

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULETIN

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One ASEAN One Response

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NEWS HIGHLIGHT

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NEWS STORY

ASEAN-China Seminar on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

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Steps in Developing the AHA Centre Executive Programme



AHA CENTRE

ASEAN Coordinating Centre
for Humanitarian Assistance
on disaster management

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ASEAN Member States’ commitment in further strengthening the collective response and realising the One ASEAN One Response vision is imminent. One such effort is the development of the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP). Experience has shown that effective disaster relief and emergency response at the onset of crisis is heavily influenced by the level of preparedness as well as the availability of resources and capacities. Remembering the importance of such planning, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) recently conducted the ASEAN Regional Workshop on AJDRP, as highlighted in this month’s news highlight.


Through the AJDRP Workshop, it was inspiring to see that when it comes to disaster management, different parties and stakeholders are willing and enthusiastic to come together to overcome the challenges. The collaborative and cooperative efforts of these parties resonate throughout the month as reflected in this month’s news story on the ASEAN-China Seminar on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

On this edition, The Column spoke to Mrs. Ririn Haryani, AHA Centre’s ACE Programme Officer, to learn about the steps involved in bringing together NDMO Officers from all 10 ASEAN Member States to become future leaders in disaster management through the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme.

Finally, we chat with Mr. Saroj Srisai about the importance of collaboration in the disaster management field based on his extensive diplomatic background, and his aspirations for the AHA Centre in the coming years.

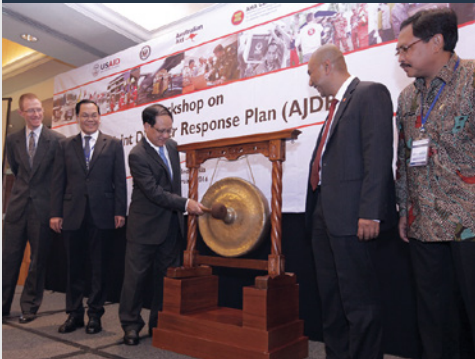
If you wish to share some stories / articles / blogs / comments with us to improve the bulletin, please drop us a message at comm@ahacentre.org, and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,
The Column Editor

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

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan Workshop



(From left to right) Mr. Aaron Tarver, Deputy Representative for Unites States Mission to the ASEAN, H.E. Ma North, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Committee for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Chairman of the ACDM and AHA Centre Governing Board 2015, His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN, Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of AHA Centre, and Mr. Wisnu Widjaja, Deputy Minister for Prevention and Preparedness of the Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management during the striking of the gong at the opening ceremony of AJDRP

As the operational engine of ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the AHA Centre is developing the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP).

As the ASEAN region is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, and with the increasing numbers of disaster occurrences and scale of immediate responses shown in the natural calamity, it is vital to develop a regional disaster response plan. Having a regional disaster response plan would allow ASEAN to improve the speed and volume of disaster relief and emergency response, as well as enhance the effectiveness, appropriateness and timeliness of response to emergencies.

“When we talk about one ASEAN response, we are talking about speed, scale and solidarity,” said Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre. “It’s basically how we can move faster, big enough and under the banner of ASEAN when handling disaster within the ASEAN region.”

The AJDRP will be designed to plan disaster response plan for large-scale disaster caused by several types of natural disasters, i.e. floods, earthquakes and tsunamis, volcano eruptions and tropical cyclones. The plan will also take into consideration key factors including:

- The government’s own disaster response plans and capacity;
- Reception and coordination of national, regional or global inputs;
- The likelihood of disaster occurrence.








