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EMPHNET's Word

The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) welcomes all the readers of its quarter newsletter. EMPHNET is proud to publish its first issue newsletter which aims to keep you up with all updates & latest news regarding EMPHNET, field epidemiology training programs (FETPs), public health, epidemiology, and other related fields.

EMPHNET is a regional network with the membership of four field epidemiology training programs of Egypt; Jordan; Pakistan; & Saudi Arabia as founding members. Other FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, and Yemen) can join the network as ordinary members.

EMPHNET; supported by The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Training Programs in Epidemiology and

Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET); shall provide an important linkage for Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

EMPHNET's mission is to prevent and control diseases, to conduct multidisciplinary research, and to translate research into practice in the Eastern Mediterranean region through strengthening and expanding applied epidemiology capacity, and working jointly with similar associations, networks and organizations.

EMPHNET works in partnership with Ministries of Health, non-government organizations, international agencies, private sector, and other public health agencies in the region to promote public health and applied epidemiologic capacity.

Announcement

Call for Participation

It is a great opportunity to invite you to participate in our newsletter as well as our website.

EMPHNET will appreciate receiving your latest activities, news, or scientific materials you would like to publish it through the newsletter & the website.

Updates and News



“Four employees joined EMPHNET”

EMPHNET was Officially Established

EMPHNET was officially established in October 2009.

EMPHNET is a regional network headquartered in Amman, Jordan.

The major duties of this office are to organize EMPHNET's activities, follow up on the achievement of goals & objectives, and provide technical assistance to the Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Up to the date of issuing this newsletter, four employees joined EMPHNET: Executive Director, Technical Advisor, Administrative Manager, & Financial Officer.

The EMPHNET's Website was Launched

All interested persons can now visit our new website www.emphnet.net. The visitor can find a description for EMPHNET's background, establishment, vision, & mission; as well as a brief about EMPHNET's projects & programs.

In addition, visitors can continuously educate themselves about public health & epidemiology sciences using the educational materials; publications; & useful links which are available in the website.

EMPHNET announces its activities & events through the website to ensure that FETP residents can know about them & have the chance to participate when it is possible. Coming soon in EMPHNET's website is the Alumni which will provide a link between the public health specialists in Eastern Mediterranean region & allow them to discuss many issues related to their fields.

Public Health Surveillance during Mass Gatherings Workshop

EMPHNET supports in collaboration with Centers of Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) the conduction of the first “Public Health Surveillance during Mass Gatherings” workshop to be held in Amman, Jordan from 25-29 September 2010.

This will be a five-day working meeting for Applied Epidemiology Training Program Residents and Ministry of Health focal points to address mass gatherings in the Eastern Mediterranean region and to develop projects for implementation afterwards. Epidemiologists from 10 countries (Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen), in addition to experts from CDC, will exchange their experiences in the workshop. At the end of the workshop, each country team will develop mass gathering project using the knowledge acquired during the workshop.

EMPHNET Contributed in the Assessment of Establishing New FETP in Yemen

Since EMPHNET plays a vital role in the establishing & assessment of FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean region, EMPHNET joined the CDC's team who is responsible for assessing the establishment of a new FETP in Yemen.

It is worth mentioning that three Yemeni physicians were trained in Jordan FETP. They became the core of the newly established FETP in Yemen.

“Coming soon in EMPHNET's website is the Alumni”

“Establishment of new FETP in Yemen”

Filed Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) is a two-years training program by which the trainees sharpen their skills in the applied epidemiology. This program started in 1980 and aims to develop, setup, and implement public health strategies.

There are more than 30 FETPs and similar programs around the world covering the 5 cotenants. In the Eastern Mediterranean region, there are FETPs in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan. Iraq FETP was recently established. Preparations are underway for similar programs in Afghanistan Morocco, and Yemen.

What goals do we hope to achieve through FETPs?

