

4-2-3. SUMA Projects in the Philippines

1) Organizers

Co-hosted by: WHO West Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), Office of the National Disaster Management Council of the Philippines, ADRC, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Kobe Office

2) Basic Concept

One of the lessons from large-scale natural disaster experiences of the Philippines, including Mt. Pinatubo Volcanic Eruption in 1991 (900 death tolls), is that the lack of effective distribution means of humanitarian aid and relief supplies leads to confusion in relief and support activities. It frequently is the case in major natural disasters that relief supplies and financial aids do not reach affected communities and people in need of them.

Based on these experiences, the Office of the National Disaster Management Council of the Philippines urged the member organizations of the Council to exchange memoranda for eliminating possible problems in disaster control. In addition, the Office has organized the International Humanitarian Assistance Network in order to facilitate activities of overseas relief teams and acceptance of relief supplies. However, the health-related emergency supplies distribution system is not managed effectively enough to cope with a large-scale natural disaster. Against this background, ADRC in cooperation with the WHO West Pacific Regional Office (Manila) invited the local disaster prevention officials to a five day induction program for introducing and implementing the WHO-developed Supply Management System (SUMA), which has been successful particularly in South America, as a model for the relief supplies distribution system in the Philippines.



Fig. 4-2-3-1 Lecture by Dr. Jean Marc Olive, WHO Philippine representative

3) Dates

October 20 – 24, 2003

4) Participants

Thirty-three individuals from the Government of the Philippines (Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare Development, Office of the National Disaster Management Council, Department of Defense), Philippine Red Cross, Custom Bureau, UNDP, NGOs, the Government of East Timor, etc.

5) Details

This training project provided the following programs as an opportunity for governmental and non-governmental organizations responsible for emergency disaster response to learn:

- Software operation skills for the Relief Supply Management System (SUMA)

- Total Supply Management technique

Day 1: Oct. 20

1. Total Disaster Risk Management Approach
Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, executive director of ADRC
2. Current Humanitarian Aid Supply System in the Philippines
Dr. Jean Marc Olive, representative of WHO Philippine
3. OCHA's Organizational Structure, Disaster Preparedness, and Disaster Response Activities
Ms. Takako Izumi, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA Kobe
4. Open Forum
5. Outline of the Relief Supply Management System (SUMA)
6. SUMA Operation (SUMA software operation exercises at the Headquarters and fields)
Ms. Ardi Voets, FUNDESUMA Consultant

Day 2: Oct. 21

1. SUMA Operation (SUMA software operation exercises at the Headquarters and fields)
Ms. Ardi Voets, FUNDESUMA Consultant

Day 3: Oct. 22

1. Total Logistics Management in relief supplies distribution
(Logistic chain for relief supplies)
Mr. Gerardo Quiros Cuadra, FUNDESUMA Consultant

Day 4: Oct. 23

1. SUMA Operation (Warehouse Management Exercise)
Ms. Ardi Voets, FUNDESUMA Consultant

Day 5: Oct. 23

1. Field Exercise (visits to warehouses of customs, Philippine Red Cross, and the National Disaster Management Center)
2. Wrap-up and Proposals from the Participants

6) **Proposals from the Participants**

- To use and develop SUMA on a long-term basis, it is necessary to hold regular meetings after the completion of the course.
- To facilitate effective relief supplies distribution, the National Disaster Management Council and the Custom Bureau should exchange a memorandum of understanding on smooth customs clearance of relief supplies from overseas.
- Successful cases of application of SUMA in different countries should be introduced into lectures.
- It is necessary to promote the application of SUMA at both national and regional levels.



Fig. 4-2-3-2 Group photo of the seminar participants



Fig. 4-2-3-3 Lecture by Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Executive Director of ADRC



Fig. 4-2-3-4 Snapshot of SUMA software operation exercise



Fig. 4-2-3-5 Snapshot of the field exercise