

Session 2

Infectious Disease: Surveillance and Control

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Abstract

“Health crisis” is an expression that we encounter quite often nowadays. There are two types of health crises—health crises that occur suddenly, and health problems that slowly emerge over a long period of time. Such health problems occur like natural disasters, or can be caused artificially or intentionally.

Management of health crises comprises various types of operations, such as occurrence prevention, advanced preparation, measures for dealing with health crises after they occur and measures for recovery and restoration in the event of health damages. In other words, management of health crises can be divided into emergency response to health crises and routine measures. Both aspects of management should be subjected to regular evaluations and improvements.

The countries in the Asia Pacific Region are interconnected, we face similar threats to health, and their protection from those threats is only as strong as the weakest link. The advent of SARS and avian influenza underscore the importance of emerging diseases (newly found and/or newly recognized infectious diseases) and their impact on health and economic development. New diseases besides SARS or avian influenza, HIV/AIDS, West Nile virus, Nipah virus and drug-resistant malaria/TB are some of the diseases that have become entrenched. Over 30 new infectious agents have been detected in the last three decades, 75% of which have originated in animals (zoonoses). New pathogens, particularly viruses, remain unpredictable and continue to emerge and spread across countries. Several have profoundly affected countries and areas in the Asia Pacific Region that are the home of over 3.4 billion people, or 53% of the world's population. Besides emerging infectious diseases, classical infectious diseases such as TB, Leprosy, Dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, leptospirosis, measles etc.... are still existed and they are the big problem for human health. Though several socio-economic, demographic, environmental and

ecological factors facilitate the emergence and spread of these diseases, their impact could be minimized through a well-prepared and strong public health system.

Infectious diseases do not respect international borders. Global and regional partnerships and the rapid sharing of data and other information enhance preparedness and evidence-based control strategies. Strengthening surveillance system and networks is recognized as one of the most important tool to dissolve these issues. It is necessary to improve and to strengthen surveillance with regard to health crises. In other words, it is necessary to keep track of outbreak trends of basic infectious diseases on a daily basis, and to detect any abnormalities as early as possible.

Furthermore, it is necessary to pass on this information in an appropriate and easy-to-understand manner and to enhance provision of information. Sometimes crises caused by false rumors and misinformation result in more direct damage, so that in the future, fair disclosure of information and easy-to-understand explanations provided to public from a scientific standpoint are increasingly required as measures to manage health crises.

In the symposium, I would like to present on global concerned infectious disease situation in these days and surveillance system/networks as control measures.

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Academic Degrees

1973	MD	Jikei University, Japan
1980	PhD	Jikei University, Japan

Field of Study

Infectious Disease, Infectious Disease Surveillance, Vaccine, Pediatrics

