



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

World Health Organisation

69th Session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific Region

October 8th - October 12th, 2018 | Manila, Philippines

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations on Agenda Item 16.1: Health Security

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

In an ever globalised world with changing patterns of migration, travel, animal trade and agriculture, it is clear that many of the factors which contribute to the emergence of disease and health emergencies require input and collaboration from parties beyond the healthcare sector. We also recognize the importance of country ownership and leadership in strengthening their health systems and creating achievable and transdisciplinary responses adapted to specific health systems. Therefore, we urge Member States to include all relevant non-governmental and local stakeholders in their response to emergencies, as well as advocate for joint 'One-Health' efforts to strengthen preparedness.

Health security is thus a key area of our region to enable all the member states to fight against public health threats. The International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) believes that the ratification and implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR) at national and local levels helps the global society to unify and implement health for all.

The framework of IHR is based on technical and financial basis of healthcare policies. IFMSA encourages the member states to adopt the relevant guidelines into domestic regulations. We also call upon all member states to conduct Joint External Evaluation (JEE) on IHR as the regular overview of the regulations.

Furthermore, as the backbone of international health security, IHR has not been updated since 2005. We believe that the guiding regulations to deal with the outbreak of communicable diseases as well as other public health threats need to be reviewed and revised according to our experiences in previous PHEICs. Western Pacific Region consists of diverse background of member states as well as active NGOs. We believe that the collaboration scheme could serve as an example in solving public health issues.

Thank you.

--

Contact Person: Po-Chin Li
IFMSA Regional Director for Asia-Pacific 2018/2019
rdasiapacific@ifmsa.org