



**MEETING OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR
EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION
7-8 APRIL 1998**

Taurid Palace, Shpalernaja Street 47
St Petersburg, Russian Federation

PROGRAMME

Session times : 09:00-13:30 and 15:00-18:00
Lunch time : 13:30-15:00

Tuesday, 7 April 1998

09:00 - 09:30	Registration of participants
09:30 - 10:15	Opening Session, welcome address
10:15 - 10:30	Selection of Chairman and Rapporteur
10:30 - 10:40	Presentation/adoption of agenda
10:40 - 10:50	Chairman presentation on the objectives of the meeting
10:50 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:30	Presentation of WHO/EHA policy, strategy and approaches
11:30 - 12:00	Overview of Collaborating mechanisms
12:00 - 13:30	Presentation by the Collaborating Centres
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 16:00	Presentation by the Collaborating Centres (continuation)
16:00 - 17:00	Group work on collaborating mechanisms, accomplishments and shortfalls. Proposals for improvements (2 groups will work on the subject),
18:00 - 21:00	Reception in the Jussupov Palace, concert

Wednesday, 8 April 1998

09:00 - 09:45	Presentation of groups and discussion on principles and mechanisms of future collaboration
09:45 - 10:00	Priority areas for collaboration
10:00 - 11:30	Groups work on : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Research and guidelines- Information systems- Manuals and training programmes
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 - 12:30	Continuation of groups work
12:30 - 13:30	Groups presentation/discussions on specific lines of works for 1998-99
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 17:00	Rapporteurs and secretariat consolidate draft report For the rest of participants - free time
17:00 - 17:30	Plenary presentations/discussions on the recommendations of the meeting
17:30 - 18:00	Official closure of the meeting

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Regional WHO/EHA Collaborating Centers' Meeting
American Region (AMRO)
4-6 March 1998
Dominican Republic

The five WHO/EHA Collaborating Centers (CCs) based in the Americas met in the Dominican Republic in order to prepare for the global WHO/EHA meeting to be held in St. Petersburg 7-8 April 98.

The representatives of those centers (see Annex 1) have discussed all the topics of the agenda shown in Annex 2 and have reached the following conclusions:

The presentation of each collaborating center (CC) made the participants realize how specific and unique each of their scope and objectives are.

The Center of Excellence in Hawaii works specifically to improve the civil-military relationship in humanitarian assistance;

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) assist WHO in post-disaster epidemiological surveillance systems;

The University of Antiochia (Medellin, Colombia) collaborates in the integration of disaster management in the curriculum of formal education institutions of the Health Sector;

The Center on Chemical Emergency Preparedness in Sao Paolo, Brazil, offers expertise for post-disaster assessment and some preparedness activities in relation to chemical accidents; and

The University of Chile offers expertise to WHO to reduce the structural and non-structural vulnerability of hospitals and water systems.

The scope of work of each center is described in Annex 3. The participants recognized that the official name of some of the CC does not reflect their field of expertise. **It is recommended that the procedure for changing the official name of the Centers in Brazil and Colombia be initiated and that this issue be raised at the Global Meeting.**

The CCs located in the Latin America work under similar constraints as those in other regions' developing countries, that is with limited material resources and few opportunities for exposure to the international scene, whereas those in the Northern Hemisphere of the Americas are more financially independent and closely connected internationally. All participants suggested that **ways and means to strengthen CCs in developing countries be discussed at the Global Meeting.**

Collaborating Centers based in *developing* nations have the advantage of sharing a common understanding of constraints and are in a position to promote solutions and guidance that would be easily adaptable to other developing countries. **WHO should give special attention and support to those centers and assist them in mobilizing resources and networking at international level.**

It was also recognized that the work plans of each center tend to be too comprehensive and therefore general and difficult to monitor. It was agreed that **the CCs will review their workplan and make them more precise and concrete**, whenever applicable, before the Global meeting.