1. Attendees of the ASEAN Regional Workshop on ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP)
2. Participants of the AJDRP during the breakout session
3. Discussion on anticipating large-scale disaster risks in the region
4. Exchange of token of appreciation between His Excellency Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN (left), and Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of AHA Centre (right)
5. Photo session with participants of the AJDRP

Key principles of the AJDRP

- 1 The disaster response planning involves identifying, organising and strengthening resources and capacities to reach a level of preparedness to ensure a fast, effective and collective response.
- 2 The elaboration on the development of the AJDRP is to ensure that appropriate and adequate arrangements are made in advance to minimise risks to disaster.
- 3 This arrangement will describe who will do what, as well as when, with what resources, and by what authority for before, during and immediately after an emergency.
- 4 This plan will depend on each of ASEAN Member State’s ability to support this agreement, on a voluntary basis to identify and earmark their available assets and capacities for disaster response, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the affected country.
- 5 The AJDRP is to support the affected country in which the affected country will take the leadership role.
- 6 The AHA Centre, with the support of the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of AMS will coordinate the development and execution.

“With our extensive experience in disaster response from Nargis to Haiyan, ASEAN has taken this further by seeking to institutionalize the resilience of the region, our communities and our peoples.”

Objectives of the workshop were

-  To increase understanding on the ASEAN’s mechanisms relating to humanitarian assistance and disaster response;
-  To raise awareness on the concept of a One ASEAN One Response, and its impact on how ASEAN will collectively respond to disasters within and outside of the region;
-  To strengthen cooperation among ASEAN Member States, AHA Centre, and other humanitarian actors on the development of the AJDRP;
-  To identify minimum level of assets and capacities for ASEAN response and its availability in the region;
-  To better coordinate and facilitate assistance, including distribution of relief assets and capacities among AMS and other humanitarian partners.

During the keynote address, Mr. Wisnu Widjaja, Deputy Minister for Prevention and Preparedness of the Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management offered three important messages to help participants of the workshop in developing the AJDRP:

- 1 It is important to anticipate the occurrence of disasters in the region, by way of breaking down the silos within the field. Combining the art and science of disaster management would help plan for these disasters.
- 2 Each stakeholder are valuable partners who have the same goal, which is to join efforts in minimizing loss of lives and suffering, as well as reduce disaster losses when disaster strikes. Through the workshop, it is hoped that all parties can harness the strength of the relevant stakeholders and make a difference.
- 2 Understanding the importance of comprehensive preparedness, the time is here and now to discover more ways and possibilities of working together.

“I believe the workshop was a success, participants were enthusiastic about AJDRP and have expressed their interest in becoming more involved,” said Mrs. Agustina Tnunay, Preparedness and Response Officer at the AHA Centre.

The workshop was attended by 125 stakeholders around ASEAN disaster management and emergency response field including, representatives from ASEAN Member States from different sectors including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Military / Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Social Welfare, United Nations agencies represented by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), Civil Society Organisations represented by AADMER Partnership Group (APG) and AADMER-CSO Partnership Framework (ACPF), Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

represented by IFRC, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement from the ASEAN Member States, private sector networks including Corporate Citizen Foundation (CCF) from Singapore, Disaster Recovery Foundation (DRF) from the Philippines, and Disaster Resource Partnership (DRP) from Indonesia, ASEAN-related bodies including the ASEAN Earthquake Information Centre, ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, and ASEAN Business Advisory Council, the ASEAN Secretariat, and AHA Centre.

NEWS STORY

ASEAN-China Seminar on Disaster Management and Emergency Response



AHA Centre recently participated in the ASEAN-China Seminar on Disaster Management and Emergency Response in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Participants of the workshop included representatives from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the Government of the People's Republic of China, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

With a sub-theme of “Role of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in promoting Cooperation and Coordination and addressing Challenges and Recommendations”, the objective of the seminar was to explore potential cooperation between China and ASEAN Member States on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

Among the topics discussed was the implementation of the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Management, which will not only benefit the NDMOs in ASEAN Member States but also the authorities in the sub-national level.

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE DERIVED FROM THE WORKSHOP FOCUSED ON:



POLICY AND REGULATION



PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT
including identifying priorities of cooperation between China, ASEAN NDMOs and the AHA Centre



STRENGTHENING THE SYNERGY OF AUTHORITIES



CONTINUING TO IMPROVE CAPACITY AND INNOVATIONS

15th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief

The 15th ASEAN Regional forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ARF-ISM) on DR recently took place in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 25-26 February 2016.

