Special symposium at
The 14th Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine (APCDM2018)

WKC Forum:
Global Action for Scientific Evidence Improvement in Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management –Expected Contribution from Asia and Pacific Region–

16 October 2018
Seaside Hotel Maiko Villa Kobe, Kobe, Japan
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Over the past few decades, the frequency and severity of natural disasters have exacerbated\(^1\). Increasing and ageing populations, unplanned urbanization, and related demographic trends have added to the potential impacts of disasters. The 2015 Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the resulting document of the 3\(^{rd}\) UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), introduced a major framework for action across the disaster risk management (DRM) continuum (prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery) and seeks to enhance the resilience of communities and of health/social systems\(^2\). For the first time, the SFDRR contained over 30 references to health issues. It clearly state one of the objectives of DRM is “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health.” It also emphasized the strong requirement of improving scientific evidence in health emergency and disaster risk management (H-EDRM). Responding to the results of the 3\(^{rd}\) WCDRR, World Health Organization (WHO) has promoted global collaboration between academia, government officials and other stakeholders for the implementation of SFDRR. This global momentum for better scientific evidence is tentatively called the WHO Thematic Platform for H-EDRM Research Network, which is highlighted in the WHO official statement at the 2017 Global Platform for DRR. In 2017, the core group of this Research Network published a review paper on SFDRR implementation and recommendations on H-EDRM research\(^3\), which highlighted a) research and interventions during all phases of a disaster (not only the acute phase), b) an all-needs approach, including physical, mental and psychosocial health and well-being, in response to the disaster, c) the identification of risk populations with specific health needs in the occurrence of a disaster, d) needs assessments, evaluation methodologies and reporting systems for needs assessments, evaluation methodologies and reporting systems for individuals cases and standardizations, e) multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches, and f) a review of past research for better policy suggestions.

The Asia and Pacific region faces natural disasters frequently and also has the largest number of people affected by disasters\(^4\). Responding to the frequency of natural disasters, this region has developed health system innovations in collaboration with local/national/international stakeholders including WHO Regional Offices (Western Pacific Regional Office, South-East Asia Regional Office) and WHO Country Offices. There have been various innovations, including several systems developed in Japan to convene critical health workforces to the affected area (Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Team (DPAT), Disaster Health Emergency Assistance Team (DHEAT)), and an early warning disease surveillance system after disaster developed by the Philippines in collaboration with WHO (Surveillance in Post Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (SPEED\(^6\))). In 2017, following the progress of SPEED implementation, the development and implementation of Japan-SPEED (J-SPEED\(^7\)), and WHO Emergency Medical Team (EMT) initiative to standardize post-disaster medical data collection in collaboration with Israel and Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), an EMT minimum data set (MDS) was developed and adopted by WHO Strategic Advisory Group. MDS contributes to the improvement of generating future scientific evidence in DRM. Following its development, MDS has been shared and used systematically under the initiative of Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project).

WHO Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre (WKC)) has been working on H-EDRM since it was establishment in response to the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in 1995. Under its 10-year strategy (2016-2026), WKC has been conducting H-EDRM research in collaboration with local/national/regional and global partners. Given the context above, collaborating with APCDM, WKC convenes key stakeholders to discuss future collaborations for further H-EDRM scientific evidence improvement.

Reference
1) https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/disaster-statistics
2) https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrrn.pdf
4) https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13753-017-0122-0
5) http://picssr.com/photos/isdr/interesting?nsid=56651366@N00
7) https://www.j-speed.org/
**Dr Sarah Louise Barber**

**Director, WHO Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre)**

Dr Sarah Louise Barber is a health economist and policy specialist, and holds doctorate and post-doctorate qualifications from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, focusing on economic evaluation. Before becoming Director of the WHO Kobe Centre, she worked on strategic policy issues with the World Health Organization, including as Senior Health Policy Advisor in the Office of the Regional Director for Africa, WHO Representative to South Africa, Team Leader for Health Systems Development in China, and Health Policy Advisor in Indonesia and Cambodia. Prior to working with WHO in China, she was managing evaluation research at the University of California Berkeley's Institute of Business and Economic Research, and the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico.

