



The Training Course on Maritime Medicine for Doctors

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Naval Medical Department of Royal Thai Navy (NMD) in collaboration with Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Norwegian Centre for Maritime and Diving Medicine (NCMDM) arranged a course on “Maritime Medicine for Doctors” for Thai and Myanmar participants during 20-24 November 2017 at Ramada Plaza Bangkok Menam Riverside Hotel, Bangkok.

Thailand and Norway have been collaborating on maritime medicine in many occasions for the past years. The collaboration grows from specialist's personal contact to a formal inter-institute level. The history dated back to the first Maritime Medicine Conference in Thailand during 26-28 March 2012 in Pattaya, Chonburi. Naval Medical Department along with International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) arranged the conference with participation from 12 international speakers specialised in maritime medicine from 9 different countries - 4 from Norwegian Centre for Maritime Medicine (NCMM) - lecturing and sharing on the occasion with about 200 participants attending in the event. Since then, the relationship has been growing steadily and strongly between the two institutes. Recently, NMD and NCMM arranged conference in Bangkok on the theme of “Development of Maritime Medicine to Support National Maritime Security & To the future of Thai Maritime Medicine through decoding Norway” from 11-12 November 2015 which was well-recognised as a great success. On the occasion, the CEOs of Naval Medical Department and Norwegian Centre for Maritime Medicine reached an agreement to draft and sign the official Memorandum of Understanding in order to further a stronger collaboration and relationship between the two parties.

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As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NMD and NCMDM that was signed on 7th September 2016 at Bergen, Norway, the 2 institutes have been gearing up in developing a sustainable excellency in maritime medicine in the country. Efforts have been put in to reach the NMD's vision of "to become the nation's high performing military medical organisation which plays a leading role in maritime medicine".



The course of "Maritime Medicine for Doctors" for Thai and Myanmar participants was kindly supported by the Ambassador, Royal Embassy at Yangon, H.E.Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and the former Surgeon General Vice Admiral Kanin Chumworatayee RTN and the success of which would not be possible without the contribution of organising committee from Academic Affairs Division, Naval Medical Department.

The course was tailored to suit the target participants exclusively for doctors. The core content is specifically designed for doctors who were interested or currently working in any of the related fields of maritime, offshore, diving and hyperbaric medicine. On this occasion, Thai and Myanmar participants are presented to share their experiences, knowledge and to help building a network in the region.

The course was comprised of a 4-day topic lectures and another 1-day practical program. The topic lectures covered the following areas, i.e.,

- development of maritime medicine
- maritime working places
- maritime occupational safety and health
- medical care and support at sea
- pre-employment medical examination/selection
- diving medicine, and



- building up a centre of knowledge excellence

The practical period of on-the-job demonstration has been carried out at Hyperbaric Facilities of Naval Medical Department in Bangkok.



The key lecturers included 4 specialists from Norwegian Centre for Maritime and Diving Medicine, namely, Dr.Alf Magne Horneland, Mr.Agnar Tveten, Dr.Sue Stannard and Dr.Eilif Dahl; while another 3 specialists namely, Captain Dr.Thanasawat Chaiyakul, Lieutenant Commander Dr.Thanawat Supanitayanon, and Lieutenant Dr.Chamchan Chanchang are from Naval Medical Department of Royal Thai Navy. A total number of 43 participants attended the sessions, 23 from Myanmar and 20 from Thailand.



The course was deemed successful, considering the favourable outcome of knowledge and experience sharing. Prospect of building a network of collaboration in maritime medicine looks promising. Though this is only the beginning of a network build-up, the future seems to be rather evident for an oncoming multi-level cooperation among nations in the near future.



Excellency in maritime medicine is neither an imagination nor an impossibility. Naval Medical Department has proven to be able to reach their vision outstandingly. With a whole hearted contribution from staff of Naval Medical Department at all levels starting from the top to general officials, a “core competency with distinguished identity of maritime medicine” shall always be a flagship of Naval Medical Department, Royal Thai Navy.

