


"ISTIH takes the best people and develops 'Train the Trainer' programs creating ripple effects that allow millions of people to get help. The programs are providing long term solutions for our neighbours health needs."

Professor Michael Henderson



The International Skills and Training Institute in Health (ISTIH) is a Western Australian based independent, non-profit organisation providing assistance to health professionals throughout the Asia Pacific region. ISTIH aims to work in collaboration with health workers and organisations to develop specialised training programs in medicine, nursing and allied health to suit community needs.


About Us

ISTIH was established in 2005 following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Co-founders Professors Michael Henderson and Bruce Robinson recognised a lack of cohesion across Western Australian development aid initiatives within the Asia Pacific region and formed ISTIH to enable a holistic approach to the delivery of WA-based aid services in that region.

Most international aid and disaster relief arrives too late to save many victims, as many die within the critical period of the first 12 to 24 hours of a disaster.

The Institute was developed as an alternative to common reactive aid approaches and embodies a pre-emptive, proactive approach, by which regional clinicians are equipped with the necessary skills to respond to an emergency situation before disaster strikes.

ISTIH offers more than simply a band-aid approach: it is creating a sustainable solution to disaster relief and forming partnerships to develop community healthcare across the Asia Pacific region.



ISTIH provides a range of services
in medical and health training to the
Asia Pacific region including:

- Emergency medicine
- Maternal and child health
- Disaster planning
- Medical skills
- Occupational health
- Cardiovascular medicine
- Leadership in medicine
- Biomedical
- Resuscitation

**Our
Work**

ICTEC Facility

'Train the Trainer' Program

ISTIH's use of the outcomes-based 'Train the Trainer' program is one of its distinguishing features and key assets. ISTIH volunteers travel to a region to deliver top-quality skills training and 'upskilling' courses to health professionals. Once these 'first generation' clinicians have gained the knowledge they need, they can pass this on to others, and so forth, to ensure a continuing chain of impact. ISTIH's 'Train the Trainer' program works to maximise its return on investment, delivering sustainable local healthcare education, empowering communities and future generations.

'Train the Trainer' Success

In using the 'Train the Trainer' program, ISTIH takes one unit of input and generates 2 million units of output; for example, having one Australian clinical trainer training 100 local clinical trainers in situ, which in turn sees these 100 trainers continue the multiplying effect by training 100 more. In the case of Indonesia, this model has, as a single program cycle, the potential to 'upskill' 100,000 health providers nationally, servicing some 2 million Indonesians...and the cycle continues into the future. This 'one-to-two million' vision is evident in the success of the Institute's foundational and continuing support of the Indonesian Clinical Teaching and Education Centre (ICTEC).

The ICTEC facility is modelled on the Clinical Teaching and Education Centre (CTEC) at the University of Western Australia (UWA). Its primary role is to deliver skills training and upskilling courses to allied health professionals across a variety of medical, surgical and allied health disciplines. The ICTEC-ISTIH partnership also fosters long-term collaboration and professional exchange, with Indonesian clinicians and Australian-based specialists hosted as visiting colleagues between the two facilities.

The \$40+million ICTEC facility was established through the collaborative partnership of ISTIH, UWA, the University of Indonesia and its Cipto Mangunkusomo Tertiary Hospital, the Indonesian Government, and benefactors within the Indonesian business community.



Burma (Myanmar)