In South Africa, China, Indonesia, and Mexico, she developed programs of technical cooperation and research to advance reforms to achieve universal health coverage. Over the past 25 years, she has published widely on diverse topics in health economics and policy analysis, including the role of the private health care sector, conditional cash transfers, human resources, insurance and provider payment reforms, quality of care assessments, policies for essential medicines, monitoring and evaluation, migration, and fiscal policies.

**Dr Shinichi Nakayama**

**Conference President, APCDM 2018**

Dr Shinichi Nakayama, the Conference President of APCDM 2018, has worked for the Hyogo Emergency Medical Center (HEMC) since 2003 (Deputy Director 2003-2012, Director 2012-), following his career as Associate Professor, Department of Emergency and Disaster Medicine, Kobe University School of Medicine (1997-2003). He is a leading researcher and relief worker in Japan on disaster medicine and has been dispatched to a number of major national and international natural disasters. He has also contributed to WHO health emergency programs as a consultant (2003) and advisor (2006). He is a board member of the APCDM and Japanese Association for Disaster Medicine, as well as a member of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. He obtained his PhD at Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine in 1989.

**Mr Jonathan Abrahams**

**Disaster Risk Management Focal Point, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and International Health Regulations (CPI) Department, World Health Organization (WHO)**

Mr Jonathan Abrahams is the WHO DRM focal point in the CPI Department at the WHO Health Emergencies Programme. He has responsibility for coordinating WHO’s work on Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (Health –EDRM) at a global level and has been playing this role in various positions since 2008. As the WHO focal point for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Mr Abrahams has provided advocacy and advice on public health to Member States for the negotiation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that puts health at the center of global, national and community actions on all-hazard disaster risk management. He collaborates with WHO colleagues and partners on assessing and strengthening national all-hazards H-EDRM programs, technical guidance and networks, including safer hospitals, climate change, capacity development, community preparedness and the WHO’s thematic platform on H-EDRM.

Before joining WHO, Mr Abrahams was Director, Public Health in Emergencies, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand, from 2005-2008 where he worked with WHO partners to strengthen the capacities of countries of the South Eastern Asian and Western Pacific regions. He has worked with Emergency Management Australia, AusAID’s Humanitarian and Emergency Response Unit, and the health programme of the Australian Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Mr Abrahams holds qualifications in health and emergency management and has been the author and editor of many articles, technical guides and learning packages in the EDRM field and business continuity planning.
Professor Virginia Murray
Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction, Public Health England

Professor Virginia Murray is qualified in medicine and has extensive experience in health protection by being actively involved in chemical and extreme event incident preparedness, response and recovery. Currently, she is Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction for Public Health England, where she has been actively engaged in providing health, science and technology support for the development and implementation of the Sendai Framework, one of the three 2015 UN landmark agreements. Via international networks she is working with many to address implementation science for data related activities such as the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) data project and the disaster risk reduction flagship project for the Committee on Data of the International Council for Science (CODATA). She is a Visiting Professor in Health Protection, MRC-PHE Centre for Environment and Health, Imperial College and King's College, London; Honorary Professor at University College London; Visiting Professor to the United Nations University International Institute on Global Health; and Adjunct Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Murray has published widely on the intersection of health and disasters.

Professor Emily Ying-Yang Chan
Professor and Centre Director, Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC), Hong Kong

Professor Emily Ying-Yang Chan serves as Professor and Assistant Dean, Faculty of Medicine, and Associate Director, JC School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). She is Director of CCOUC, the Centre for Global Health (CGH) and the International Centre of Excellence (iCoE-CCOUC) of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR). She concurrently serves as Visiting Professor, Oxford University Nuffield Department of Medicine; Honorary Professor, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong; and Senior Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and Visiting Scholar, FXB Center, Harvard University.

Her research interests include disaster and humanitarian medicine, climate change and health, global and planetary health, human health security and H-EDRM, remote rural health, ethnic minority health, injury and violence epidemiology, and primary care. Professor Chan has published more than 200 international peer-reviewed academic/technical/conference articles and had extensive experience as a frontline emergency relief practitioner in the mid-1990s that spanned across 20 countries.

