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Doctors to be sent to Nigeria to assist Taiwan nationals

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Singapore: The Taiwan Center for Disease Control (CDC) has announced that a team of physicians will be sent to Nigeria, a country hit by the blood borne Ebola virus, to assist Taiwanese nationals with prevention and cure.

CDC said that about 100 Taiwanese lived in Nigeria where 15 Ebola deaths have been confirmed. Although WHO has not imposed any trade restrictions, some Taiwanese still expressed their concerns over the issue.

To spread awareness about Ebola and to ease the health concerns, the CDC coordinated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and decided to send two doctors- Mr Lo Yi-chun, CDC chief executive medical officer, and Mr Tsai Huai-Ti, chief of the Southern Disease Control Center, to Nigeria.

Acccording to sources, the doctors are to depart on August 25, and spend 10 days in the Nigerian cities of Abuja and Lagos, where they are to help manage Taiwanese nationals' health.

Dr Yi-Chun said, "Basic information such as precaution, transmission and preventive measures against Ebola will be discussed. We also aim to demonstrate how to wear the protective clothing."

The doctors also plan to gather first-hand information about the latest progress in controlling the epidemic. Dr Yi-Chun said that the risk of Ebola spreading in Taiwan is very low as the Taiwanese nationals in Nigeria will not have direct contact with the patients.

Mr Chou Jih-haw, deputy director-general, CDC, stated that although the disease has not spread to Taiwan, the CDC has already undergone several prevention rehearsals. CDC said that it had already issued a Level-3 alert, to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and a Level-2 alert to Nigeria, urging citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to these countries.