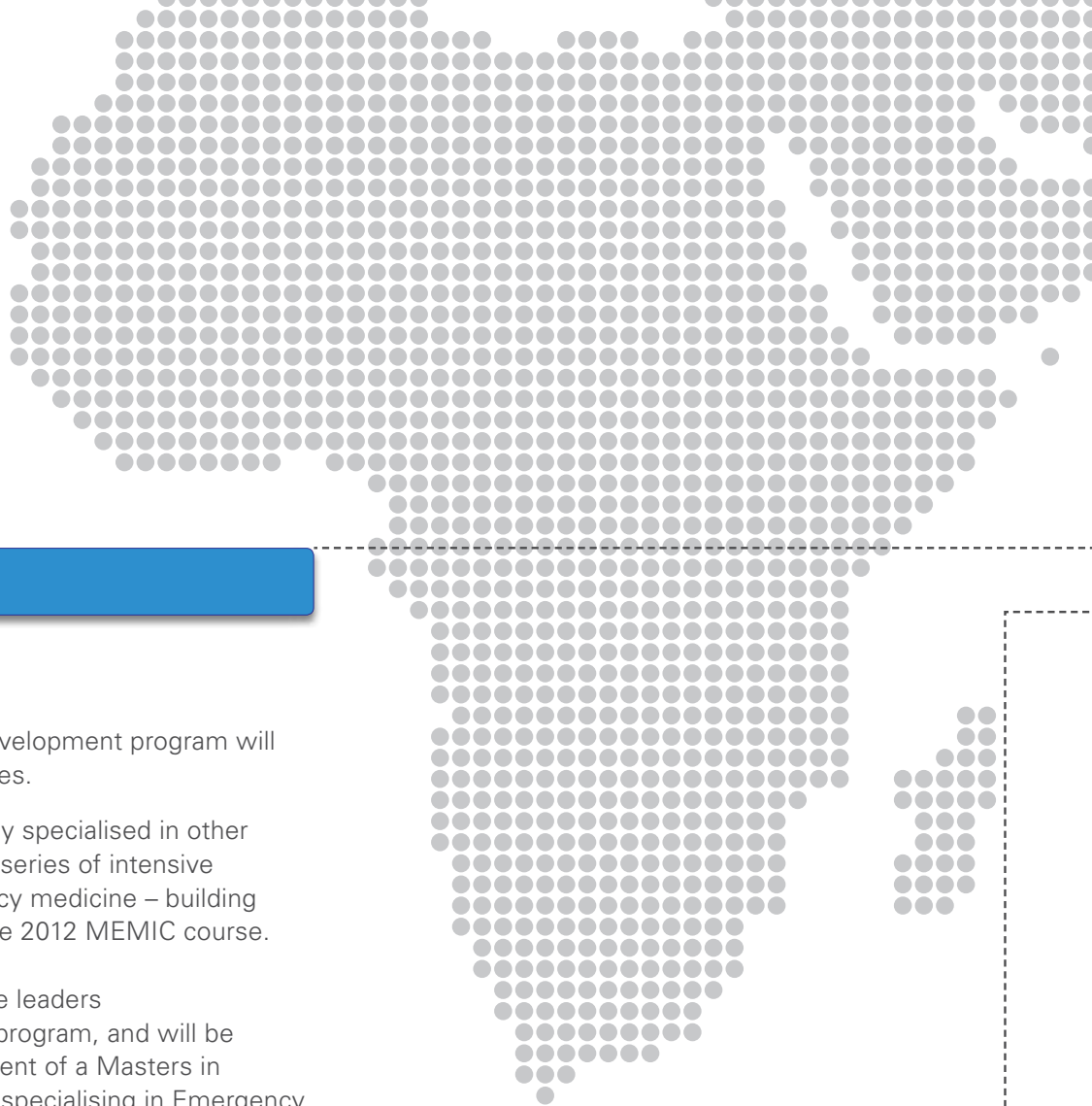
ISTIH supports the team of emergency medicine specialists, surgeons and anaesthetists 'training the trainers' and guiding the development of a landmark emergency medical education program in Myanmar.

The group visited Myanmar in June 2012 to deliver the first ever Myanmar Emergency Medicine Introductory Course (MEMIC) to doctors at Yangon General Hospital (formerly Rangoon), with the support of the Australian Ambassador to Myanmar.

Dr Georgina Philips has been engaged in Myanmar since 2009, having initiated a Primary Trauma Care course in the wake of Cyclone Nargis in 2008. In February 2012, Dr Chris Curry visited teaching hospitals in Yangon and Mandalay, at the invitation of leading Burmese surgeon, Zaw Wai Soe and with the support of colleagues such as Dr Philips. This visit contributed to the building of an Emergency Medicine development plan that will utilise Dr Curry's network of Australasian colleagues within the International Emergency Medicine Special Interest Group (IEMSIG) of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM), fellows of the Australasian College of Surgeons, and international colleagues based in Hong Kong, as advisors and initial trainers.

"Having had half a century of a closed military dictatorship, most of the country's doctors have had no exposure to modern emergency medicine."

Dr Chris Curry



A New Education Program

The Emergency Medicine development program will unfold over three major phases.