Over 100 participants targeted towards high-level delegates from the 27 ARF member countries and NDMOs of Myanmar, Japan and China, and other international organisations in disaster relief work discussed six main topics under the theme of “Building a Better Response”:

1

Lessons Learnt from the recent disaster relief operations

2

One ASEAN One Response

3

Development for Disaster Relief Leadership

4

Readiness to Response

5

Progress of ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017 and Upcoming Activities

6

Regional Coordination

The objectives of the meeting were to review and provide feedback on disaster relief and disaster management mechanisms, including the role and responsibilities of the government Focal Points and humanitarian actors in the disaster relief and response mechanism in each respective countries. By doing so, the Meeting expected to identify the gaps, challenges, as well as opportunities in emergency relief operations by ASEAN Regional Forum member countries.

“As the meeting’s theme ‘Building a Better Response’ goes, we wish full commitment seeking for ways and means that can help protect the lives of people and maintain the fruits of existing development,” said His Excellency Dr. Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the 15th ARF-ISM on DR. “Because no country in reality can stand alone to fight against mega-scale disasters and also there are many stories, which have proven successful in disaster relief and recovery through multi-lateral cooperation.”

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

FEB 2016

The AHA Centre

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



5

TOTAL DISASTERS
MALAYSIA

24

TOTAL DISASTERS
INDONESIA

Affected Houses

65,088

Unit

Affected Agriculture

7,000

Ha

Affected Population

499,000

People

Death

24

People

Displaced People

217,600

People

Injured People

10

People

FEBRUARY

DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER

2015 - Black bar

2016 - Red bar

FLOOD

14

26

EARTHQUAKE

0

1

WIND

2

0

DROUGHT

0

0

LANDSLIDE

2

2

VOLCANO

0

0

STORM

0

0

GENERAL OVERVIEW

For the month of February, high intensity rainfalls triggered flashfloods and landslides in many areas in the region. AHA Centre record shows that 26 out of 29 incidents were flood, flashflood and landslide incidents. These occurred mostly in Indonesia and Malaysia. Nearly half a million people were affected.

In the region, floods normally cover wide areas. In Indonesia, floods heavily affected Aceh, Riau, East Java and Bangka Belitung Provinces. In fact, floods and landslide occurred in 23 out of the 34 provinces of Indonesia. Thousands of houses and hectares of farmlands were reported inundated

for days. Roads and bridges were damaged and electricity cut off in most of the affected areas. Some local governments had to declare a state of emergency to provide better emergency response and relief operations. Similar circumstances occurred in Malaysia. Floods submerged many villages in Malacca, Negeri Sembilan, Sarawak, Johor and Kelantan States. The government set up evacuation centers and mobilized resources to help the flood victims. Thousands of people were evacuated and served inside evacuation centers.

FORECAST FOR MARCH

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the El Niño is expected to weaken but it will continue to have a significant impact on the weather of the ASEAN region.

In March, the rainfall forecast is normal for Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, north and central Vietnam, central Borneo, southern Indonesia, including southern Sumatra. Having a dry condition with slightly below normal rainfall are Peninsular Malaysia, southernmost Vietnam, northern Philippines, Brunei, northern Sumatra, North Sulawesi, and the Moluccas.

Easternmost of Borneo, the central and southern Philippines will even be drier, having below normal rainfall. Finally, Papua, east and south Kalimantan, central and south Sulawesi will have wetter conditions having a slightly above normal rainfall.

(<http://asmc.asean.org/asmc-seasonal-outlook/>)

Appropriate measures should be taken accordingly.

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 Organisation and news agencies.

Supported by:

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Steps in Developing the AHA Centre Executive Programme

The AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme is a prestigious and innovative programme that aims to provide exposure and capacity building for disaster management professionals in the ASEAN region. The programme is targeted towards officers from the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of the 10

ASEAN Member States (AMS). In anticipation of the third batch of the ACE Programme, The Column spoke to Mrs. Ririn Haryani, ACE Programme Officer of the AHA Centre, to gain insight into the steps involved in actualising the six-month long dynamic programme.



