



Capacity Building in Health Care Waste Management

The representative of the Indira Gandhi Open University — IGNOU gave an overview of the 6 month certificate course on sound health care waste management (HCWM) in which Indonesian participants can enrol through national study centres, for a fee of US\$400. Discussions with the study centres are going on, a first batch of Indonesian e-students is expected to be ready for January 2007. WHO **Indonesia** indicated the will to support the registration as an incentive to the first e-students. **Sri Lanka** took interest in setting up a study centre in Colombo.

Using inputs from the IGNOU course, in 2005, WHO supported the government of **Maldives** in training 60 health workers, from 12 health care facilities in the country in sound HCWM practices. The training sessions, carried out at the SM Ramaiah Medical College in Bangalore, India, set the basis for the completion of the HCWM legislation in Maldives.

WHO, **Indonesia** with support from the European Union's humanitarian aid office ECHO, helped the local authorities implement the project "Clinical Waste Management in the Earthquake and *Tsunami* Affected Area of Northern Sumatra".

Immediately after the catastrophe, an early assessment found that there was a high risk of

disease outbreaks due to mishandling of infectious wastes. Action was required to reduce this risk in the few functioning health facilities, and in the field hospitals set up in the overcrowded IDP camps.

The project thus focused on providing necessary HCWM training to health workers in the 13 affected districts using the IGNOU course. By April 2006, over 450 health workers in the province had been trained on the sound management of medical wastes.

All 180 health facilities in the 13 districts received ample support by being provided with the latest up to date non-burn technology to ensure that proper waste management practices can be implemented in a sustained manner.



A group of HCWM trainees in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, 2005