1. Recruiting doctors currently specialised in other disciplines to undertake a series of intensive short courses in emergency medicine – building on the success of the June 2012 MEMIC course.
2. These doctors will become leaders in the next phases of the program, and will be involved in the establishment of a Masters in Medical Science program specialising in Emergency Medicine, with international guidance where required.
3. Extending emergency medicine training programs to other clinical practitioners and allied health workers, including general practitioners, ambulance officers and emergency nurses.

Nepal

In February 2012 ISTIH sponsored a visit to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, by Associate Professor Curry, who currently serves on the ISTIH Medical Advisory Committee and who has made frequent visits to the country since 2007, both as a teacher of Emergency Medicine and as a specialist advisor.

Dr Curry delivered Emergency Medicine skills training in support of the University's new Doctor of Medicine in Emergency Medicine degree program.

Launched in September 2011, the three-year specialist program marks an exciting step in the Emergency Medicine education development process, with the first cohort of fully trained specialists expected to graduate in 2014.

Building Lasting Relationships

The progress made in developing Emergency Medicine in Nepal is encouraging, and valuable relationships have been forged between Australian, Nepali and Indian clinicians.

We hope that the Tribhuvan University program will follow the path set by the established program at the University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, an initiative Dr Curry has been engaged in since its inception in 2001. Testament to the success of the 'Train the Trainer' program, the University's Emergency Medicine teaching staff at Port Moresby General Hospital are almost independently training and graduating their own emergency physicians.



Australia

ISTIH's operations are headquartered within the grounds of The University of Western Australia in Perth. A team of dedicated individuals coordinate the Institute's involvement and support across a range of international aid projects that includes ISTIH's 'Train the Trainer' programs.

Papua New Guinea

ISTIH has been providing support for Dr Miriam O'Connor, an Australian Obstetrician, Gynaecologist and Sexual and Reproductive Health Consultant based in Papua New Guinea, who continues to play a leading role in efforts to improve the country's maternal healthcare sector.

In May 2012 ISTIH sent a substantial collection of teaching aids to support the delivery of Dr O'Connor's skills training courses in Emergency Obstetric Care. These materials filled a vital demand for portable teaching aids to support the delivery of the 'Train the Trainer' program within rural and remote communities across Papua New Guinea.

Maternal mortality rates in Papua New Guinea are among some of the highest in the world, and have more than doubled in the past decade.





ISTIh Volunteers4Health is a joint initiative between ISTIH and one of our core partners, the WA Department of Health. We have developed an online portal that connects prospective WA volunteers with opportunities in international aid and healthcare development projects in the region.

Eligible Department of Health employees can take advantage of the Community Leave Service program, which was launched in January 2011 to support WA health workers wishing to participate in approved international aid programs, as part of the Department's commitment to improving healthcare sustainability in under-served communities.

ISTIh Volunteers4Health will help to supply a continual stream of new and returning clinical volunteers to travel overseas as part of ISTIH initiatives such as the Emergency Medicine education programs in Nepal and Burma (Myanmar).



"We started ISTIH because we wanted all people to be treated the same. We could see there was a shortfall in terms of equality of access to doctors and skills across the region. We particularly wanted to set a natural disaster response program in place, that was both innovative, effective and efficient."

Professor Michael Henderson

Furthermore, 85% of the population of Papua New Guinea live in rural areas, with little or no access to clinical healthcare. Lack of access to trained medical professionals is compounded by a lack of facilities for family planning and clinical supervision of childbirth.

Dr O'Connor has drawn upon her vast experience in maternal healthcare to respond to the need for 'upskilling' within the Papua New Guinean maternal healthcare sector. In 2007 Dr O'Connor began developing a training course in Emergency Obstetric Care to educate doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, medical students and community caregivers covering many of the country's most under-resourced areas.

The Emergency Obstetric training courses are adaptable to the different skills, resources and levels of participants' experience within the Papua New Guinean health system and are intended to build upon and refresh the knowledge and skills acquired through medical school.

Core Partners

ISTIH began, developed, and continues to expand through a vital partnership network with the support of our core partners, The University of Western Australia and the Western Australian Department of Health.

ISTIH is proud to work with our core partners to continue delivering sustainable medical education and development aid solutions to the Asia Pacific region.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**



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