FETPs are developed to respond to the specific needs of their countries; however, all FETPS have similar goals. They aim to build

- Strong epidemiologic workforce
- Effective surveillance systems

- Problem solving
- Functional networks
- Excellence in policy, practice, program

FETPs in the Eastren Mediterranean region

FETPs in the region have many things in common; however, each program has some unique characteristics and strengths.

- Fully sustainable FETPs in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan
- Graduates in key leadership positions at central and local levels
- Trained epidemiologist from neighbouring countries
- Major outbreak investigations and studies with measurable public health impact
- Started with technical assistance from CDC
- Supported and funded by strong partnerships

“More than 30 FETPs and similar programs around the world”

A SUCCESS STORY

The First Eastren Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) Conference

Within less than one year since establishment, EMPHNET achieved one of its main goals by providing the linkage between Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in the Eastren Mediterranean region. This achievement was an outcome of the The First East Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) Conference which was conducted in collaboration with TEPHINET 4th Regional Scientific Conference and the 7th Conference of the Jordanian Public Health Association in October 2009.

This achievement is a reflection for EMPHNET’s success.

The conference consisted of two pre-conference workshops & many scientific sessions which include oral & poster presentations from 17 different countries. The workshops topics were: noncommunicable diseases & zoonotic diseases which are two critical topics for the region. EMPHNET working on the design and implementation of interventional projects on both topics in the region. The scientific sessions include many topics related to communicable & noncommunicable diseases. Mental health is one of the noncommunicable diseases which came into sight in the conference after it was ignored for a long time in the region.

To read more about the conference & its presentations, please visit our website www.emphnet.net



“The first EMPHNET conference is a reflection for EMPHNET’s success”



Alumni Association

“EMPHNET Alumni Association will promote loyalty for FETPs & EMPHNET”

EMPHNET is working on the process of establishing the Alumni Association of FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean region. This association aims to strengthen the relationship between FETPs' graduates as well as to keep them connected to FETPs. EMPHNET Alumni Association will promote loyalty for FETPs & EMPHNET.

Through the EMPHNET's Alumni Association, all members may be involved in the ongoing growth & development of FETPs in the region.

EMPHNET Alumni Association will provide a forum to exchange & utilize the epidemiologic experiences of the members. Also, many valuable services will be provided such as technical assistance, receiving EMPHNET newsletter, updating on FETPs & epidemiology field, & many other services.

EMPHNET encourages all FETPs' graduates to join its association, thus a strong Alumni Association is built which can enhance the value of FETP degree & strengthens their contribution in the public health epidemiological field studies & plans.

Why EMPHNET was established?

“EMPHNET supports the FETP program to build strong epidemiologic workforce”

Since there are four existent FETPs in the Eastern Mediterranean region (EMRO) & other new FETPs are under establishment, collaboration & linkage between these programs are required to be strengthened. As a response to this requirement, EMPHNET was established to execute this purpose through its goals & objectives.

The main goals of the Network will be to:

1. To support the FETP programs to build strong epidemiologic workforce through achieving the following objectives:
 - Facilitate communication and exchange of experience among FETP programs in the region
 - Partner with local, regional, and international organizations such as CDC, WHO and others to provide technical assistance to FETP and non FETP countries in the EMRO region in applied epidemiology
 - Provide technical assistance to countries of the region in starting new FETPs and conducting training in applied epidemiology

- Raise funds from governmental and non-governmental sources to implement programs and activities in the region
2. To contribute in the enhancement of public health conditions in the region through achieving the following objectives:
 - Promote capabilities through practice and training on applied epidemiology in the region.
 - Collaborate to improve capacities in surveillance and outbreak investigations
 - Partnership and exchange of expertise with associations, networks and organizations that hold similar views.
 - Participate in public health interventions and fulfillment of needs and situations.
 - Promote and support applied public health researches related to applied-based training programs in the course of response to public health developments.

“EMPHNET Contributes in the enhancement of public health conditions in the region”

