



**The 1st International Emergency Medicine Management and joint TIEMS 19th Annual Conference
and workshops**

Erbil, Iraq (16-21 September 2012)

DECLARATION

The conference has identified the following themes as priority areas where the Government of Iraq will be focusing on in the next years to come. These include reviewing and updating existing policies and strategies related to the organization, structure and administration of disaster risk reduction including emergency medical services pre-hospital and hospital plus long term rehabilitation.

The conference recognizes the important role played by international organizations such as the International Medical Corps (IMC) and The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS), the World Health Organization (WHO), key individuals and other partners in supporting the Government of Iraq to develop and enhance DRR [Disaster Risk Reduction], Disaster Risk Management, Crisis Management and Emergency Medicine in Iraq and calls upon these organizations to continue providing technical support, under the coordination and the leadership of the Ministry of Health of Iraq and the Ministry of Health of the Kurdistan Regional Government.

TIEMS members express their full commitment and support to work within the common platform and as a contact point for the exchange of knowledge, sharing of experiences and collaboration among the DRR and Crisis Management professionals and practitioners involving all stakeholders.

Various topics of concern were raised during the preconference workshop, which served as an excellent forum in building capacity of Iraq professionals dealing with emergencies in terms of reviewing best practices and lessons learnt from other countries. The Ministry of Health welcomes and supports these initiatives.

We recognize that the vulnerability of the people of Iraq to natural and human induced disasters is increasing. We identify that the rapid urbanization, population rise and environmental degradation increases the incidence of disasters. In recent years, the impacts of environmental change including climate are causing increasingly detrimental consequences upon the people and food security.

The government has to comprehend that proactive legal provisions are of high importance for Disaster Risk Reduction and it need be realized that disaster preparedness activities require to be adopted routinely to minimize the potential impacts of disasters.

The joint organizers and delegates of the International Conference of Emergency Medicine and Management agree unanimously and declare the following recommendations:

Disaster Risk Reduction Recommendations:

1. We recognize the need and importance of TIEMS and of attending delegate representatives in addressing the issues of DRR through resource management, networking and sharing experiences through the workshops, continued collaborations and annual conferences.
2. Disaster risk reduction strategies of early warning and response mechanisms need to be developed through the regional and international collaboration. Regional and cross border plans should be prepared in order to address the disaster risk reduction activities of common concern amongst the neighboring countries.
3. Disaster awareness through simulations and education is highly necessary. The hazard maps, posters, pamphlets, booklets and audiovisuals should be prepared and publicized. The best practices and indigenous knowledge should be shared amongst the concerned communities and countries. Similarly, joint simulation exercises need to be carried out between collaborative teams mobilized during mega disasters within the region
4. Considering that the local people and communities are the first responders immediately to a disaster – their capacity needs to be strengthened in order to enhance the community's resilience, preparedness and response in a sustainable and cost effective way.
5. Environmental change including climate change, agricultural land depravation, waste management, pollution and urbanization requires prioritization in recognition of the magnitude of potential impact
6. It is the firm belief of the conference that the role of civil society is vital. Therefore, the respective governments should mainstream their inclusiveness within DRR strategy.
7. The governments should work and contribute to achieve the objectives of Millennium Development Goals and Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA).
8. The incorporation of DRR within curricular is essential

Action Plan – the next step:

- the Conference delegates commit to devote themselves to address the issues of DRR. We, therefore, as the common platform urge the respective governments to:
 - i. Improve community resilience, innovative urban planning, governance, capacity building and rural sustainability
 - ii. Participate within the ISDR Resilient Cities Program
 - iii. Support International strategies for preparedness, mitigation and crisis response
 - iv. Implement the World Health Assembly resolution WHA 60.62 on trauma care and emergency medical services
- That TIEMS, WHO and Conference Representatives continue to support the development of DRR strategies and initiatives where appropriate within Iraq.
- That the medical practitioner delegates request that the attached appendix be considered as part of the conference recommendations to be reviewed within the context of the best practices and daily operations. [separate document]

Written and adopted on 21 September 2012 at Hotel Sheraton, Erbil, Iraq.