

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (ICDEM) 2017**

International Conference on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management was jointly organized by MOSC College of Nursing, Department of Emergency Medicine of M.O.S.C Medical College Hospital and in collaboration with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2017. The conference was held in the Conference Hall of MOSC Medical College Hospital, Kolenchery, Kerala.

Disaster has been visiting every part of the globe at one time or the other. The world we live is becoming increasingly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters. Geographical location of India makes it a hotbed for all kinds of disasters. We have been facing several small and large scale calamities over the past few decades which resulted in loss of human life and property.

Preparedness is the key to tackle these emergencies. Being a reputed medical college hospital with over 47 years of service in health care sector it's our responsibility to extend our support to reduce the impact during a disaster. This is the main reason why this conference was being conducted. The goal of this conference was to provide a broad overview of the disaster preparedness from multiple perspectives- at international, national and local levels. Faculty from various disciplines shared a vast variety of information during the conference. Speakers included a large number of experts both international and national - in the fields of medicine, nursing, public health, nuclear physics, geology, social work, army and several others.

The conference was inaugurated on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 2017. Dr. D.N. Sharma, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India inaugurated the function. Shri. Babu N, Deputy Collector (Disaster Management), Ernakulam was the guest of Honour. Dr. Sekhar L. Kuriakose, Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) delivered the key note address. The inaugural meeting was also attended by Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Member, Medical Council of India, Dr. Valsamma Joseph, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, KUHS, Shri Joy P. Jacob, Secretary, MOSC Medical Mission Hospital, Prof. Dr. Sheela Shenai N.A., Principal, MOSC College of Nursing and Dr. Ajith V. Head of the Department, Emergency Medicine, MOSC Medical College, Kolenchery.

A striking feature of this conference was that members of different disciplines from different countries seemed very comfortable in exchanging their knowledge of wisdom. Top experts in the area of disaster preparedness came together under one roof - Dr DN Sharma, Member, National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA), Dr Muzaffar Ahmad, Member Medical Council of India (MCI) & Former member with the rank of Union Minister, NDMA, Dr Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA and Sri Babu N, Deputy Collector and In charge District Disaster Management Authority , Prof. Josefina A Tuazon, Former Secretariate, Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network (APEDNN) and also eminent Faculty from various medical and nursing colleges.

**This was the first of its kind in Kerala related to disaster management.**

In connection with the conference a board meeting was held with the representatives from central, state and district disaster management authority along with the CEO and AD of MOSC Medical College Hospital. Dr. Ajith V. Head, Department of Emergency Medicine, MOSC Medical College Hospital, Kolenchery moderated the board meeting. The board meeting was attended by Dr. D.N. Sharma, Dr Muzaffar Ahmad, Dr Sekhar L Kuriakose, Ms. Anjaly, Representative from District Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Valsamma, Dean, Nursing, Kerala University of Health Sciences, Dr. Sheela Shenai, Principal, MOSC college of nursing, Dr. Usha V K, Vice principal, Govt. College of Nursing, Kottayam, Shri. Joy P. Jacob, Secretary, MOSC Medical College, Kolenchery, Dr. Rex Thomas, Dean, MOSC Medical College, Dr. K.K Diwakar, Associate Dean, MOSC Medical College, Dr. Sojan Ipe, Medical Superintendent, MOSC medical College Hospital, Prof. P.V. Thomas, Administrative Director and Mrs. Preethy Jawahar, Asst. Professor, MOSC College of nursing. The meeting held to understand more about the disaster management system in place in our country. This also helped us to get connected to the district for disaster works.

The conference attracted more than 300 delegates from all over India including reputed institutions like AIIMS, New Delhi, CMC Vellore and other government and private institutions from Kerala and other states.

Conference also witnessed 37 oral presentations and 21 poster presentations by the delegates.

Brief summary of the sessions.

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of the resource persons</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1.	Dr. DN Sharma	Crisis communication during disaster and radiation safety
2.	Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital Preparedness</li> <li>• Mass casualty control</li> <li>• Chemical disasters</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital safety during disasters</li> </ul>
3.	Dr. Shekar L Kuriakose	Overview of disaster in India and Kerala
4.	Dr. Josefina A Tuazon	APEDNN & and its role
5.	Dr. Diana Behling	Obstetric and Gynecological emergencies during disaster
6.	Dr. Sreekrishnan T.P	Logistic support during disaster
7.	Dr. Sachin Menon	Disaster paradigm & training need assessment of medical sector in Kerala
8.	Dr. Ajith V	Trauma management during disaster
9.	Dr. Gireesh Kumar K.P	Burns management during disaster
10.	Dr. M C Mathew	Disaster - ethics and rehabilitation
11.	Dr. Babu Palatty	Role of hospital during a disaster
12.	Dr. Abraham Paulose	Post disaster threat-epidemics during disaster
13.	Mr. Joe John George	Disaster preparedness among persons with disability
14.	Dr. Sandeesh P.T.	Psychosocial issues in emergencies
15.	Lt. Cdr. Mithun Aravind	Rescue operations.

Throughout the conference, the importance of preparing oneself for a disaster was stressed repeatedly. One amusing and informative account was given during the group activity which followed the group discussion chaired by Dr Ajith. The panelists were Dr. Nigel Kuriakose (Sulthan Quaboos University, Oman), Dr. Sidharth Unnitan (Aster Medcity, Kochi), Wg. Cdr. Jaya Chandran. The panel discussion really helped to make everyone understand hospital preparedness, incident command system, the flaws of disaster care that we may encounter during a crisis situation.

Dr. Selva Titus, Dean CMC CON Vellore moderated a panel of experts who discussed various areas of research priorities focusing on disaster. The panelists included experts like Dr Anna Mathew (Dept of Pharmacology,

MOSC), Dr Diana Behling, Dr. Josefina A Tuazon, Dr S Kanchana (OmayalAchi CON) and Dr Sandhya Gupta (AIIMS CON).

A disaster mock drill on ammonia leak was simulated live for the delegates in collaboration with Indian Institute of Emergency Medical Services (IIEMS). More than 100 student volunteers from M.O.S.C College of Nursing along with trainers from IIEMS carried out this disaster and rescue drill. This was one of a kind experience that we were able to provide our delegates.

Along with this, a post conference skills training and hands-on workshop was conducted for 300 delegates on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 2017. This helped the delegates to fine tune their skills. The workshop was well appreciated.

### **Outputs**

- A board meeting of central and stakeholders along with MOSC MCH management had met on Day 1 and it was proposed to make intrinsic and extrinsic plan for the MOSC Medical College Hospital related to disaster preparedness and emergency mangement.
- In the near future we plan to integrate our MOSC College of Nursing with APEDNN, WHO and CMC College of Nursing, Vellore implement future activities related to disaster management.
- It was decided to submit proposals to Universities to start university programmes on disaster management for health professionals on a wider scale
- The Conference proceedings will be compiled and widely disseminated as well as the record of the key note addresses, conference resolutions, action plans and recommendations.

### **Recommendations**

Key recommendation was that the conference findings and deliberations should make an impact on health policy specific to disaster preparedness in the country.

The 3 days International Conference, helped to create awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness. The conference also emphasized the requirement of disaster training and conducting mock drills to strengthen the system of the hospital

And lastly, as trained health professionals who are duty bound to respond to all disasters, we must ensure our own safety first and then deliver highest possible quality of care irrespective of any kind of bias.