

## INSIGHTS

### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM DISASTER MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

## THE OTHER SIDE

### MR. HERVE GAZEAU

*Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)  
Manager to the International  
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ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE  
NEWS BULLETIN  
VOLUME 28

Vientiane,  
Lao PDR

4-6 April 2017



## NEWS HIGHLIGHT

### 30<sup>TH</sup> ACDM MEETING AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS

## NEWS STORY

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ASEAN  
CMCOORD WORKSHOP  
2017

TEMPEST EXPRESS-30

7<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-ERAT  
INDUCTION COURSE IN  
MALAYSIA

## DISASTER OUTLOOK

**23 TOTAL DISASTERS** from  
1 to 30 April 2017



APRIL 2017

## 30<sup>TH</sup> ACDM MEETING

HANDOVER OF THE AHA CENTRE'S  
KNOWLEDGE SERIES  
FROM INDONESIA TO LAO PDR

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Greetings fellow ASEANers!

Over the years, the AHA Centre has served as the coordinating agency to facilitate ASEAN Member States' efforts to achieve 'One ASEAN, One Response' and realise disaster-resilient and safer communities.

The AHA Centre has continuously progressed since its inception in 2011 with the guidance of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) as its Governing Board. Recently, the ACDM as the AHA Centre's Governing Board met during the 30<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting and other related meetings in Vientiane, Lao PDR. An overview of the meetings is captured in this edition's News Highlight.

This month, the AHA Centre also took part in several other meetings, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN CMCoord Workshop 2017 in Thailand and the TEMPEST EXPRESS-30 in Jakarta. It was also an exciting month for us as we concluded our signature event, the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course in Malaysia. You may read the review and results of these meetings, all covered exclusively in the News Story section.

In this edition, we are delighted to have Mr. Herve Gazeau to share his aspirations and experiences in the section of The Other Side. With more than 10 years of experience in the field of humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Mr. Gazeau is now the DRR Manager to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Thailand.

Also, to broaden our knowledge on disaster situations within countries in the ASEAN region, we provide Brunei Darussalam's disaster management overview in this edition's Insight, as well as its government structure for disaster management.

If you wish to share your suggestions, comments or anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact us at [comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org) and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,


*The Column Editor*








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ONE **ASEAN**  
ONE **RESPONSE**

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## One ASEAN One Response



**12,200**

Affected Houses



**1,500 Ha**

Affected Agriculture



**52,400**

People Affected



**20**

Injured People



**5**

Deaths



**10,500**

Displaced People

### 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 States.

### SOURCE:

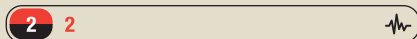
Basemap is from global administrative area. Information is generated from many sources including NDMOs, international organisations and news agencies.

# DISASTER OUTLOOK

## DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER APRIL 2017 // 2016



FLOOD



EARTHQUAKE



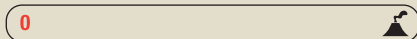
WIND



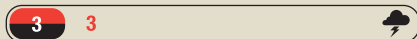
DROUGHT



LANDSLIDE



VOLCANO



STORM

 2017 - RED BAR  
 2016 - BLACK BAR

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

This month, the region experienced various types of disasters. Floods occurred in several areas in Indonesia and Malaysia. In Thailand and Viet Nam, storms and strong winds damaged thousands of homes in several provinces. Cyclone “Maarutha” brought heavy downpour and thunderstorms in Myanmar. Additionally, two earthquakes occurred in the Philippines. At least 23 disasters occurred in the ASEAN region. Based on this number, 56% of the incidents were caused by floods, followed by winds (18%) and storms (13%). The remaining incidents were caused by earthquakes. However, hydro-meteorological factors were major issues that triggered some of the disasters.

## FORECAST FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2017

From April to June, a gradual increase of rain shower activities can be expected over the northern ASEAN region. In addition, rain shower activities are expected to persist in the southern part. Normal rain is expected over the Mekong and southern ASEAN region.

By June, where the condition is expected to give way to onset of the Southwest Monsoon, the beginning of the dry season in the southern areas and wet for the northern ASEAN region, this situation could lead to the escalation of hotspot activities particularly in fire prone areas such as Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia. Therefore, precaution and preparation measures should be taken by the authorities to anticipate potential flood and drought in the next period of months.

(Source:

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

## INSIGHTS

# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM DISASTER MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Brunei Darussalam is located on the island of Borneo bordering with Malaysia. Brunei Darussalam consists of mainly lowland and mountainous rainforests. 97% of the population live in the lowland western region and as for the climate, it can be described as tropical. When it comes to disasters – whether natural or man-made – Brunei Darussalam has been blessed as one of the most geologically and politically stable environments in Asia. Indeed, while risk from earthquakes, volcanoes, typhoons, tsunamis and security failures may afflict many other countries in the region, the Sultanate continues to deserve its title of “Abode of Peace”. Yet the Sultanate has taken some important steps in boosting its readiness to meet any unforeseen and potentially damaging contingencies. Central to these has been the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

## GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Government of Brunei Darussalam established the NDMC under the Disaster Management Order (DMO) in August 2006. The role of NDMC is to ensure safety and wellbeing of the people by encompassing all aspects of disaster management, such as prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery through policies, strategies and practices guided by international, regional and national drivers.

## THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



### EARLY WARNING

Currently, early warnings are undertaken by many relevant agencies, such as the Meteorological Services of the Department of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Health, the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, the Marine Department, the Fisheries Department, the Department of Environmental and Recreation and many more. These bodies or departments have put in place policies and strategic planning to improve the management of disasters through effective early warning systems.



