

Preparing medics for a hazardous industrial disaster



Strengthening Medical Emergency Preparedness and Response for hazardous industrial disasters in Southeast Asia



Funded by the European Union

SDGs



Problem status

- Major industrial accidents of the past, such as the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster (Ukraine, 1986), the Bhopal Gas Tragedy (India, 1984), the Beirut Explosion (Lebanon, 2020), or the Fukushima Nuclear Accident (Japan, 2011), demonstrate the challenges to respond in a coordinated way to increase survival and reduce the suffering of victims.



The need for action

- Therefore, medical emergency response planning and training are necessary to ensure that individuals and teams are prepared to act swiftly and efficiently in the event of a large industrial disaster, providing life-saving care, minimizing further harm, and ensuring that both physical and mental health needs are addressed.

Introduction

Purpose

Scope Of Activities

Outcome

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Medical emergency response planning and training are vital during large industrial disasters for several key reasons:



Prompt Care:

Trained medical teams provide immediate care to victims, improving survival rates and reducing injury severity through effective triage.



Coordination:

A pre-established response plan ensures smooth communication and collaboration with local emergency services, hospitals, and first responders.



Minimizing Harm:

Understanding disaster-specific risks allows medical teams to provide appropriate treatment while safeguarding their own safety.



Healthcare System Management:

Pre-planned responses, including coordination with hospitals and portable units, help prevent overwhelming the healthcare system.



Enhance the response capabilities and cooperation of Southeast Asian emergency personnel in industrial disasters.

Main goals are:

- Raise awareness and encourage cooperation among national and regional stakeholders, such as law enforcement agencies, emergency-response personnel, and medical experts in Southeast Asia about the importance of being prepared for hazardous industrial emergencies, including detection, response, and best practices.
- Improve the skills of Southeast Asian medical personnel involved in hazardous industrial emergencies.

Southeast Asia counties involved in this project are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam



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Cross-sector collaboration for scene management, medical care, and hands-on training.

- The project was launched with a kick-off meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2024
- The kick-off meeting in Malaysia highlighted cross-sector collaboration among national stakeholders for scene management and medical care; capacity-building, including demonstrations at the Jalan Tun Razak Fire & Rescue station enabling hands-on learning and experience.



EU collaborates with Southeast Asia, including consultations, emergency response preparation, training, and epidemiology capacity building.

Preparatory measures:

- Visits by EU and Regional Expert Team to all Southeast Asia counties to consult on national medical emergency preparedness and response capacity and capability priorities.
- Preparation of train-the-trainer curricula based on consultation visits with Southeast Asia counties.
- Regional exercises to raise awareness about CBRN medical response plans and good practices.



Key measures:

- Conduct tailored national/regional trainings, covering:



Scene
management



Prehospital
medical care



Hospital
medical care



Emergencies
at entry points



- Support enrolment of 1-2 epidemiologists per country in regional field epidemiology training programme (FETP) for strengthening epidemiology skills.

Summary event:

- Closing Meeting with national, regional, and international stakeholders to revisit project outcomes and discuss sustainment and follow-up activities.



Southeast Asian trainers will be trained in medical emergency response and best practices.

As a result, Southeast Asian Trainers will be trained in the practical aspects of medical emergency response to hazardous industrial emergencies and exchange of best practices among regional partners in Southeast Asia will be achieved.

