

Miscellaneous

Report on the 17th introductory training seminar of the Japan Medical Team for Disaster Relief (JMTDR)

NORIMASA SEO

Second Department of Integrated Medicine, Division of Anesthesia and Critical Care Medicine, Jichi Medical School, Omiya Medical Center, Amanuma-cho, Omiya, Saitama 330, Japan

The 17th annual introductory training seminar of the Japan Medical Team for Disaster Relief (JMTDR), implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was held at the Tsukuba International Center, December 15 to 17, 1995. Thirty participants, including medical doctors, nurses, and other paramedi-

cal coordinators, attended the seminar to gather the basic knowledge needed for overseas relief activities.

After a brief orientation to the Japan International Disaster Relief Organization (Fig. 1), we were separated into four groups to undergo all three main training programs. One was a case simulation of the earthquake

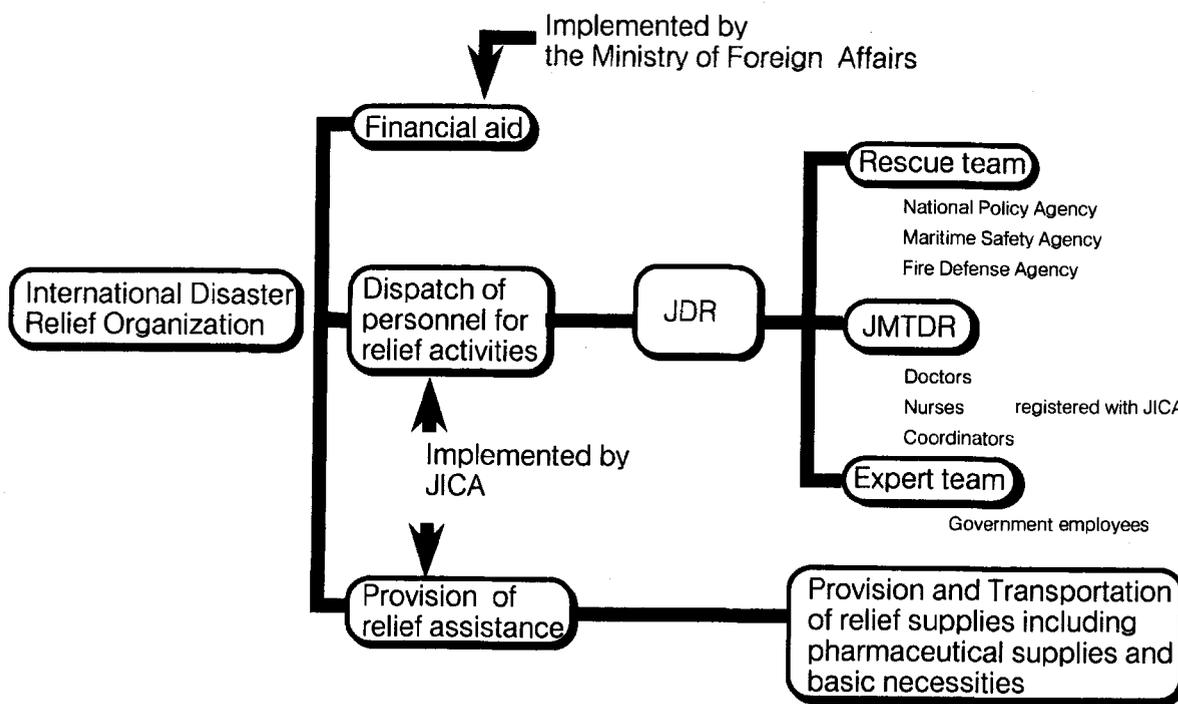


Fig. 1. Outline of the Japan International Disaster Relief Organization. Japan provides assistance in emergency disaster relief operations overseas, in the form of personnel, goods, and financing, in response to requests from an affected coun-

try. The Japan Disaster Relief Team Office (JDR) consists of rescue, medical (Japan Medical Team for Disaster Relief; JMTDR), and expert teams. JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency

Address correspondence to: N. Seo

Received for publication on January 5, 1995; accepted on April 26, 1996

and tsunami (tidal wave) disaster in Nicaragua on September 1, 1992. Each group had to resolve several problems that occurred during the simulated disaster relief operation. These problems included the hazards of transporting emergency relief supplies, misunderstandings arising from differences among cultures, and conflicts with international co-workers during the treatment of victims. The answers to these problems were evaluated and critiqued during an intergroup discussion. The other programs included lectures about disaster medicine and individual hygiene, as well as practical training in operating International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), a type of portable satellite communications equipment, and in building an air

tent. This seminar was very useful and valuable to our anesthesiologists, who have always played a critical role in disaster relief operations, because it provided practical training in the handling of problems specifically related to relief operations.

Address requests for JMTDR application forms to:
Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team
Japan International Cooperation Agency
P. O. Box 216
Shinjuku Mitsui Bldg.
1,2-chome, Nishi-Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan