

# One ASEAN One Response Roadshow in Thailand

NEWS STORY  
INSIGHTS

Gema Bhakti 2015 | EAS Rapid Disaster Response: SAR Lessons Learned Seminar  
Citizen Emergency Preparedness Guide



## THE COLUMN

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**AHA CENTRE**  
ASEAN Coordinating Centre  
for Humanitarian Assistance  
on disaster management



## EDITOR'S NOTE

The Column Vol 9

As Typhoon season is in full swing in parts of ASEAN, we should all be reminded of the impacts and devastation it can cause, not to mention other natural disaster that may occur within this region.

It is always a benefit to be prepared and know which efforts to take as an individual or as collaboration with partners, which can determine the survival and longevity of an individual or community during and after a disaster. We share this information through Citizen Emergency Preparedness Guide in the Column's Insights.

Collaborative efforts are more solid and stronger than an effort of one. In this edition's News Story on Gema Bhakti and the 7th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, we see the collaborative efforts of multiple partners to strengthen the cooperation and operations for disaster management.

The Column also got up close and personal to one of AHA Centre's key members, Ms. Agustina Tnunay (Rina), Preparedness and Response Officer of the AHA Centre, who shared more than a decade worth of experience and her genuine passion to help others.

As the spirit of 'One ASEAN, One Response' continues its momentum to prioritise a joint effort in disaster management, we provide an update on the latest One ASEAN, One Response Roadshow in Thailand in our News Highlight.

If you wish to share some stories / articles / blogs / comments with us to improve the bulletin, please drop us a message at [comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org), and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,  
The Column Editor



The Column is a monthly news bulletin from the AHA Centre – capturing the latest activities from the organisation.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHT

# One ASEAN One Response Roadshow in Thailand



In an effort to strengthen ASEAN's collective response to disasters, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) has engaged in a series of roadshows to promote and socialise the vision of 'One ASEAN, One Response'.

Together with Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention & Mitigation (DDPM), the AHA Centre recently conducted a "One ASEAN, One Response Roadshow and ASEAN Resilience Symposium" in Bangkok, Thailand between 10-11 September 2015.

Commenting on the roadshow, Director-General of DDPM, Mr. Chatchai Phromlert said, "We believe this roadshow will bring significant impact towards building better understanding of ASEAN's framework on disaster management and emergency response, as well as building strategic partnerships among all sectors in Thailand towards building resilience." He continued, "Moreover, we can also understand how the AHA Centre fits in the region as a

mechanism for disaster management, and how DDPM, other relevant ministries, and stakeholders in Thailand can fully utilise its support for information sharing, emergency response, and also capacity-building programme for our officials."

In a press conference held on 9 September 2015, Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre said in his opening remarks, "One ASEAN, One Response is the vision where ASEAN is moving forward. It envisions unity and solidarity amongst ten ASEAN Member States. Therefore, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the continuous support of all ASEAN Member States, which has enable us to further achieve 'One ASEAN, One Response'."

Also present at the event was Ms. Adelina Kamal, Head of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. Explaining AHA Centre's establishment, she said "The

Left:  
Ms Adelina Kamal (left) and Mr Said Faisal (middle) received a token of appreciation from DG of DDPM, Mr Chatchai Phromlert (right)

Right:  
Representatives of Thailand DDPM, ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre (top row), and four ACE Programme Graduates from Thailand (bottom row)



ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) provides the legal framework for ASEAN to jointly respond to disasters and to establish effective mechanisms to reduce loss during disasters." She added, "AADMER embodies the spirit of One ASEAN, One Response, and as the operational engine of AADMER, AHA Centre would need the support of all relevant sectors and stakeholders to realise the vision of One ASEAN, One Response."

Actors in the field of disaster management joined the two-day roadshow. Representatives from the Thailand National Committee on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, relevant Thai ministries, ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre, Asian Disaster Prevention Center, and Thai Red Cross among those present on the first day, whereas representatives of relevant civil society organisations, the private sector, academia, and ASEAN Member States' embassies in Thailand were in attendance on the second day.

