

International Symposium on Disaster Medical and Public Health Management: Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action

To be held at George Washington University, Washington D.C., May 21-22, 2014

Background and Aims:

The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on January 18-22, 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. This conference was sponsored by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) division of the United Nations. At the conclusion of this meeting, 168 countries signed a document titled "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters." The most recent Typhoon in the Philippines and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011 have served to highlight the need for improved medical and health management in response to large-scale disasters around an "all-hazards approach." This need is consistent with the concepts of disaster preparedness and resilient communities called for in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). At the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan in March of 2015, modifications and suggestions will be introduced to improve the existing framework as the world has learned many lessons over the past ten years.

This symposium has been developed to provide direct input to the 2015 meeting by outlining urgent medical and public health issues to be included in the revised framework. The following organizations are proud to present this event:

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Washington Office, Washington, D.C.
The International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
School of Medicine and Health Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland
Children's National Health System, Washington, D.C.

The organizers, together with partners, practitioners, and distinguished researchers of disaster medicine and public health from the global arena will be invited to participate. The symposium will invite position papers focusing on health-specific disaster risk reduction proposals to be discussed in five work groups. It is anticipated that each work group will identify existing gaps in the HFA related to their health topic, and produce realistic recommendations for consideration at the 2015 meeting.

The 2-day symposium is designed to provide collaborative sessions on five topics to produce tangible inputs into the HFA process. At the conclusion of the conference, working groups will present their findings to an open forum for discussion and approval of recommendations. The five topics for discussion and recommendations include:

- Frameworks and policies relating to medical preparedness and health management in disasters
- Health planning for all phases of a disaster including risk assessment with concern for vulnerable populations
- Psychosocial / mental health concerns and building community resilience
- Health infrastructure and logistics for disaster preparedness, including resources and funding
- Development of evidence-based technical guidance and education / training programs for the advancement of health and disaster risk management capabilities

Registration information will be available soon at <http://hfa2-symposium.cdham.org>



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