Professor Teodoro Javier Herbosa
Professor and Executive Vice President, University of the Philippines

Professor Herbosa has extensive experience in Trauma Surgery and Emergency Medicine. He was Undersecretary of the Department of Health from 2010 to 2015, where he achieved the department's objective of implementing universal health coverage. He was also a coordinator of foreign medical teams during Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Additionally, Professor Herbosa is a former board member of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM); an international associate for Johns Hopkins University, implementing the Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course (PEER Program; USAID); and a member of WHO Safe Surgery Saves Lives Task Force, which developed the WHO surgery checklist.

At the University of the Philippines, he started the fellowship program for Trauma and Residency Program in Emergency Medicine. He currently serves as Chairman of the Physicians for Peace, Philippines. His awards include the 2011 UPAA Distinguished Award Public Service, 2013 UPAA Distinguished Service Award, and 2012 Rotary International D3780 Rotary Golden Wheel Award. He was Chief of the Division of Trauma, Department of Surgery, and National Telehealth Center, University of the Philippines, Manila.
Dr Tatsuhiko Kubo  
*Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Epidemiology, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan*

Dr Kubo, Associate Professor of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, is a member of the Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team (JDR) and was dispatched to the super typhoon Yolanda relief mission in 2013. At the health cluster meeting during that mission, Dr Kubo recommended to the Department of Health and the WHO to let all international emergency medical teams (iEMTs) report their daily activity by the Philippine’s national surveillance SPEED form. This transition caused all iEMTs to become sentinels of the national health information system. Based on this lesson, Dr Kubo promoted the development of a Japan version called J-SPEED. Further, Dr Kubo established international standards for SPEED and co-chaired the relevant working group of the WHO with Dr Ian Norton, which developed the Emergency Medical Team Minimum Data Set (MDS). On February 2017, WHO endorsed the MDS as a new standard. Dr Kubo also serves as referential position including Leader, the MDS Dissemination Support Unit, Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team, JICA; Leader, Public Health Module, Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team, JICA; and Chair, WHO Emergency Medical Team Minimum Data Set Working Group.

Dr Phumin Silapunt  
*Deputy Director, Chulabhorn Hospital, Thailand*

Dr Phumin Silapunt, MD, is a surgeon who currently serves as Deputy Director of Chulabhorn Hospital in Thailand. Before joining Chulabhorn Hospital, he was Deputy Secretary-General of the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM), Deputy Director of the Provincial Public Health Office, Krabi Province, and Director of Patong Community Hospital, where he accumulated knowledge and experiences in disaster medicine by participating in projects and activities to enhance the preparedness of Thailand and the ASEAN region towards the health impacts of disasters. Dr Phumin established the first Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) of Thailand in 2010, and was a leader of DMAT in several missions. Currently, Dr Phumin is a member of working groups and committees under the Project to Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) and has represented the project at several international conferences and meetings such as the Congress of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) and the ASEAN's Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD). With his strong willingness to strengthen regional collaborations in this field, Dr Phumin has initiated and continues to support the formulation and endorsement of the ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Disaster Health Management and its plan of action to prepare a framework for cooperation of the ASEAN region in the future.

Dr Tatsuro Kai  
*Senior Advisor, Saiseikai Senri Hospital*

Dr Tatsuro Kai was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1951. After an intern program (1979-1980) at Hyogo Medical University, he began a residency program in emergency medicine. He has been involved in emergency medical assistance as a member of the Japan Medical Relief Medical Team (JDR/JMTDR) and was dispatched to the Marmara Earthquake (1999), Sumatra Tsunami Disaster (2004), Pakistan Earthquake (2005) and other major natural disasters. He also is a founder of the NPO, Humanitarian Medical Assist (HuMA), and has dispatched its medical assistance team to different disasters including the Iraq War (2002), Typhoons Bopha and Hayan (2010, 2013) in the Philippines, and Nepal Earthquake (2016). After the Great Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake (1995), he was involved in the establishment of a new disaster medical strategy under the Ministry of Health and built up the Japan Disaster Medical Assistant Team (J-DMAT). In addition, he was appointed as a senior researcher at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institute, Hyogo Prefecture, where he works on disaster medicine and disaster management. He has engaged in education for emergency medicine and disaster medicine for medical personnel in developing countries as a chairman of the Steering committee for the JICA Seminar on Disaster and Emergency Medicine. As of 2014, over 200 medical personnel from 54 countries have participated in the seminar. Recently, he has worked as a chairman of an advisory committee for JICA that aims to strengthen ASEAN regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management. Through this project, he started a regional drill, Standard Operation Procedure (SOP), and education programs for emergency assistance between ASEAN countries.
Dr Sho Takahashi  
**Associate Professor, Department of Disaster Psychiatry, University of Tsukuba**

