are aiming the peace and international cooperation in a harmonized way. CBRN requires specific attention, analysis, counter measures, but the peace keeping and prevention from malicious use is more important.

Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division)

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An eight-copter drone used for chemical decontamination.

The International Symposium was organized by German Government

Conference Delegates

Personal Protective Ware for CBRN hazards

Prof. Egawa talking on scientific aspect of resilience keynote speech

Panel discussion after keynote speech