

3 July 2006

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organization (WHO) through its Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) and its South East Asian Regional Office (SEARO) on the Public Health Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP) Program

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirms an understanding and describes the terms of collaboration, including respective rights and responsibilities, of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and WHO, represented by its Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Regional Office for the Western Pacific, hereinafter referred to as SEARO and WPRO respectively, regarding the Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP) program.

This MOU is an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the parties on 25 February 2003.

ADPC developed the PHEMAP curriculum in 2001 and implemented the first PHEMAP inter-regional course in March 2002 in collaboration with WPRO and SEARO and with support from the Japan International Corporation for Welfare Services (JICWELS). Subsequently, ADPC have been implementing the inter-regional PHEMAP courses with funding support from WHO and the Royal Government of Norway. The 6th inter-regional PHEMAP Course is in the offing. National PHEMAP courses have been implemented in the Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Fiji, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Socialist Republic of Vietnam by Ministries of Health with support from WHO and other agencies. Other activities, such as the Management of the Dead and the Missing in Disasters, have also been organized by ADPC, SEARO and WPRO under the framework offered by the MoU.

Briefly, the PHEMAP Program's goal is to strengthen national capacities for managing health risks of emergencies in the WHO Asia and Western Pacific regions.

Specific objectives being,

- 1) To enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of health human resources at national, sub-national and community levels by offering a range of training courses and capacity building activities.
- 2) To promote and facilitate regional collaboration and national coordination in health emergency management through the development and implementation of formal and informal networks and other activities.
- 3) To contribute to capacity building in other regions and countries by offering PHEMAP initiatives.