Media Invitation

Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network meets in Bangkok
to address community resilience for emergencies and disasters

Better preparedness is critical to the delivery of effective responses to meet the health needs of disaster-affected communities. To address this issue, more than 80 nursing, midwifery and disaster management leaders from 26 countries will take part in the 7th Asia Pacific Emergency and Disaster Nursing Network (APEDNN) on 18–20 September at the SD Avenue Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

Meeting participants, as well as representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions, WHO collaborating centres and partner institutions will take part in plenary group work and capacity-building sessions aimed at nurses and midwives to promote community resilience for emergencies and disasters.

A case study titled *Nurses and midwives in action during emergencies and disasters in the Western Pacific Region* will be launched during the event.

The APEDNN represents a key outcome of the Joint Asia Pacific Informal Meeting of Health Emergency Partners and Nursing Stakeholders held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2007. The network aims to build capacity among nurses and midwives for coordinated and effective disaster prevention, preparedness and response, improved service delivery and community resilience.

Background

In 2012–2013, the Asia Pacific region suffered serious emergencies and disasters. There were floods in the Philippines, a drought in India, earthquakes in Indonesia and Sichuan, China, the spread of H7N9 in China and the collapse of a building in Bangladesh. In each catastrophe,
people were injured, sick and killed, infrastructure and facilities were damaged, and the socioeconomic status of individuals, families and communities were adversely affected.

Despite having professional, ethical and legal responsibilities to take necessary interventions to deal with actual and potential risks to communities they serve, nurses working at all levels of the health system are often insufficiently equipped and inadequately integrated into national disaster policy-making and response teams.

The APEDNN meeting will address issues that affect the critical role of nurses in disaster prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.

APEDNN meeting
Date: Wednesday–Friday, 18–20 September 2013
Time: 08:30
Venue: SD Avenue Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

For more information and to register for the meeting, please contact Kathleen Fritsch at fritschk@wpro.who.int or +63 (02) 528 9804 or +63 928 500 9890 or Dr Orapan Thosingha at orapan.tho@mahidol.ac.th or +662 419 7466.

The meeting will begin promptly at 08:30.