



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

NEWS

Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) visits Honolulu

The Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) visited the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE), U.S. Pacific Command from 22-24 September.

Members of the delegation included the Chief and High Commissioner, as well as senior officers from the Policy, Planning & Monitoring Division, Information, Communication & Technology Division, Transportation Division, and Foreign Relations Division.

The purpose of their visit was to collaborate with the Center for Excellence on the second annual senior-level event in Mongolia to be held in 2010 on disaster preparedness.

The event will be a follow-up to the one that COE led in April 2009, in which it partnered with the State of Alaska, Alaska National Guard, and the US Army War College, for a multi-phased joint disaster response training designed to engage mid- and senior-levels of government in Mongolia. The training program spanned a couple of months and concluded with the capstone exercise, "Gobi Wolf," a train derailment involving hazardous materials.

The success of the disaster response training and the planning and execution of a comprehensive and coordinated disaster preparedness plan have led to a continuing partnership with the Mongolian NEMA and COE. Future events will focus on refining the country's disaster preparedness plan and coordinated response to complex contingencies and disaster scenarios.

In addition to planning for next year's event, members of the Mongolian NEMA also visited the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, Hawaii State Civil Defense Disaster Center, Honolulu City and County Department of Emergency Management, providing them the opportunity to observe the larger picture of coordinated efforts on the national, state, and local levels. They also attended a tour of Pearl Harbor.