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officiated by

Y.B Datuk Rosnah Haji Abdul Rashid Shirlin
Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia

Organised by



NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMME IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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Background:

Cervical cancer is the second biggest cause of female cancer mortality worldwide with around 300,000 deaths yearly. About 500,000 cases of cervical cancer are reported each year with nearly 80% in developing countries; Asia accounts for almost half of the total cases.

In Brunei Darussalam, the incidence of cervical cancer has been rising since cancer registration was started in 2002. It has now become the *second commonest female cancer* in the country and is the *third commonest cause of all cancer deaths* in 2008. Brunei Darussalam age-standardised incidence rate of cervical cancer per 100,000 populations is amongst the highest in the Asia-pacific region. The incidence of cervical cancer in Brunei Darussalam shows two peak age groups at 45-49 years and 65-75 years respectively. The youngest cervical cancer victim was 25 years of age.

Cervical cancer is preventable and Pap smear screening for cervical cancer reduces incidence and mortality from the disease in developed countries. Well-organised programmes have the greatest impact (high coverage of target population to be screened 80% or more). In Brunei Darussalam, only < 12,000 pap smears are taken annually, of which a majority are taken from MCH clinics.

In 2009, Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam started the National Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Programme.

Activities in 2009 includes:

- ▶ CME to all primary health care doctors on standardising pap smear technique
- ▶ Include pap smear due date as a reminder in patients' case notes (new patient summary sheet)
- ▶ Identify patients from existing screening programmes eg. Occupational health unit and Integrated health screening
- ▶ Health education talks to public at health centre level
- ▶ 1st cohort of nurses for Pap smear training
- ▶ Pap smear training included in community nursing training curriculum – UBD
- ▶ Pathology laboratory – standardisation of pap smear reporting format
- ▶ Published National Cervical Cancer Prevention & Control Guideline
- ▶ Cervical cancer awareness month (road shows in all 4 districts and public forum)
- ▶ Health education through media and newspapers

Activities in 2010 includes:

- ▶ 2nd cohort of nurses for Pap smear training
- ▶ Finalising working paper for HPV vaccination plan
- ▶ Pathology laboratory - liquid based cytology plan for cervical cancer screening, manpower issue and training of cytotechnologists
- ▶ Preparations for setting up Pap smear Registry eg. obtain database - female IC holders from Immigration Department

Activities in 2011 includes:

- ▶ Setting up National Pap Smear Registry
- ▶ Cervical cancer awareness month (road shows in all 4 districts and public forum)
- ▶ Television promotions on cervical cancer and Pap smear
- ▶ 3rd cohort of nurses for Pap smear training
- ▶ Health education through media and newspapers
- ▶ Preparations for HPV vaccination implementation (starting in January 2012)

The presentation will cover the progress so far from 2009, the future plan of this programme and its challenges. Brunei Darussalam has taken remarkable initiatives to reduce the incidence and mortality rate of cervical cancer in this country.