



A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MAJOR INCIDENT EXERCISE AND COMPETITION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 14TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE UNJANI FACULTY OF MEDICINE, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

In this reflective writing, the author intends to revisit our significant involvement in both an international disaster jamboree and a specialized scientific meeting centred on disaster management. These noteworthy events took place in the lively city of Bandung, Indonesia. With sincere gratitude, the authors as members of the Faculty of Medicine and Defence Health (FPPK), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM) would like to share our experience of being invited as respected guests and judges at the International Major Incident Exercise and Competition, held concurrently with the 14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani (Unjani), Indonesia.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the year 2023, the Faculty of Medicine, Unjani, Indonesia celebrated its 31st anniversary. In alignment with the commitment to uphold The Tri Dharma of Higher Education, the faculty organized the 14th Scientific Meeting of Unjani Medicinal Faculty, themed "International Major Incident Emergency Responses." The sequence of events encompassed the International Jamboree, the Scientific Meeting, and the Dies Natalis, all with a focused emphasis on disaster management. Three members of the FPPK lecturers were invited as esteemed guests, judges, and workshop speakers to this event. This delegation is comprised of the Dean of FPPK, Brig. Gen. Datuk Dr. Adnan Abdullah, Datin Dr. Hasliza Abu Hassan, and Dr. Sarah Iziani Ramli. The privilege bestowed upon us and the smooth and gratifying experience we had were deeply appreciated.

The international disaster jamboree provided a dynamic platform that brought together teams from diverse backgrounds to demonstrate their proficiency in managing simulated disaster scenarios. The event drew nearly 90 participants, including doctors, paramedics, NGO representatives, and university students from both Indonesia and Malaysia. As judges, we undertook the responsibility of assessing the teams' responses, strategies, and decision-making processes on disaster management during the simulations. Spanning over three days, from May 29th to May 31st, 2023, the jamboree took place at the Bukanagara Camping Ground in Lembang, West Java, Indonesia. West Java is one of the Indonesian provinces that faces the greatest risk of natural disasters, including volcanic eruptions, flood, and earthquakes. A total of sixteen (16) teams participated, comprising fourteen (14) from Indonesia and two (2) from Malaysia. The scenarios revolved around earthquake simulations, search and rescue challenges set within the breathtaking landscapes of challenging woodlands.

At the beginning, a mix of excitement and responsibility embraced us. We were eagerly anticipating how the participants would approach the scenarios and apply their accumulated knowledge, training, and past experiences. Additionally, we held a sense of curiosity regarding the dedication that each team would demonstrate. As the jamboree progressed, our feelings evolved towards profound admiration for the

participants' dedication and enthusiasm. Observing their preparations for possible crises was genuinely inspiring. The participants' active involvement in the presented scenarios and their spirit of cooperation were particularly noteworthy.

In our roles as the judges, we had the opportunity to closely observe and assess the actions and responses of the participating teams. In an austere environment, which typically refers to a challenging or harsh setting with limited resources, razor-sharp decision-making by a team leader becomes crucial, especially in stressful scenarios. The process of evaluation was meticulously planned, encompassing areas such as risk assessment, methods of administering first aid, strategies for effective communication, teamwork coordination, decision-making abilities, and crisis management skills. The assessment of offering psychological first aid to disaster victims and the competence in performing resuscitation, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in a field hospital environment were thoroughly conducted. These elements are thoroughly assessed due to the critical need for prompt and efficient measures aimed at preserving lives and reducing additional harm in disaster.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF COMPETITION

We observed that a significant number of participants still exhibit gaps in the elements being evaluated, and we strongly recognized the urgent need for timely disaster management training. We ascertained that top performing teams demonstrated a balanced combination of leadership, collaboration, and proficiency [1-2]. They excelled in distributing tasks, communicating efficiently, and swiftly resolving issues. It was evident that achieving success relied on maintaining an equilibrium between comprehensive planning and the capacity to adapt to evolving situations. This is particularly critical given the dynamic nature of disasters [3]. As we reflected on the participants' responses during the simulations, we realized how vital it is to remain calm and focused during emergencies [4-5]. Following the competition, all attendees engaged in a relaxing session by enjoying a bonfire night, a barbecue dinner, and a lively karaoke session. This provided a much-needed break and created an unforgettable experience for the participants.

Constructing this true-to-life situation necessitated seamless collaborative effort. The support and engagement of universities, stakeholders, NGOs, and key figures were extremely important. The significance of robust teamwork and collaboration was evident among all attendees, participants, and committee members [6]. The medical students, skillfully portraying simulated patients, executed their tasks flawlessly. Additionally, the contribution of organizations like WANADRI, a collective of mountaineers and jungle explorers, in realizing the event deserved acknowledgement. After the jamboree concluded, the two-day scientific conference addressing disaster management began. It brought together local and international speakers, as well as experts in the field. The discussion revolved around clinical management of disasters, collaborative interagency healthcare strategies, the intricate nature of disaster management, and the essential focus on maintaining psychological well-being during catastrophic events [7]. Our participation in the scientific meeting has sparked a surge of motivation and eagerness to persevere in our pursuits within the field of disaster management. We truly hope to raise awareness, enhance our community resilience, and reinforce readiness for disaster.

The event reached its successful end through the 'MATCH: Medical Anniversary to Create Harmony' initiative. This occasion commemorated the 31st anniversary of the Unjani Faculty of Medicine and encompassed diverse activities such as a 5 km run, energetic Zumba sessions, and enlightening health talks.

3.0 ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

Figure 1 below shows some information about the jamboree and some of activities that had been performed during the jamboree session.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)

Figure 1. Activities done during the jamboree, (a) Bukanagara camping ground (b) lectures on disaster management (c) briefing before the competition (d) search and rescue exercise by the participants (e) judges of the jamboree from Malaysia and Indonesia (f) simulated field hospital (g) distressing session with bonfire night.

4.0 FUTURE ACTION

Our engagement in this event has inspired us to convey our experience to our colleagues, faculty members, university stakeholders, and the broader community. We anticipate contributing to future disaster jamborees by actively participating in workshops, seminars, hands-on sessions, and simulated scenarios. These efforts are all geared towards enhancing participants' understanding of effective disaster management strategies. Furthermore, we feel a strong urge to raise awareness within our community about the critical importance of disaster preparedness.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Participating in this event has undoubtedly provided us with a rich and insightful learning experience. In addition to disaster management, we were profoundly touched by the genuine hospitality, the opportunity for collaborative engagement, skill enhancement and the exchange of diverse culture We are

truly grateful for the opportunity given, as it brought a wide array of benefits that extend far beyond the event itself.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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