

The Editorial Board Meeting of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (2024/9/24-26)

Theme: The platform of the ASEAN Academic Network of Disaster Health Management

Venue: Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

On September 24, 2024, Professor Shinichi Egawa from the Disaster Medicine Department participated as an Associate Editor in the editorial board meeting of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM), an activity in the Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project), held at the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Nutrition at Gadjah Mada University.

The ARCH Project, which was initiated in 2016 based on a bilateral agreement between Japan and Thailand, is currently in its second phase (ARCH2) and aims to standardize disaster health and medical responses and improve the disaster health management capabilities of ASEAN member states in a region frequently affected by disasters.

The ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM) is being established as a platform for academic research and dissemination on disaster health management (DHM) in the ASEAN region. The first issue is scheduled to be published in January 2025. Professor Egawa is committed to the journal's framework as the JICA advisory committee member through his experience as editor-in-chief and deputy editor of various journals related to disaster medicine and general medicine.

This was the second editorial meeting, where discussions were held on topics such as the online submission and peer-review system, decision-making on paper acceptance, and the sustainability of the journal. The ASEAN Institute of Disaster Health Management (AIDHM), established in October 2023., serves as the core of ASEAN's disaster health management and the editorial office for the journal.

To enhance academic capabilities, AIDHM held a five-week-long academic writing workshop to improve young researchers' writing skills. Additionally, collaborative research projects on disaster health management are progressing among ASEAN member states, with the results expected to be published in the journal's first issue.

The improvement and standardization of disaster health management in ASEAN will not only enhance the capacity for self-help, mutual aid, and international assistance in this disaster-prone region. Still, they will also positively impact neighboring countries in Asia and Oceania. The overall health standards of a society greatly influence the health impact of disasters. While trauma and infectious diseases have historically been significant issues, as countries face aging populations, challenges related to lifestyle diseases and mental health will become more critical. Hospitals, public health, and welfare facilities must continue functioning during disasters. A flexible health and medical system are needed to respond to new and complex hazards, such as armed conflicts, nuclear power plant accidents, cyberattacks, and their associated health impacts.

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Editorial board members and logo of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management

Text: Shinichi Egawa (Co-creation Center for Disaster Resilience,
International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab)