



Yes, students can!

In our department, every year, 4th year medical students are required to participate in a practicum experience and this year was no exception. The practicum is a unique opportunity for students to integrate and apply skills and knowledge gained through theoretical courses. The goal is to have some practical public health experience, contact with public health professionals, general population and the opportunity to do some community service. In total, 9 groups were assigned specific tasks but the central theme was the effects of the March 11 magnitude 9.0 earthquake that hit large areas of northeastern Japan, on the population.

Under the supervision of professor Yasumura, Seiji, head of the department of Public Health, Doctor Goto, Aya and I guided the 9th group whose topic was: "To reduce foreigners' anxiety". The ultimate goal of the study was to provide foreigners with a simple and easy-to-use manual in case of earthquake. Students worked very hard and diligently to gather information from a sample of 10 foreigners living in Fukushima's Hourai neighborhood. At the end, they come up with a useful and helpful manual* that could help foreigners cope with an earthquake.

Yes, students could brainstorm, come up with clear ideas and implement them in a very practical and meaningful way, thus bring about change in their community, particularly in this period of Japan history.

Group members: Tokumoto, Akiko; Gon, Chika; Nagashima, Chika; Ebihara, Ken-ichi and Nakagawa Mei.

*Reference: 公衆衛生学実習報告 ~東日本大震災後の福島を考える書

~ 福島県立医科大学医学部公衆衛生学講座; 2011; 49-55.

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