

Making our cities safer through health emergency preparedness and response planning

1. Background

Disasters and emergencies do not only take a toll in lives, but they can have even more serious economic consequences. Whatever development projects have been started out, these can easily be wiped out by an emergency hitting a city that has not been adequately prepared for it or if the city has not taken measures to prevent or mitigate disasters.

Approaches towards disaster prevention, risk reduction and emergency preparedness have been successful especially if they have been community based, inter-sectoral and participatory in approach. A key component to such is the development of practical and technically sound emergency preparedness and response plans. This would not stop in just having a paper plan, but should be able to integrate a participatory approach in developing the actual plan, with the community involved in conducting a risk analysis, actual drafting of the plan, development of a workable assessment/evaluation tool and creating mechanisms for sustainable planning/reviewing processes.



2. Good Practice Awards

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for applications for the Good Practice Award in Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.

This award shall give recognition to the city that exemplifies good practices in health emergency management through planning, conduct of exercises and actual response activities to emergencies.

Awards given:

Plaque of recognition



Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities

Materials to be submitted:

Detailed description of good practices in health emergency management for the past one to two years. Supporting documents could include photos, news/media articles, and video documentation.

Deadline for submission:

31 August 2008

3. Contact Information

Applications to both awards and any queries should be sent to:

*Dr Arturo Pesigan
Emergency and Humanitarian Action
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
World Health Organization
P.O. Box 2932 (U.N. Avenue)
1000 Manila, Philippines
Fax: +63(2) 521-1036
E-mail: pesigana@wpro.who.int*

