

Sound Practice No.2

Program for the Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER)

Overview



The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training program initiated in 1998 by the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) to strengthen disaster response capacities in four Asian countries: India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. These countries were selected to participate in the program based on their high seismic vulnerability, their need to improve their disaster response capacity, and the interest on the part of their national governments to participate in the program.

All of the involved countries have either prepared disaster response policies or have access to institutions to help them develop disaster response policies, but they do not have adequate emergency/disaster response capacity-building programs, as evidenced by a lack of training curriculum, instructors, and agencies to offer training on a regular basis. While emergency medical response is at a different stage of development in each of the four countries, none of them has a fully established emergency medical response service. For these reasons, PEER was selected by OFDA as the best intervention to improve the standards of disaster response and preparedness in the four countries.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand managed the program from 1999-2003. Miami-Dade Fire Department, Florida, USA, collaborated with ADPC to implement Phase I of the program. PEER Phase I served to establish the program foundation within each of the participating countries, to test and adapt the courses to the Asian context, and to start developing a pool of instructors to

conduct the courses.

PEER Phase II, 2003-2008, includes the four PEER countries, with the addition of Bangladesh. The National Society for Earthquake Technology– Nepal manages PEER in collaboration with three U.S. Partners: International Resources Group (IRG), Johns Hopkins University/Center for International Emergencies, Disasters and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS), and Safety Solutions, Inc.

Program Objectives

- Establish and strengthen the capability of PEER countries to provide collapsed structure, search and rescue support, as well as basic and advanced life support, beginning with first responder agencies and continuing with personnel in medical facilities.
- Develop a training system that continually provides disaster response with qualified personnel for search and rescue and medical first response and medical facilities prepared to receive victims.
- Establish a coordinating network of emergency and medical response and training institutions and individuals in PEER countries that ensure the continuation of the PEER process and further promote its evolution.

PEER Training Courses

Medical First Responder Course
Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue
Hospital Disaster Preparedness

Training for Instructors
Training for Instructors Hand-off Workshop
Medical First Responder Workshop
Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Workshop

Canine Search and Rescue
Course Design and Development
Course Adaptation Workshop

By January 2006, a total of forty-six training events have been conducted in five countries, developing 826 personnel from various emergency response agencies in Asia. Among these, 328 are certified instructors for Medical First Responders, MFR, Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue, CSSR, and Hospital Disaster Preparedness, HOPE courses. Among all the partner-countries, India has the most number of trained instructors for MFR and CSSR.

In implementing the program in the Asian Region, NSET has collaborated with three agencies, all based in United States of America. International Resources Group (IRG) for program management, Safety Solutions, Incorporated for technical components of MFR and CSSR courses, and Johns Hopkins University-Center for International Emergency Disaster and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS) for HOPE programming.

For more details, you may visit the following web sites: National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) www.nset.org.np

International Resources Group (IRG) www.irgltd.com

Johns Hopkins University Center for International Emergency Disaster, and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS) www.jhsph.edu

Safety Solutions Incorporated www.safetysolutions.org

Knowledge Base Coding Reference:

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