Dr Takahashi, Associate Professor, Department of Disaster Psychiatry, University of Tsukuba, has been involved in disaster relief as a mental health professional. In 2016, he was dispatched to the Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Program as a member of the Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Team (DPAT) and was a chief of the local mental health headquarters. In 2015, he supervised the mental health support program for the Joso Flood victims and has continued follow-up mental health support for local municipality staff and the volunteers and community members who had supported the affected area. He currently works as the manager and supervisor of Ibaraki Prefecture DPAT and has contributed to improving mental health data collection after disasters through the development of a DPAT Minimum Data Set, which was adapted by J-SPEED. He is a member of the Disaster Relief Commission of the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology (JSPN), Japanese Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (JSTSS) and Japanese Society of General Hospital Psychiatry (JSGHP). He also serves as a disaster support manager for the Ibaraki Prefectural Medical Center of Psychiatry. His medical expertise includes disaster psychiatry, dementia, elderly psychiatry, consultation-liaison psychiatry, and psychosomatic medicine.

Dr Yasuhiro Otomo  
**Professor, Dept. of Acute Critical Care and Disaster Medicine, Tokyo Medical and Dental University; Chairman, Steering Committee, Japan Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; Chairman (former), Steering Committee, Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team, JICA**

Dr Yasuhiro Otomo, MD, PhD, is a trauma surgeon and an emergency physician with more than 30 years’ clinical experience. As Professor and Chairman of the Dept. of Acute Critical Care and Disaster Medicine, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, he teaches medical students, supervises the medical training of young residents, does emergency surgeries, oversees medical practice in the intensive care unit and conducts scientific research on several topics. He has been one of the core members of the executive committee on Japan Disaster Medical Assistance Team (Japan DMAT) from 2005 and now is chairman of the committee. He has been appointed as a member of the committee of Health Emergency Management of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare from 2008, and was chairman of the research project that aimed to establish an emergency medical system funded by the Ministry from 2006 to 2015 to countermeasure CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials) disaster/terrorism. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of international disaster medical relief. As a member of Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team (JDR), he was deployed to Sudan in 1988, Iran in 1990, Colombia in 1999, Indonesia in 2003 and Nepal in 2015. He was Chairman, Steering Committee, JDR, from 2010 to 2015.

Dr Sayaka Gomei  
**Research Associate of Department of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, and Deputy Director of Emergency Medical Center, Dokkyo Medical University Saitama Care Medicine**

Dr Sayaka Gomei is an instructor of the Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Team (DPAT), which is a national emergency medical team that specializes in psychiatric assistance. She has been Deputy Director of the Mental Health and Welfare Division, Department of Health and Welfare for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan. She will talk at this conference on behalf of the DPAT Secretariat Office. She also serves as an instructor of Japan Advanced Trauma Evaluation and Care, a member of suicide countermeasure committee, Saitama Prefecture, and a medical staff member of Department of Psychiatry, National Hospital Organization Hanamaki Hospital, Iwate. She obtained her MD and PhD in social medicine at Dokkyo Medical University in 2007 and 2013, respectively.

*Dr Gomei represents on behalf of Dr Michiko Watari, Deputy Director, Disaster Psychiatric Assistance Team (DPAT) Secretariat.*
Dr Toshiyuki Ojima  
Professor, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine  
Dr Ojima serves as a professor at Hamamatsu University School of Medicine since 2006, following his career as a physician at Nagoya Ekisaikai Hospital and Toei Hospital, and as Director of Shitara Public Health Center, Aichi Prefecture. His current research fields are public health and epidemiology, including disaster preparedness, care prevention, healthy life expectancy, and maternal and child health. He is a principal investigator funded by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, of research on support for vulnerable people during disaster. He is President of Japan Society for Mixed Methods Research as well of Tokai Public Health Association, and Councilor of the Japanese Association for Disaster Medicine. He obtained his MD and PhD at Jichi Medical University, Japan, in 1987 and 1995, respectively. He earned his MD at the same school in 1987 and MPH at the University California Los Angeles, USA, in 2003.