The roadshow, which was first conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia in April 2015, recently made its way to Manila, Philippines, and is scheduled to continue in other ASEAN Member States in the coming months. The effort demonstrates ASEAN's commitment to respond to disasters as one within the next five years.

## NEWS STORY

# Gema Bhakti 2015

Members of the US Marine and the Indonesian National Armed Forces taking part in the Gema Bhakti Exercise. (Photo credit: Lt. Lenaya Rotklein of the U.S. Navy)



The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) recently took part in Gema Bhakti, a bilateral joint exercise that is focused on operational-level planning and the execution of combined military operations between Indonesia and the United States of America. The event was held in Hotel Grand Hyatt, Jakarta, Indonesia from the 14th to the 23rd of September 2015.

With over 100 participants including 96 personnel of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and 70 personnel of the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), the bilateral exercise was created to promote positive relationship between the Indonesian and US Army, improve cultural awareness, share knowledge and experiences, and create a better understanding of each other's capabilities. The event also aimed to coordinate and integrate military support for countries that are affected by natural disasters through the Multi-National Coordination (Centre).

The Gema Bhakti Exercise brought together numerous experts in disaster management to discuss various issues. With four different working groups, Lane A focused on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Lane B focused on Humanitarian Operation and Civil Military Coordination, Lane C focused on Combined Task Force (CTF), and Lane D focused on Multi National Coordination.

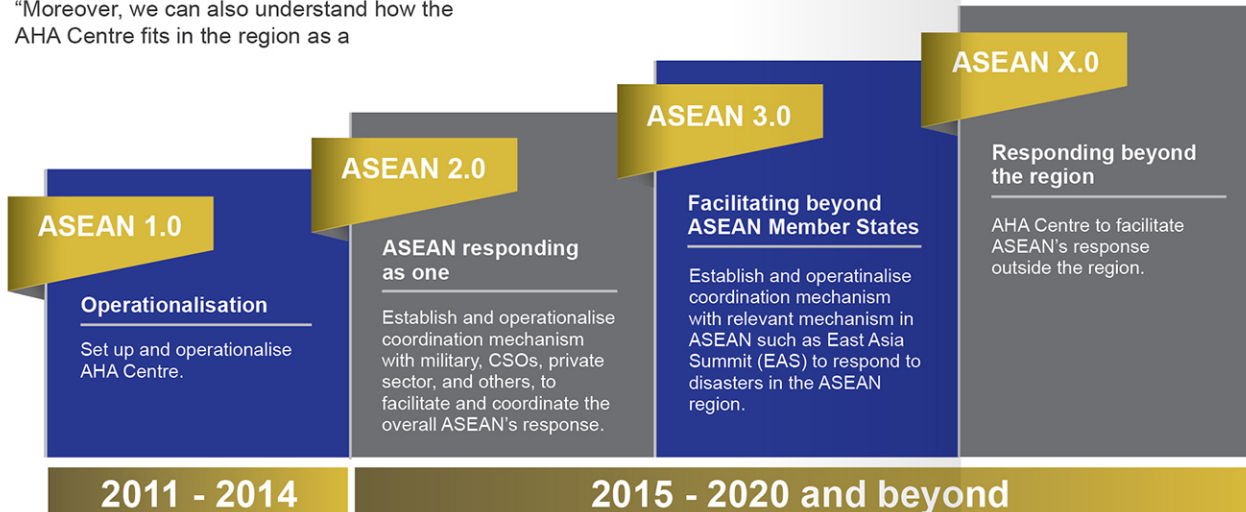
AHA Centre's Mr. Janggam Adhityawarma and Mr. Andy Musaffa took part in the Humanitarian Operation and Civil Military Coordination working group to discuss about the ASEAN regional mechanism on disaster management.

