



Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA)

COE supports humanitarian assistance exercise in South Korea

COE supported a multilateral exercise focusing on a humanitarian assistance scenario held by US Forces Korea (USFK) in Seoul, Republic of Korea from June 15 to 17, 2010. The mid- to high-level conference included civilian and military participants from the US, Japan, Korea, Canada and Australia.

The conference built upon past discussions and forums to increase regional military understanding with respect to natural disaster management capabilities and experiences, and resulting need to handle humanitarian assistance for refugee/displaced populations. Natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis and tropical storms, have been increasing in frequency around the world and in the Asia-Pacific region. Global health issues, such as pandemics, are also a growing concern.

Six-one civilian and military participants from USFK, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Korean Red Cross, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UN World Food Program (WFP).

The Australia-based Asia Pacific Civil-Military Center of Excellence, the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), and the Korean National Emergency Management Agency were also in attendance.