

Training island communities to develop hospital emergency plans

Media Release

1 September 2014

MALÉ, Maldives – Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) with support from the World Health Organization and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Republic of Maldives, has launched a program to build the capacity of vulnerable small island communities in the Maldives to cope with the increasing number of disasters.

A seven-day training workshop is specifically designed to support atoll-level hospitals in basic emergency planning, ending with the hospitals developing their own hospital emergency response plans. The workshop will be participated by community health officers, nurses, medical officers, and hospital management and administrative staff from across the island chain.

The workshop will be opened by the acting Minister of Health Colonel (Rtd) Mohamed Nazim on Tuesday 2 September 2014 at 9.00 at Traders Hotel, Malé. Interested media professionals are invited to attend the opening ceremony.

The Maldives suffers from a wide range of natural disasters including tidal waves, heavy rains, storms and cyclones due to its vulnerable geographical location in the Southern Indian Ocean, no more than two meters above sea level. The Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami in 2004 was a wake-up call for these communities who are unprepared to cope with the economic and social setbacks that these disasters and the further effects of the climate change cause.

Hospitals and health care facilities on small islands or atolls often do not have the resource capacity to cope with an unanticipated surge of patients and most of the hospitals in the country do not have appropriate preparedness and response plans.

"This workshop will provide a forum for participants to receive the knowledge to define risks and vulnerabilities of their hospitals as well as identify resources that can be utilized in case of a hospital emergency. They will apply the basic principles they learned into an emergency response plan for their hospitals," states Dr. Aishath Aroona Abdulla, Epidemiologist from Health Protection Agency.

Some of the main local stakeholders including the National Disaster Management Center, Maldives National Defence Force, Maldives Police Service, Maldives Red Crescent, Health Services Division of the Ministry of Health, the Local Government Authority and Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital will also facilitate some components of the workshop.



DETAILS

Date:

Opening ceremony on Tuesday 2 September at 9.00 at Traders Hotel, Malé, Maldives.

Address:

Ameer Ahmed Magu, Malé 20096, Maldives

NOTE TO EDITOR:

As the most hazard prone region in the world, Asia-Pacific must proactively manage its disaster risk. For nearly 30 years, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) has been making Asia-Pacific safer by strengthening disaster resilience at all levels.

Established in 1986, ADPC is an independent non-governmental organization. With headquarters located in Bangkok, Thailand, ADPC has country offices in Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Myanmar. ADPC's well-established networks with government line agencies and strong partnerships with regional organizations and development agencies provide the foundation for their work.

www.apdc.net/media

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