Dr Shinichi Egawa  
Professor, Division of International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University  
Dr Egawa has served as Professor, Division of International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine, IRIDeS, Tohoku University, since 2012, following his career as Associate Professor, Division of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Tohoku University, 2006-2012. He has contributed to domestic and international disaster medicine through his research and other activities. He has published a number of publications, including 174 English publications, and provided 77 international lectures. In addition, he has been a Visiting Research Fellow, Division of Surgical Oncology and Biological Therapy, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, since 1999, and Staff Scientist, Growth Factor Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute, since 1993. He obtained his MD and PhD at Tohoku University in 1987 and 1995, respectively. He was the 2017 Publons Top Reviewer for Tohoku University, won the 2016 Best Poster Award 13th Asia Pacific Conference for Disaster Medicine, recipient of a 2016 Publons Sentinel of Science: Medicine, recognized as one of the 2010 Best Doctors in Japan, won the 2009 Educational Award at Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, the 2002 Best Abstract Award for basic science of pancreatic cancer, and the 1993 Japanese Pancreas Society Award. Finally, he is a member of the following organizations: World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, Japanese Association for Disaster Medicine, Society of Disaster Medicine and Public Health, Japanese Society of Public Health, American College of Surgeons, International Association for Pancreatology: Japan Surgical Society, and Japan Pancreas Society.

Dr Yoshiharu Kim  
President of National Information Center of Stress and Disaster Mental Health, Director for Division of Behavioral Medicine, National Institute of Mental Health, National Center for Neurology and Psychiatry  
Dr Kim graduated from Kyoto University and now serves as Director, Department of Adult Mental Health, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Center for Neurology and Psychiatry, following his research career in the Institute of Psychiatry, London. He has contributed to the scientific evidence of mental health broadly, such as stigma for schizophrenia, molecular basis and treatment of PTSD, disaster mental health response. He is internationally recognized for his research and education, with hundreds of articles in peer-reviewed international journals. In addition, he has provided numerous training programs on traumatic stress care for more than 6000 Japanese and international health professionals and developed Japanese National Guideline for Disaster Community Mental Health Care. He also serves as Professor of the department of psychiatry of New York State University and the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine.
Dr Mélissa Généreux
Public Health Director for the Estrie Region (Quebec, Canada), Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Sherbrooke (Quebec, Canada)

Dr Mélissa Généreux has been working as a public health and preventive medicine specialist since 2010. In July 2013, she was appointed Director of Public Health as well as Chair of the Clinical Department of Public Health for the Estrie region (Quebec, Canada). As Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Sherbrooke, Dr Genereux also participates in several educational and research activities.

As the head of Estrie Public Health, she led the public health response during and after the Lac Mégantic train derailment tragedy (July 6, 2013) and retrospectively conducted a comprehensive analysis of direct services provided by her team during the first weeks (i.e. emergency response operations) and months (i.e. recovery operations). She has shared lessons learned from this public health response through several dissemination activities (academic and non-academic). She is the principal investigator of a repeated cross-sectional study highlighting the long-term psychological impacts of the Lac-Mégantic tragedy. She is also the coinvestigator of a grant (2015-2020) on consequences and resilience processes among adults following the tragedy. Finally, in collaboration with provincial and federal partners, she recently conducted a critical assessment of knowledge management in disaster settings in Canada.

Professor Sonoe Mashino
Executive Director, Research Institute of Nursing Care for People and Community, University of Hyogo

Sonoe Mashino, RN, PHN, PhD, is Executive Director and Professor of Research Institute of Nursing Care for People and Community, University of Hyogo, Japan. The institute is designated as the WHO Collaborating Centre for Disaster Risk Management for Health. For over 15 years, she has taught nursing leadership and management at undergraduate and graduate levels. She has also made significant contributions to the development of a curriculum for disaster nursing in Japan. Currently, she is interested in capacity building for nurses in disaster risk management and curriculum development using clinical simulations in nursing education. She is also a faculty member of the Disaster Nursing Global Leader Program, Graduate School of Nursing Art & Science, University of Hyogo.

