



Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative – Kuching, Malaysia (25 and 26 June 2013)

Ben Ryan, Director Disaster Risk Reduction, Asia-Pacific, International Federation of Environmental Health
Dr Peter Davey, President, International Federation of Environmental Health

As part of IFEH's disaster reduction initiative, a two day training course in Environmental Health and Disaster Management was held in Kuching, Malaysia on 25 and 26 June 2013. The course was held in partnership with the Malaysia Association of Environmental Health (MAEH), Kuching Public Health College, the Sarawak Environmental Health Union and Aspen Medical. Over 120 public health and disaster management students and specialists from across Malaysia attended the course.

The IFEH teaching team included Dr Peter Davey, President, and Ben Ryan, Director Disaster Risk Reduction. The material was modified from the four-day Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) Course, run by the CDC and Prevention across the USA.

The training discussed and analyzed the environmental health aspects of various disasters including Hurricane Katrina, the Haiti Earthquake and Cyclone Yasi. Also, participants discussed strategies for reducing environmental health risks such as those relating to drinking water, shelters, overcrowding, food safety, wastewater, disease-causing vectors, solid waste and hazardous materials.

Due to the positive feedback from participants, IFEH is now working with the MAEH, Kuching Public Health College and Sarawak Environmental Health Union to implement further capacity building activities across Malaysia.

For further information about this initiative please visit www.ifeh.org or contact Ben Ryan, Director Risk Reduction, Asia-Pacific, IFEH, via e-mail benjamin.ryan@my.jcu.edu.au.



In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA