



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Executive Partnership (EP) Scheme: The Vehicle to sustain Disaster Management

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Introduction

There is no country that is immune from disaster, though vulnerability to disaster varies. In the past 10 years, many crises and major incidents have occurred in Hong Kong such as the hostage incident in Manila, the low iodine content in certain brands of imported infant milk formula, the Lamma Island Tragedy and lately the looming threats of H7N9 outbreak. Department of Infection, Emergency and Contingency (IEC) serves as the Hospital Authority (HA) contact point for handling crises, must strive to improve continuously to render Hong Kong a safer city. With this mission in mind and lack of trained staffs in HA, an executive partnership scheme has been conducted in IEC since 2008. It aims to foster aspired colleagues in preparing for crises and emergencies. As the nature of disaster or major incidents is occasional and cannot be foreseen, the scheme is designed as an experiential learning based program. Executive partner in the emergency response team can acquire a direct first-hand experience that roots in the staff cognition and re-apply as necessary.

Objectives

1. To address the development needs of frontline staff/ cluster's first responders in emergency and disaster management. The seconded staffs will understand the concept of emergency management. 2. To facilitate knowledge/skills exchange between Head Office and Clusters. The knowledge or skills can be brought back to clusters, while IEC team can be reinvigorated to develop their skills further and shift thinking.

Methodology

The scheme is continued by extension of invitation to Cluster MICCs as well as other disciplines including nursing, allied health and administration staff groups. The selected candidates will work with IEC team from 6 months to 1 year. IEC customized 10-12 structured programs for each individual which vary from supervised to independent. The selected candidates are expected to familiarize the operation of Incident Response and Major Incident Control Centre (MICC).

Result

1. Followed through a structured pathway from theory to practice, the seconded staffs understood the concept of emergency management and can apply those concepts to real situations. 2. Engaged to various types of executive task, the seconded staffs could interact with colleagues with different backgrounds. The more they network, the better they do. Thereby understood the importance of stakeholder engagement. 3. When there is a disaster or crises which may have significant impact to our services, the trained staffs from this scheme could be considered for mobilization as part of the resources to handle the incident.