In describing the event, Mr. Janggam Adhityawarma said, "I think this exercise is very important to enhance civil military coordination, so during time of crisis where we have to make a joint emergency response, collaboration efforts will be conducted smoothly."

The forum allowed the AHA Centre to explain about the organisation's establishment, and their focus on two main areas of disaster management; namely disaster monitoring, and preparedness and response.



Mr. Janggam Adhityawarma delivering a presentation about the AHA Centre



## One ASEAN One Response five-year plan



## NEWS STORY

# East Asia Summit (EAS) Rapid Disaster Response: Search and Rescue (SAR) Lessons Learned Seminar

Small group discussions in the summit



The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), represented by Mr. Yos Malole, AHA Centre's Preparedness and Response Officer, recently attended this year's East Asia Summit (EAS) aptly titled Rapid Disaster Response: Search and Rescue (SAR) Lessons Learned Seminar between 21 to 23 September in Sydney, Australia.

The seminar, which was opened by with His Excellency Mr. Chirachai Punkrasin, Ambassador of Thailand to Australia, was co-chaired by Australia and Thailand, and was organised by the Australian Civil Military Centre (ACMC). 15 out of the 18 EAS Participating Countries took part in the three-day seminar along with other relevant agencies.

This year's seminar, which aimed to promote regional networking and learning on SAR within the EAS participating countries, consisted of three parts. The first part focused on discussion about international standards, protocols and mechanisms, and regional mechanisms for search and rescue and disaster management, followed by relevant case study presentations, including one on the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. On the second day of the seminar, participants took part in small group discussions on 6 different focus areas, namely:

1. Regional SAR Coordination
2. Regional DM Coordination
3. International Civil Military Coordination and Cooperation
4. Preparing for SAR – Building Capacity and Resilience
5. Managing Media and Communications
6. Learning Lessons

Finally, on the last day of the seminar, participants took part in plenary discussion of recommendations that arose from the small group discussions.

AHA centre's participation in the seminar showcases the organisation's effort and commitment to further strengthen their knowledge on disaster management. "Our participation in the event is to further understand the issue of Search and Rescue, and the possible role of the AHA Centre," said Mr. Yos Malole.



Establishing and operationalising coordination mechanism with relevant mechanisms in ASEAN, such as the EAS, is part of the key steps in having ASEAN respond as one, both inside and outside of the region, thereby realising the One ASEAN One Response vision.

East Asia Summit Rapid Disaster Response: Search and Rescue (SAR) Lessons Learned seminar took place in Sydney, Australia.

## NEWS STORY

# The 7th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

Left: Co-chairs of the PSC Meeting from Malaysia and Singapore provides insights to the meeting

Right: Mr Andri Suryo (left) presenting the progress updates of the Communications of the AHA Centre



Since its establishment in 2012, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) has played a pivotal role in providing substantial support to the ASEAN Member States. The Project Steering Committee members which consist of Malaysia and Singapore as the Co-chairs and also the Chairs of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Working Group on Preparedness and Response, representative from Japan Mission to ASEAN, Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and the ASEAN Secretariat, held the 7th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 21 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Members of the project management team from the AHA Centre individually presented the progress updates from each line of field, namely, the AHA Centre Executive Programme (ACE Programme), Communications and Public Relations Unit, Knowledge and Change Management, Logistics, Finance and the development of the DELSA 2 which led by Mr. Saroj Srisai – the newly appointed DELSA Programme Coordinator who was officially introduced to the members of the Project Steering Committee Meeting by the AHA Centre Head of Delegations – Mr. Arnel Capili.

The meeting noted several takeaway points from the ACE Programme updates delivered by Ms. Ririn Haryani as the Officer of the ACE Programme, including the improvements that were implemented for the second batch of the ACE Programme, by adding team building activities, inviting more leaders to the Leader Talk sessions and providing necessary preparatory English course for Disaster Management Professionals for their participants. The members of the PSC Meeting also

gave insights in regards to the continuation of the ACE Programme next year for the third batch.