Mr Yosuke Takada
Assistant Professor, Department of Disaster Medicine and Management, Okayama University Graduate School of Medical, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Mr Takada joined the Department of Disaster Medicine and Management, Okayama University Graduate School of Medical, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Science, this year as an assistant professor, following his career as a researcher at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI; 2012-2018). His primary research interest is in effective and practical regulations and cooperation for accepting International Emergency Medical Teams for disaster relief in Japan. Another research priority is how the public health system responds to natural disasters, especially in light of management for maternal and children’s health. For years, he has been involved in Project for Strengthening, ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project), with specific contributions to the development of health needs assessment tools to be used in disaster settings. He also has engaged in international emergency relief as a member of the Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team.
Dr Heather Papowitz
Program Area Manager, Emergency Operations, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO)

Dr Papowitz is trained in Internal Medicine, has a Masters of Public Health (MPH) focusing on International Health and Humanitarian Assistance and a Certificate in Tropical Medicine from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She has also completed and facilitated a number of relevant disaster simulations and training courses including United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC). Before joining the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) in WPRO Dr Papowitz was at UNICEF Headquarters as the Senior Advisor for Emergency Health where she supported UNICEF programs globally to prepare and respond to natural disasters, conflict and outbreaks including cholera, Ebola and Zika. She represented UNICEF on the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) and the Global Health Cluster. Prior to this she was a Medical Officer in the WHO Health Action in Crises’ department of Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness. She worked on policy and technical guidance for disaster risk management for health and preparing for a pandemic. She worked with the USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in Washington DC as their Public Health Advisor providing emergency support to country operations globally and strategic guidance to OFDA supported health initiatives. Over the course of her career, she has lived and worked in locations such as Burundi, Guinea-Conakry and the South Caucasus and has provided technical assistance on health in emergencies in a variety of other countries globally with organizations such as WHO, American Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and NGOs.

*Dr Papowitz represents on behalf of Dr Ailan Li, Regional Emergency Director/Director, Health Security and Emergencies, WHO Regional Office for Western Pacific (WPRO).*

Dr Nilesh Budd
Health Emergency Officer, Emergency Operations, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO)

Dr Nilesh Budda is a senior public health physician from India. He also has Master degrees in political science and health services management. He is trained in epidemiology and emergency management. He has worked as a public health professional with governments and non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations in last 25 years. His major areas of work include communicable disease surveillance and control, health system strengthening and emergency management. He has worked at sub-national, national and regional levels in south-east and central Asia, Caribbean, Africa and Europe. Since 2016, Dr Buddha has been working with the WHO’s South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) in the area of health emergency response and country preparedness and International Health Regulations. He also coordinated two major publications of WHO/SEARO: Roots for Resilience – Health Emergency Risk Profile of South-East Asia Region (2017) and Building for Change – Good Practices in Health Emergencies in South-East Asia (2018). Earlier during 2013-2016, he worked at WHO India Country Office for health system strengthening. His other areas of interest in public health are non-communicable disease prevention and control including injuries and tobacco control. He is also interested in current affairs and geo-politics and evolutionary biology and psychology.

*Dr Budd represents on behalf of Dr Roderico Ofrin, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO).*

Dr Ryoma Kayano
Technical Officer, WHO Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre)

Dr Kayano joined WKC in 2015, having previously worked at Nagasaki University School of Medicine as a lecturer in charge of promotion of research activity and international collaboration. He has had several roles in WKC. He currently works as a focal point of health emergencies, responsible for the communication with local/national government in Japan, as well as WHO HQ and the Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO). As his background is psychiatry, he works for WKC’s researches activities especially regarding mental health including dementia and disaster mental health. After graduating from medical school, Ryoma began his career as a general practitioner, working with vulnerable populations such as older populations and people with disabilities. In 2011, he worked for disaster survivors of Great East Japan Earthquake as a member of Tokyo Metropolitan Disaster Relief Team.

*Dr Budd represents on behalf of Dr Roderico Ofrin, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO).*