

Smart Hospitals

Dr. Dana Van Alphen

PAHO/WHO initiative of safe hospitals has started in 2009 and many countries in the region have adopted policies to ensure that hospitals are resilient to natural hazards. Various agencies also promote measures for “greening” hospitals.

PAHO/WHO developed a new project aiming to harmonize climate adaptation and mitigation measures with requirements for hazard resistance and include all these into the design of new health facilities.

This is important especially in the Caribbean where the scarcity of land means that critical assets such as hospitals are located in vulnerable areas exposed to the effects of coastal hazards.

Also in many countries hospitals account for a significant percentage of a country’s energy consumption therefore have an important carbon footprint?

Smart hospitals will be designed to have both environmental performance/ climate proofing and disaster resistance and should result in saving cost and ensuring access to the population to health care at all times.

BIO



Dana Van Alphen graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands) and received a master degree in clinical tropical medicine, from the London School of Tropical Medicine.

For ten years, Dr. Van Alphen was a medical coordinator for “*medecins sans frontieres*” (doctors without borders) in operations in Afghanistan, Somalia, Bosnia, Nicaragua, Perú, Guyana, and Brazil.

Since 1995, she has been with PAHO/ WHO in the program on emergency preparedness and disaster relief as a regional advisor in disaster preparedness and response.

She has been leading disaster response teams in various countries such as Haiti, Grenada and Jamaica after hurricane Ivan, Indonesia tsunami, Pakistan earthquake and floods, and Lebanon conflict.