AHA Centre's Communications Unit during the meeting presented the working draft of the new AHA Centre corporate identity profile including the new primary logo, by Mr. Andri Suryo – the Communications Officer of the AHA Centre, while also updating the members of the meeting on the public outreach activities conducted by the AHA Centre from period April – September 2015.

The meeting also informed about the current status and updates on the deployment of the emergency stockpiles from Subang to Myanmar during the recent flood in early August, presented by Mr. Yoram Lukas – DELSA Logistics Officer. Furthermore, the meeting noted the Financial Status presentation given by the Finance Officer, Ms. Meiliany Susanto, who presented the summary of the project financial status up to 31 August 2015. Lastly, Mr. Saroj presented the update and development of the DELSA 2.



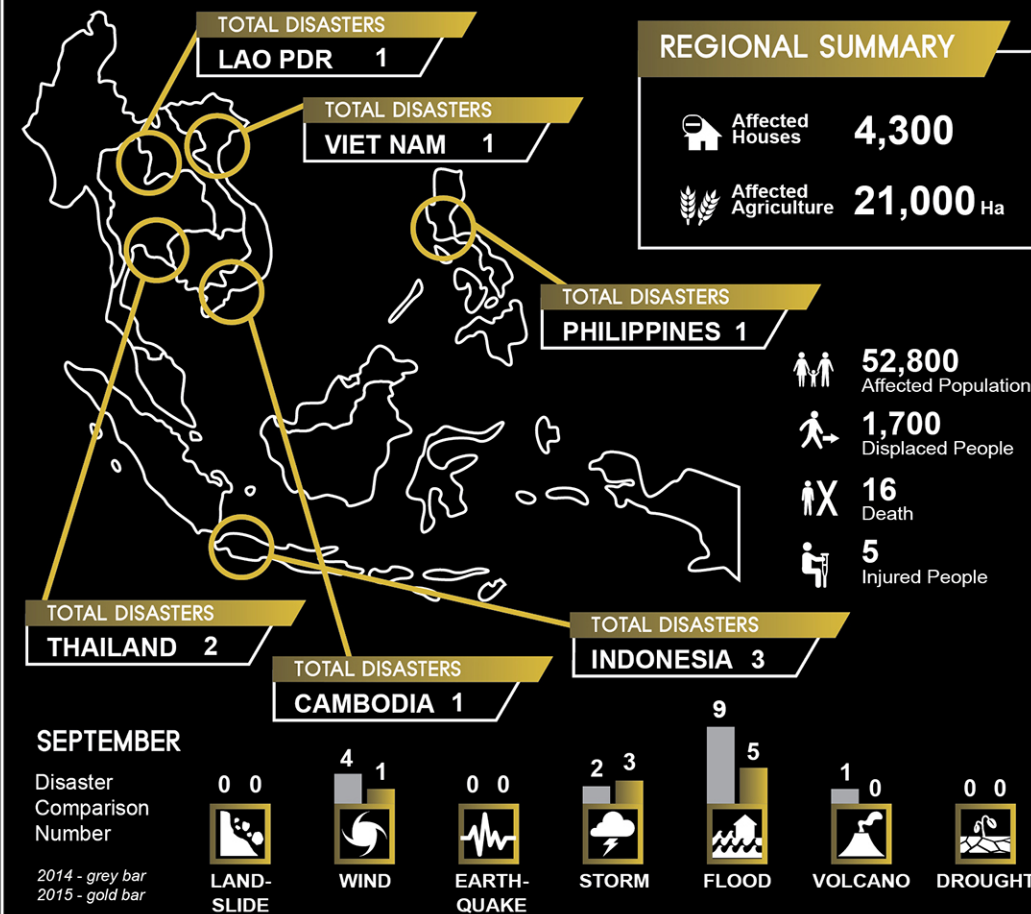
Members of the Project Steering Committee Meeting, representatives from Malaysia National Security Council and the AHA Centre. (Photo credit: Malaysia National Security Council)

## MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK SEPTEMBER 2015

One ASEAN One Response



**AHA CENTRE**  
ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Natural disaster reports are regularly recorded in the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADInet) [www.adinet.ahacentre.org](http://www.adinet.ahacentre.org). Only significant disasters that satisfy the following criteria are recorded in ADInet:

1. More than 100 people affected
2. Involving more than 1 subdistricts

At least 52,800 people were affected by nine significant disasters this month. The number of people affected is slightly lower compared to last month. However, drought, wind and storm are still affecting the region. One of the incidents which have caused a significant impact to the region was Tropical Storm Vamco. The Tropical Storm Vamco has triggered flooding and landslide in several areas in Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand. The rainfall intensity and the strong wind carried by the storm caused 12 deaths and inundated many districts in Viet Nam.

Looking back to the previous year in the same month of September, the region suffered a lot more due to Typhoon Kalmaegi which was stronger in its intensity compared to the Storm Vamco. Typhoon Kalmaegi caused 26 deaths and affected at least 430,000 people in Philippines, Viet Nam, Myanmar and Lao PDR.

In Indonesia, the eruption of Mt. Sinabung in North Sumatra did not result in significant impacts as the pyroclastic cloud was relatively far from the settlement and evacuation areas.

The El-Nino phenomenon is still influencing the dry condition in the region. It is forecasted that El-Nino effect will peak up in the last quarter of this year and gradually weaken in early 2016. Hence, the extended drought, typhoon and storm are still considered as potential hazards that may impact the region.

**DISCLAIMER:**  
The use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown are not warranted to be error free or implying official endorsement from ASEAN Member State.

**SOURCE:**  
Basemap is from global administrative area. Information is generated from many sources including NDMO, International Organization and news agencies.

SUPPORTED BY:





## INSIGHTS

# Citizen Emergency Preparedness Guide

Immediately following a disaster situation, families and individuals need to be able to take care of themselves until help arrives. Speaking to Mr. Chris Hawker, Director of the Centre for Risk, Resilience & Renewal and Principal University Incident Controller at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, The Column presents a number emergency preparedness steps families and individuals can undertake to prepare in advance.



### 1. Create a Household Plan

Having a household plan is essential in the case of major disasters. The whole family should contribute to the creation of the plan as it makes it easier for all family members to remember when an emergency occurs.

The plan should be sufficient for the family to survive for at least three days, and should essentially include the following:



#### PLACE TO MEET

In the case that a family member is not at home, the household should agree where everyone can meet when a sudden emergency occurs.



#### COMMUNICATION PLAN

Other than ensuring that knowing all the contact details of all family members, it is important to have an emergency contact person who lives out-of-town to share information.



### 2. Practice the Household Plan

Family members should talk about the plan and review what was agreed on at least once a year to refresh the memory. Practicing the plan should include knowing what to do and what is expected in the case of major events, such as heading to higher grounds when a tsunami alert occurs especially if you are on the coast.



### 3. Assemble a Household Disaster Supply Kit

Assembling a disaster supply kit is important, and should include:



Water and basic food supplies enough for all family members to last for at least three days.



Wet weather clothing, in case family members need to leave home during bad weather.



Medication



Important documents such as financial documents.



### 4. Take part in Trainings

It is good practice to take part in information sessions or other training opportunities provided by the local area, such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Programme in Singapore.



### 5. Stay informed

It is important to stay informed and follow instructions from local officials. One of the ways to stay informed, when mobile phone networks are difficult to find is to use cheap wind-up radios, which will help families keep in contact with the outside world.

## The Other Side

*“When you start to work in this field, there is a certain kind of adrenaline rush and you develop a certain mind-set in how you view the world. There is priceless value in what you do.”*

- Rina



Ms. Agustina Thunay (Rina), Preparedness and Response Officer of the AHA Centre

After serving 12.5 years in the World Food Programme (WFP) as a Logistics Officer, Ms. Agustina Thunay (Rina) joined the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre) as a Preparedness and Response Officer in 2014. Speaking to The Column, Rina shared more than a decade worth of experience, her genuine passion to help others, as well as her aspirations for the AHA Centre in the coming years.