Selection Process

The AHA Centre sends out invitation letters to NDMOs in all ten AMS in July with a specified Terms of Reference and list of requirements to select the best candidate. The requirements include fluency in English and a Master's degree among many. The selection process, which is conducted by each respective NDMO, is approximately six months long.



Administrative Process

This phase involves visa processing, and other administrative process between the AHA Centre and each respective NDMOs before the candidates fly out to Jakarta, Indonesia to commence the Programme.



General Training

Modules that follow are then more focused on general training such as leadership trainings, United Nations training, and personality development among many.



Graduation

The completion of the programme is then commemorated by inviting relevant stakeholders during the graduation ceremony.

ACE
PROGRAMME



Despite the challenges, you get to help people; buy them water, find them food, give them shelter when they need it most.

Saroj Srisai
DELSA Programme Coordinator of AHA Centre

With an extensive background working with national government and public sector, Mr. Saroj Srisai learned overtime what it was to be a humanitarian actor. As AHA Centre's DELSA Programme Coordinator, Mr. Saroj Srisai's passion and ambition for the AHA Centre shines through as The Column spoke to him for this month's The Other Side.

How did you first come across the disaster management field?

I previously worked with the Royal Thai Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. In December 2004, when the Indian Ocean Tsunami hit, a significant part of Thailand was heavily affected, that was the first time I had a hands-on experience dealing directly with disaster. I became involved because there were many international assistance coming in, and I was the officer in charge to receive these assistance from various organizations from other countries. That was my first encounter dealing with a disaster situation, but after that there was Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar. My role in dealing with Cylone Nargis was a little different as I was in charge of providing assistance. Through these events I learned how important it was to be a humanitarian actor.

How did you join the AHA Centre?

After working for the Royal Thai Government, I worked for the International Organization/UN agency based in Bangkok because I wanted to get out of my comfort zone, which was to work for the national government. But then there was the ASEAN Economic Community started to form and I thought it would be an exciting period of time to work for the ASEAN-based organizations where I am also part of this integrated community. The AHA Centre had just started to form when Bangkok experienced one of its biggest floods in 2011. I became interested since then and was finally able to join the AHA Centre in 2015.

When was the first time you were deployed on to the field and what was that experience like?

The Indian Ocean Tsunami that affected Thailand was the first time being on the field on my capacity as a part of the Royal Thai Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. It was extremely saddening, there were so many dead bodies, but there was no time to absorb everything in because everybody was so busy. So many international assistance was coming in, and I was the focal point to ensure that the assistance we received from outside of Thailand was put to good use.

What motivates you to stay in this field?

I want to learn. I like to learn. It's not an easy task, but it's rewarding. Despite all the challenges, you get to help people; buy them water, find them food, give them shelter when they need it most!

Having spent so much time working for government agencies and international / regional organisations, can you share us how important do you think it is for cooperation and collaboration to take place especially in the disaster management field?

You cannot easily predict disaster. We never know when it will strike. Coordination and collaboration needs to take place, not just in terms of resources but also efforts. One organization alone, or one country alone is not enough to respond to disasters. You need a concerted collaborative effort in such a manner that helps those affected and provide them with what they need. These efforts are not only needed among governments, but all the way down to civil societies and citizens.

Do you have any ambitions in terms of where you want to see the AHA Centre grow in the coming years?

I would like to see the AHA Centre become a platform for disaster management in the ASEAN region. I want to see it grow sustainably, and in a stable manner. I hope it can have more resources and more mandate to help ASEAN, and if we can, extend our knowledge and expertise to help other regions, this would be ideal!

One ASEAN One Response

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.

Talk To Us:



www.ahacentre.org



@ahacentre



aha centre

THE AHA CENTRE

Badan Pengkajian dan Penerapan Teknologi
(BPPT) 1st Building, 17th Floor
Jl. MH. Thamrin No.8 Jakarta 10340
INDONESIA

Tel : +62 21 230500 6

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Japan-ASEAN Cooperation



AHA CENTRE

ASEAN Coordinating Centre
for Humanitarian Assistance
on disaster management