

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS/PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
FINAL EXAMINATION – APRIL 2006
MCP 2609 – DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS**



Date: 29th April, 2006

Time: 9.30 a.m. 12.30 p.m.

Answer 4 questions including question Number 01.

01. Read the following passage and answer all questions.

Avian flu: Are we ready?

Sri Lanka does not seem to be ready for an outbreak of deadly Avian (bird) flu that has already spread in many parts of Asia and Europe, warned a former WHO consultant who spoke to the Sunday Observer.

An outbreak of avian flu may be more dangerous than the tsunami in its disastrous consequences.

Citing the possibility of infected birds immigrating to Sri Lanka and spreading the disease among Sri Lankan birds he questioned whether we have warned wild life authorities to be on the lookout and immediately send any dead birds to the authorities in Colombo, so that they could be flown to Europe, USA or any other country with proper laboratory facilities for testing. On the possible infection of birds in poultry farms he questioned whether we have even a list of all poultry farms in the island so that precautionary measures could be taken in the case of an infection in any one of them.

Do we know how to identify birds afflicted with avian flu and what steps should be taken in case of detection? Whether we have the requisite apparel for persons who would come into contact with affected birds and the necessary disinfectant chemicals etc. for use in such a case.

The possibility of humans getting infected with the avian flu virus cannot be ruled out and only few countries have developed a vaccine against it. Therefore it is very necessary to take precautionary measures like administering Influenza A type vaccines. Anti-viral drugs currently used for Avian flu are costly. A single dose costs as much as 10 dollars and it should be taken for at least seven days.

The economic consequences of an avian flu outbreak would be colossal as thousands of birds will have to be killed and the means of livelihood of several thousands would be affected.

What is most urgent is the formation of a National Task Force with the participation of the wild life department, the Health Ministry the Agriculture Department, the Animal Husbandry Department, Poultry Farmer's Association and Veterinary Science Faculties of the Universities.

(Extracted from Sunday Observer - 2006)

- a. Define the term 'Hazard' in relation to the passage.
- b. Define the term 'vulnerability' in relation to the passage.
- c. List 3 strengths and 3 weaknesses of relevant public authorities in Sri Lanka in managing this kind of situation.
- d. Identify methods by which the bird flu virus can spread out.
- e. Identify short term risk reduction measures according to the passage.
- f. Recommend 4 appropriate long term mitigatory measures to reduce the risk.
- g. Identify problem areas in mitigation of bird flu in the Sri Lankan context.
- h. What is the purpose of having a Special Task Force?

(40 marks)

**Select any 3 of the following questions and answer.
(Each will carry 20 marks)**

2. i. Distinguish between the following terms and give examples for each.
 - a. Natural Disaster and human induced disasters.
 - b. Hazard and Disaster.
- ii. Name major phases of the Disaster Management cycle and give activities in major phases in relation to a Natural Disaster occurring in Sri Lanka.
(20 marks)

03. a. What do you mean by social marketing?
b. Explain why community participation is essential in Disaster Mitigation.
(20 marks)
04. Comment on the statement made by an European reporter that Colombo City people are more vulnerable to disasters than Kandy city people.
(20 marks)
05. i. Name 3 important phases of an emergency.
ii. What are the common elements of an emergency plan?
iii. List key functions of an Emergency Operation Centre.
iv. What is the purpose of having an Incident Command System for an emergency situation?
(20 marks)
06. Discuss the role of Donors and (NGOS) Non Governmental Organizations in Post disaster management.
(20 marks)

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