#### Can you share us your journey into becoming a humanitarian worker?

I used to work in the private sector in Indonesia, but when the 1998 financial crisis hit the country, unfortunately the company had to close. In 1999 many United Nations agencies were recruiting more resources in respect to the social and political predicaments that occur in East Timor at the time. I have applied to the WFP Kupang, West Timor, and was offered a position as a Logistics Assistant by the end of 1999. At first, I was responsible for arranging WFP Charter Flights for leg Kupang-Atambua-Dili and return. From that point on, I became more and more interested in learning logistics and I think my industrial engineering background complemented my logistician role, since it involved a lot of calculations and forecasting.

#### What were your expectations by delving into the humanitarian field? And was it different to what you have imagined?

I initially thought that I can arrange transportation and storage of relief items from my desk, but then I found out that as a logistician in the humanitarian field, it goes beyond this. Many factors involved in the supply chain, from upstream to downstream. Most of the time we have to get down and get dirty on the field, handing over relief items to those who need and to ensure that we have delivered at the right time, to the right place, with the right quantity and quality as well as on the right cost. I was also surprised and moved by the situation that the people needs to endure in times of disasters.

#### Can you share one of your most notable moments from being deployed to the field?

One of the most notable moments was during the emergency operations for Indian Ocean Tsunami in Aceh in 2005. When I deployed to Aceh, the devastation was nothing like I have witnessed before.

The entire towns were destroyed and more than hundreds of thousands of lives were lost.

At the time, the most challenging aspect was the accessibility to Banda Aceh by air due to the limitation of airport facilities. A huge aid effort was

on the way to Aceh but logistics bottlenecks delayed the process of delivery. I had to liaise and negotiate with many actors from government, military and private sector from Indonesia, USA, Australia, UK and others to ensure that we can deliver relief items as soon as possible by all means of transportations, i.e. air, sea, land except rail. Lack of coordination was also one of the biggest challenge during that time.

During that period, we all work together, hand in hand to help people in Aceh. We worked 24/7 for more than two months.

#### There must have been devastating moments too in your 12 years of experience in the humanitarian field.

There were a few moments where I had lost my dear friends who worked in the humanitarian field, in particular in conflict areas, with the intention to help others.

#### What convinced you stay within the humanitarian field after all these years?

When you start to work in this field, there is a certain kind of adrenaline rush and you develop a certain mindset in how you view the world. There is priceless value in what you do.

Doing what I do in humanitarian field, I learn to see life in a different way. There is a feeling of contentment being able to help those who are most vulnerable. I have found myself in the most devastating situations, where people kill others for survival. These things remind me that there is value in the work I do.

#### Do you have any aspirations about the AHA Centre that you can share with us?

Until now I am still learning to be a good logistician, however, I do hope that I can contribute my knowledge and experience to the AHA Centre's logistics system, to be the most advanced in the ASEAN region.

I believe one day, the AHA Centre will be the forefront for coordinating emergency logistics in the region, particularly in disaster preparedness and response.





# One **ASEAN** One **Response**

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## **About ASEAN**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN among others are to accelerate the economic growth, social progress, cultural development, to promote regional peace and stability as well as to improve active collaboration and cooperation.

## **About the AHA Centre**

The AHA Centre is an inter-governmental organisation established on 17 November 2011, through the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of States, from 10 ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Centre was set-up to facilitate the cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the United Nations and international organisations for disaster management and emergency response in the ASEAN region.

## **About AADMER**

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a legally-binding regional multi-hazard and policy framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilisation in all aspects of disaster management in the 10 ASEAN Member States. The objective of AADMER is to provide an effective mechanism to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic and environmental assets, and to jointly respond to emergencies through concerted national efforts.



**AHA CENTRE**

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