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EMPHNET's Word

By: Dr. Mohannad Al Nsour, Executive Director

I'm pleased to welcome you to read through the third issue of EMPHNET newsletter. As you will read in this issue; EMPHNET has been involved in many activities during the past three months which aimed to raise the quality of FETPs in the region.

EMPHNET is working on developing training-of-the-trainer (TOT) courses in many areas to develop regional team of trainers who are qualified to train other FETPs residents and graduates. These regional teams will facilitate the conduction

of training courses for the different FETPs and consequently contribute in advancing the qualifications of the FETPs graduates. As a start, EMPHNET will select a determined number of FETPs residents and graduates to participate in the scientific writing TOT course that will take place in Yemen in May 2011.

Hopefully, you will update yourself with many important news while you are reading this current issue of EMPHNET newsletter.

Your contributions are welcome!

If you like to share a paper, article, idea, or any another material with the readers, please do not hesitate to send it to: tech@emphnet.com

EMPHNET has launched its online social network for its Alumni

EMPHNET has launched its online social network for its Alumni; through its website (www.emphnet.net). EMPHNET Alumni aims to strengthen the relationship between FETPs' graduates as well as to keep them connected to FETPs. Through the EMPHNET's Alumni Association, all members may be involved in the ongoing growth & development of FETPs in the region. As a graduate, you can remain as a part of your community long after you leave the FETP. As well as, you will be able to provide insight for future and current residents, add value to the FETP, and enhance the quality of the public health practice workforce. Joining EMPHNET Alumni has mul-

multiple advantages. To read out the advantages of our Alumni go to Why Join link in the Alumni box in our website.

In order to become a member in our Alumni you can sign up using "Not Registered Yet" link in the Alumni box and fill the required information in the registration form. Accepting the privacy policy of our website is necessary in order to register. After signing up in our Alumni and becoming a member, you can check your profile and access our online social network by logging in using your username and password. Members can create profiles with photos, lists of contact information, and other personal information.

Being a member in EMPHNET Alumni will allow you to communicate with

other members. In addition, you can choose your own privacy settings and choose the parts you want to share with others and the parts that don't want to share.

You can also upload your C.V on the Website and search for other downloaded C.Vs. Additionally; you will be able to visit the forum page to exchange & utilize experiences of the members and discuss common interests. Through your personal profile, you can add a friend, share photos, create a group, share files... etc.

EMPHNET encourages FETPs' residents, graduates, and field epidemiology professionals to join its alumni.



Dr. Dionisio Herrera, TEPHINET Executive Director; discussing important issues



Discussions during Scorecard Assessment of Jordan FETP

Scorecard Assessment of Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program

From 17th-20th January, 2011, Dr. Mo-hannad Al Nsour - Executive Director, EMPHNET participated with an international team and the Jordan Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) staff to conduct a facilitated self-assessment (or “scorecard”) of the program. The team was comprised of Dr. Faris Lami - Resident Advisor, Iraq FETP, Dr. Dionisio Herrera - Executive Director, TEPHINET, and Dr. Donna Jones - Medical Epidemiologist, CDC Atlanta. Dr. Sahar Jriesat, Director of Jordan FETP, graciously provided wonderful hospitality and the opportunity for the team to meet and discuss the program with many key stakeholders including the Director General of Primary Health Care Administration, Dr. Bassam Al-Hijawi as well as former Program Directors, a number of graduates and the current residents in training. They were also able to meet with the Director of Communicable Disease, Director of Non-Communicable

lance Department, the Head of Jordan Cancer Registry and the Director of Information Directorate as well as representatives from Jordan University of Science and Technology. The team worked together with the program to review the status of the program across several core program areas. This review identified many important strengths in the program as well as suggesting some key areas for improvement. Recommendations were prepared in collaboration with the program and presented to Dr. Bassam Al-Hijawi on the final day. TEPHINET, EMPHNET and CDC will remain engaged to support development and implementation of work-plan in support of recommendations. This activity demonstrated the usefulness of this assessment process for the program and EMPHNET hopes to continue to support this process in other programs in the region.

Yemen Launches Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

On Sunday, 30th January 2011, the Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population held an induction ceremony to mark the start of the first Yemen Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), which began on the 22nd of January.

The Yemen FETP began with a 5-week introductory course in field epidemiology in Sana’a. Instructors teaching the course included; instructors from the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET).

Twenty-two governorate disease surveillance officers and ten officers from priority public health programs and institutes in Yemen including national surveillance, tuberculosis, malaria, family health, Central Public Health Laboratory, cancer, population and reproductive health, curative medicine and agriculture are enrolled in the basic course.

At the end of the training, ten individuals will be selected to advance to the two-year program in field epidemiology, and they will form an elite group of public health practitioners in Yemen. Additionally, multiple classes will be enrolled annually over the ten-year period.

This program is financially supported by the Government of Yemen and the U.S. State Department.



Ceremony of Launching Yemen FETP



Participants of the Y-FETP Introductory Course

Public Health Surveillance during Mass Gatherings 2nd Workshop

EMPHNET in collaboration with Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) conducted the Public Health Surveillance during Mass Gatherings 2nd Workshop in Morocco, between 19th-24th February 2011.

The objectives of the workshop were to enhance understanding of public health surveillance at mass gatherings events and to improve oral and written scientific communications among participating FETP officers.

In the 1st mass gathering workshop, participants were trained on public health surveillance during mass gathering events and were asked to imple-

ment their gained knowledge in conducting mini-projects for mass gatherings held in their countries. These projects were supported financially and technically by EMPHNET and CDC. The outcomes of surveillance projects implemented between October 1st- December 31st 2010 were presented and discussed during the 2nd mass gatherings workshop.

In addition, participants of the 2nd mass gatherings workshop were trained on writing for scientific peer-reviewed journals, developing scientific manuscripts and refining surveillance reports from mass gathering projects. Well-qualified manuscripts will be submitted to peer-reviewed scientific journals for publication; thus results can be shared with other researchers.

At the end of the workshop Morocco FETP was awarded for its project.



One of the presentations during Mass Gatherings 2nd Workshop

EMPHNET 3rd Board of Directors Meeting

EMPHNET 3rd Board of Directors Meeting was conducted during the Mass Gatherings 2nd Workshop in Morocco, 19th Feb 2011. EMPHNET work plan for the next 2 years (2011-2012) was discussed including strengthening EMPHNET's organization, improving the quality of field epidemiology programs, networking and enhancing communication among FETPs in the region, organizing and conducting special training, developing relevant educational materials through FETPs' residents, and conducting and supporting collaborative projects.

Dr. Muhammad Al- Mazroa, Saudi Arabia FETP Director, was elected as Board of Directors Chairperson.

Technical Committee Meeting

The Technical Committee Meeting was held during Mass Gatherings 2nd Workshop in Morocco, 21st Feb 2011.

The Technical Committee duties and responsibilities are to advocate, promote and ensure the quality of EMPHNET's activities, promote the collaboration between EMPHNET and other related sectors, identify and address the related needs and concerns in the region, assist

in the development of new ideas and initiatives to support EMPHNET activities in the region, and advise on policy decisions at the EMPHNET.

Many topics were discussed during the meeting including; the structure of the committee, planning and conduction of EMPHNET collaborative projects such as; zoonotic diseases project, infection control project, and non-communicable

diseases project, and planning and conduction proposed training courses such as; training of the trainer course (TOT), disaster management course, and leadership and management course.

Residents exchange program was discussed as well; due to its importance as one of EMPHNET's main objectives.

TEPHINET 6th Global Scientific Conference

TEPHINET in collaboration with South Africa's Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (SAFELTP), Africa's Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), and CDC's Center for Global Health (CDC/COGH) organized the 6th global scientific conference.

TEPHINET 6th Global Scientific Conference was held in Cape Town, South Africa between 13th and 17th, December 2010. 14 preconference workshops were conducted about different topics including; scientific writing, decision making, mobile technology in public health surveillance, public health leadership and management, grant proposal writing for non-communicable diseases and many other topics. During the conference, many topics were addressed as oral and poster presentations in different fields including: vaccine presentable, maternal and child health, environmental and occupational health, non-communicable diseases, surveillance, food and water borne, respiratory diseases, malaria, zoonoses, and many more.

In the last day of the conference late breaking reports were presented, presentations were awarded and at the end a closing ceremony took place.

Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program



The Pakistan FELTP graduated its 2nd cohort on December 30th, 2010. The cohorts, who were originally scheduled to complete their training in July 2010 but were called back to their provinces to assist in the relief efforts of the floods in Pakistan, completed their training the last two weeks of December 2010. A celebratory dinner was held for the graduating class on December 30th.

Congratulations to the Pakistan FELTP 2nd Cohort graduates.

Pakistan FELTP and the University of Washington Partnership

December and January were busy and exciting months for the Pakistan FELTP. The program graduated its 2nd cohort, delivered continued training for its 3rd cohort, and held the induction ceremony and training for the 4th cohort.

In addition to these events, the program formally marked its partnership with the University of Washington to improve public health practices across Pakistan with the arrival of Dr. Ali Mokdad (Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington). Dr. Mokdad delivered training sessions for both the 3rd and 4th cohorts during 3rd - 7th of January.

This formal collaboration with the University of Washington will give the Pakistan FELTP fellows the advantage of learning and being mentored by an internationally acclaimed faculty, and to become involved in an international research projects. Besides exchange of faculty and trainees between the two institutions, the arrangement would help FELTP trainees to earn a certificate in Health Metrics and Evaluation, and will also give them an option to get a master's degree from the University of Washington.

Dr. Rana Jawad Asghar, head of FELTP Pakistan, stated that out of 37 field epidemiology training programs across the globe, Pakistan FELTP has earned the privilege of



Members of P-FELTP with representatives from University of Washington

Iraq FETP Development Workshop

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has partnered with World Health Organization-Iraq, the Iraqi Ministry of Health, the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education, the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network and the U.S. Department of State to strengthen public health infrastructure in Iraq through the establishment of the Iraq Field Epidemiology Training Program (I-FETP). The program aims to develop capacity in areas such as infec-

tious disease detection and control, epidemiologic investigation, surveillance, program evaluation, leadership, management and scientific communication.

This workshop involved ten Iraqi officials from the technical units at the Ministry of Health and five professors from Baghdad University to participate in a five-day workshop to review curriculum content, undergo orientation into field supervisory responsibilities and how to support officers with outbreak investiga-

tions, and to finalize the timetable for graduation of the first cohort in 2012. Activities included presentations, discussions, scenario-building, role-playing and finalization of the multi-year work-plan.

Outcomes included a curriculum that all parties have agreed to for implementation with the first cohort, a schedule of activities for 2010-2012, and a set of recommended action steps for implementation over the next twelve months.