The participants also identified a need for better communication among themselves and other parties who might be interested in requesting their services. Exemplary work is already being done by the CCs but has not always been properly documented. It was decided that the collaborating center in Hawaii would direct its efforts toward developing a Website common to all CCs in the region with an integrated email discussion group where each CC would have the opportunity to discuss and publish its information in a standard Internet format. The CCs in the Americas requested the WHO Collaborating Center for Humanitarian Civil-Military Cooperation in Hawaii to develop a Collaborating Centers' Website and to draft technical standards and editorial guidelines for its use in the Region of the Americas. **It is recommended that this proposal of a Website be reviewed at the Global Meeting and adopted with necessary adjustments for the benefit of all CCs.**

The inclusion of the Health Management in Disasters (rather than 'disaster medicine') was recognized as a priority by all participating CCs. The participants were briefed on the regional survey "Study on the Stages of Teaching of Disaster in Latin American Universities," developed by the Collaborating based in Colombia and were informed on the offer made by WHO at the interagency meeting in Amsterdam (ISOHEIL) that the CC in Colombia contribute to the design of a global questionnaire and survey in the faculties of medicine, nursing and public health schools based on the regional experience (the regional survey form can now be completed on Internet). **The participating CCs supported the recommendation adopted at the ISOHEIL meeting (Amsterdam, February 1998) that a survey of educational health institutions be carried out globally with the support of WHO/EHA CCs and be based on the regional expertise of the CC in Colombia.**

Guidelines for Chemical Accident Preparedness are being prepared by the CETESB CC in Portuguese, and for Hospital Disaster Mitigation by the Chile CC in Spanish.

The CCs in the Americas stressed the need for an updated standard disaster management terminology for the health sector and recognized that some efforts are already being made in that area, such as the thesaurus used for document Micro-Isis indexing prepared by the '*Centro Regional de Información sobre Desastres*' (CRID), the glossary initiative of CDC, the proposed terminology consultation recommended at the ISOHEIL meeting, and others in various regions. However, the participants recognized that such an effort would be valid only if done at the *global* level with the sponsorship of WHO and broad consultation and consensus building. **The participating CCs recommended that the Global Meeting endorse a strategy to ensure that all WHO/EHA CCs participate fully with other interested agencies or initiatives in the formulation of a global terminology.** This terminology should be developed in

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Annex I

List of participants of the WHO/EHA Collaborating Centers' meeting American Region

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English and later translated by PAHO and WHO into other official languages. The CCs recognize that the current terminology on Health disaster management needs standardization. **It is recommended that the participating CCs at the Global Meeting review current initiatives and adopt a coordinated strategy in order to have a standardized glossary of health disaster terminology and hence facilitate their worldwide collaboration.**

The participating CCs were briefed on the proposed regional IDNDR closing event to take place in the Americas in 1999. It was agreed that this event cosponsored by PAHO/WHO would be an excellent opportunity for the regional CCs to disseminate their capabilities, offer their services and strengthen their collaboration.

Annex II

WHO Collaborating Centers' Meeting in Disaster Management (AMRO Region)

Hotel Plaza Naco 4- 6 March 98
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Meeting objectives: Dr. Claude de Ville de Goyet, Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Program PAHO/WHO.

First Session:

Overview of PAHO/WHO Regional Disaster Management Program
Role of WHO Collaborating Centers
Overview presentation of each Collaborating Center

Second Session¾Specific Initiatives:

Collaborating Centers Website initiatives—Hawaii Collaborating Center
PAHO Internet Project—PAHO
Survey of disaster teaching in Universities—Medellin Collaborating Center
Administrative issues
Resources mobilization (fundraising issues)

Third Session¾Elaboration/revision of a work plan by each Collaborating Center

Fourth Session¾Planning for the St. Petersburg meeting (April 7-8, 1998)

Development in WHO and UN
Collaborating Centers involvement in response activities
Standardization of terminology
Training issues
Research priorities
Information systems

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Annex III

Scope of work of EHA collaborating centers in the AMRO region

WHO Collaborating Center in Medellin Colombia

Objectives:

Promote the incorporation of disaster management topics in the Curriculum of health faculties specially in Latin America.

Type of assistance that the could provide upon request:

Review of Health Faculty Curriculum

Training of Professors on health disaster management topics

Provide information existing disaster management training

Review research projects

Organize virtual discussions on topics related to teaching of health disaster management

Advise on lecturer who could assist in teaching health disaster management.

Activities of the Center :

- The web page will be consolidated, which will include a questionnaire to update data about the situation of teaching of the component of disasters at university level in the health sector.
- Explored the interest and feasibility of a virtual course, to be used by universities at undergraduate level, on sanitary administration of emergencies in cases of disaster
- The project about the virtual curse will be prepared according to the survey results.
- The PAHO advisor in charge of promotions of disaster preparedness in the educational sector in latin america will be supported.
- Participation in activities of education of professors on sanitary administration of emergencies in the universities that request it.

WHO Collaborating Center for Humanitarian Civil-Military

Cooperation - The Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian

Assistance. Honolulu, Hawaii. <http://coe.tamc.amedd.army.mil/>

The Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance facilitates civil-military operations and cooperation through integrated education, training, research, information management and operational readiness. Housed at Tripler Army Medical Center, the Center of Excellence is a collaborative partnership between the Pacific Command (PACOM) of the US Department of Defense, the Pacific Regional Medical Command, and the University of Hawaii. The Center affiliates with several international universities, partners with the CDC in the

Asia-Pacific region, has trained 4,000 individuals from 26 nations in 60-plus conferences since its inception in 1994, and has funded over \$600,000 of research for FY98. The Center employs 16 inhouse staff—physicians, technical specialists, information professionals and support personnel—as well as an adjunct faculty of over 35 experts.

Major training conferences conducted by the Center on a rotating basis include “Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training” (CHART), “Health Emergencies in Large Populations” (HELP), and “Technological Advances in Disaster Management,” as well as special topic conferences such as “Medical Consequence Management of Biological, Chemical, Radiation & Terrorist Events.” The Tropical & Disaster Medicine project, Complex Humanitarian Emergency Support Test, BRAVA Landmines project, and the “ASIA” project—Asia-Specific Information Analysis—are a few of the Center’s special activities.

A substantial component of the Center is the Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN), providing electronic information and education. PDMIN maintains the Center’s publicly accessible website, produces distance education and other materials on CD-ROM, hosts electronic discussion groups for ongoing information-sharing, sponsors software development projects and supports a Resource Center for customized information brokering.

Upcoming PDMIN projects include:

- hosting a mirror site for the UN’s premier disaster and humanitarian assistance web resource, ReliefWeb;
- developing a web-based University of Hawaii School of Public Health disaster management distance education course;
- hosting the WHO Health Intelligence Network for Advanced Planning (HINAP) electronic discussion group listserv; and sponsoring the WHO Collaborating Center website.

WHO Collaborating Center for Preparedness in Disasters Emergencies at CETESB, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

The Environmental Agency for the State of São Paulo, SP - Brazil (CETESB) since 1992 is the WHO Collaborating Center for Preparedness in Disasters Emergencies. The reason that CETESB was recognized as a WHO Collaborating Center is due to the activities this Agency is doing in the subject.

Since CETESB is a Collaborating Center(CC) had worked in coordination with the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization thorough the Emergency Preparedness and Relief Coordination Program (PED) and had worked hard to developed activities related with chemical accidents, meanly in the transfer of technology for others countries in the Latin America Region. The real work as Collaborating Center begun in 1995, when CETESB got in touch with Dr. Jean Luc Poncelet, PAHO/WHO consultant in South American Region Coordination for