

## **SIF-KKH Project on Emergency Care to National Paediatric Hospital, Cambodia**

### **Pang Nguk Lan, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore**

In year of 2003, Singapore International Foundation (SIF) approached KK Women's and Children's Hospital to assist National Paediatric Hospital (NPH) to develop the capabilities of medical and nursing personnel to improve their management of paediatric emergencies.

NPH is a government hospital situated in central Phnom Penh in Cambodia. It has total of 114 beds and has staff strength of about 200. The key objective of the project was to equip a core group of trainers with skills and knowledge to train other medical and nursing personnel in the government health care system in paediatric emergency care.

The training programme started with a exploratory visit in October 2003 led by Dr. Irene Chan from Children's ICU, together with team were Dr. Ng Kee Chong (Department of Children's Emergency), Dr. Loh Lik Eng (Children's ICU), ADN Pang Nguk Lan (Nursing) and SIF representative. Need assessment was done during the first field trip, broad discussion was made with Prof Chhour, Medical Director of NPH and senior staff members from NPH, and it was decided that KKH would support their training needs in collaboration with SIF. The programme would consist of twice yearly visits to NPH by the KKH team culminating over a 4-year period

Over the course of 4 years, a total of 6 training and 2 assessment trips were conducted, each with commitment by 2 doctors and 2 nurses from various paediatric sub-specialties. Duration of each course was about 3 to 4 full days. The structure of the training comprised of lectures, skill stations, and mock codes. At the end of the training, trainees were assessed on skills and theoretical knowledge. The course end in February 2006 and 2 days were designated to observe the NPH trainers conducted training for 14 of their local doctors and nurses.

The outcome of the programme was gratifying, and in a short 4 years, NPH made massive strides in improving its facilities and has greatly improved its capabilities in managing the more critical children. There was a significant drop in mortality rate for children going through the Emergency Room (ER) from 1.7% to 1.2%. In addition, NPH has been appointed the WHO training centre for its Emergency Triage And Treatment (ETAT) programme which enables NPH staff to train the medical fraternity both within and out of NPH.

NPH is also recognized as the only hospital with triage system in place for outpatient setting and ill patients are sorted to be treated at the ER. The bed capacity of NPH has increased from the previous 114 to the current 170 and targeting at 240 in near future.

The most vital and outstanding achievement is its human resource where medical and nursing personnel are committed to keep themselves current with quality care practices. With SIF funding, 2 doctors and 2 nurses were identified to be sent to KK hospital for one month observatory attachments.

KKH is committed to share expertise in the field of Paediatric Care and is supportive of joint-collaborate with other government or non-government organization in skill development for those regions that have dwelling need. The cross transferability of skills

and excellent relationship that KKH built with the Cambodian team bears witness to our belief that people from different communities, cultures and backgrounds can contribute and learn from one another in a spirit of mutual growth.



**Sharing with Cambodian RN on the setting of Resuscitation Trolley**



**Dr Irene Chan, together with Service Engineer Mr Anthony Tien demonstrates to the team on the use of ventilator.**



**NPH conducted a 2-day Paediatric Emergency Care course for 14 of their doctors and nurses, on the right is Chief Nurse of Emergency Department, Mr Chanthorn Khem who is now an instructor to the training programme.**



**Presenting certificate to one of the graduate trainers by Pang Nguk Lan, Assist. Director, Nursing from KK Women's and Children's Hospital. Looking on is Prof Chhour Y Meng, Medical Director of NPH.**