## ENHANCING RESPONSE

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The Ministry of Defence is linked with the subsidiary company of CAE – a global leader in training for civil aviation, defence and security and healthcare markets – who supplies state-of-the-art modelling and simulation software and services to enable the Royal Brunei Armed Forces to assess Brunei Darussalam's capacity and capability as well as plan for the future in addressing various forms of threats. The technology will pave the way for the armed forces to create scenarios where relevant departments are able to identify gaps in techniques and address flaws not limited only to the area of defence. This equipment has the flexibility and versatility to be used by other public-interest areas ranging from Brunei Darussalam's natural disaster management to infrastructure development.



## INITIATIVES

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In order to strengthen its capabilities for disaster response management, Brunei Darussalam has adopted the Incident Command System (ICS) and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM). ICS is a systematic tool for the command, control and coordination of emergency response in the United States that standardises coordination among different government agencies and ensures that the designated responders are adequately trained and capable in different types of emergencies and disaster response.

While the ICS focuses on the reactive aspect of disaster management, a proactive stance in building its capacity for disaster resilience has also been adopted by the NDMC via a number of initiatives to increase public awareness and community resilience against disasters. It is also actively engaging communities by conducting outreach programmes and activities. Through interactive sessions, the communities are taught on hazards, risks, their vulnerabilities and their capacities to reduce the impact of disasters on their daily lives.



## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO DISASTER RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

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Brunei Darussalam is an active participant in regional and international initiatives on disaster response management. The NDMC is the focal point of Brunei Darussalam in the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), which is composed of the heads of national agencies responsible for disaster management in ASEAN Member States.

### References:

"ASEAN: Advancing Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in ASEAN Member States: Framework and Options for Implementation"  
(<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/12628/714530v20ESW0W0AN0appendices0June12.pdf>)

"National Institute of Disaster Management - Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India: Brunei Darussalam"  
([http://nidm.gov.in/easindia2014/err/pdf/country\\_profile/brunei\\_darussalam.pdf](http://nidm.gov.in/easindia2014/err/pdf/country_profile/brunei_darussalam.pdf))

"Brunei Darussalam: Human Development Report – UNDP" (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BRN>)

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*INSIGHTS is a special column for guest contributors, and does not necessarily reflect or represent AHA Centre's point of view.*

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NEWS HIGHLIGHT

# 30<sup>TH</sup> ACDM MEETING AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS



## 30<sup>TH</sup> ACDM MEETING AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS

Group photo of 30<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting and Other Related Meetings in Vientiane, Lao PDR

Heads from the National Disaster Management Organisations of the ASEAN Member States gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 4-6 April 2017 for the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), convened in conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of the AHA Centre; the 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Task Force Meeting to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Bodies on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (JTF on HADR); and the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Conference.

Mr. Prasong Vongkhamchanh, Director-General of Social Welfare Department of Lao PDR chaired the meeting, while Dato' Muhammad Yusoff Wazir, Deputy Director-General of National Disaster Management Authority of Malaysia, served as the Vice-Chair.

The 30<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting was opened by H.E. Dr. Khampheng Xaysompheng, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR.

In his opening remarks, the Minister mentioned that "Disaster management is a critical and cross-sectoral coordination issue. It is therefore important for all ASEAN Member States to discuss on the efficient



implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 and the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.”

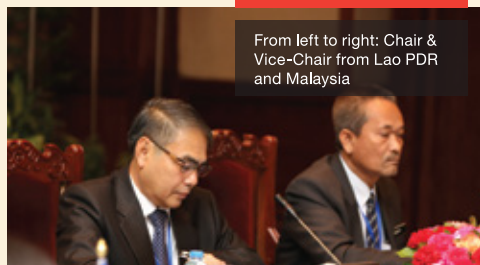
With a view to create a more disaster-resilient ASEAN, the development of social protection guidelines was also discussed at the 30<sup>th</sup> ACDM Meeting. The guidelines aim to provide social protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable groups in times of disasters.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting of the AHA Centre, the AHA Centre represented by the Acting Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Adelina Kamal, and Director of Operations, Mr. Arnel Capili, presented the progress report of the AHA Centre, followed by introduction on the AHA Centre's Knowledge Series. The AHA Centre also used the opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Intent with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), reiterating the importance to work with the private sector.

Representatives from the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) and ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) also participated at the 7<sup>th</sup> JTF on HADR to promote closer working partnerships among the various ASEAN sectoral bodies under the spirit of One ASEAN One Response.

ASEAN's unified response among sectoral bodies is critical to enhance and strengthen ASEAN's collective response in times of disasters. The JTF members affirmed the importance that the work of other sectoral bodies in the area of disaster management should be synchronised with the work of the ACDM under the AADMER.

Similarly, to realise a disaster-resilient ASEAN Community, the 4<sup>th</sup> AADMER Partnership Conference brought together various stakeholders and partners, including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, IFRC, ICRC, JICA, the PDRF, GIZ/Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), Save the Children and Swiss Re. All of these partners affirmed their commitments and contributions towards the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme and One ASEAN One Response.



From left to right: Chair & Vice-Chair from Lao PDR and Malaysia



Opening remarks from H.E. Dr. Khampeng Xaysompheng, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR



Ms. Adelina Kamal (left), the Acting Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director and Mr. Arnel Capili (right), Director of Operations of the AHA Centre

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ASEAN CMCOORD WORKSHOP 2017



Group photo of 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN CMCoord Workshop 2017



A fully seated room during the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN CMCoord Workshop 2017 in Thailand

The Office of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Defence of Thailand organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Workshop 2017 (ASEAN CMCoord) on 3-7 April 2017 in Chonburi Province, Thailand.

The workshop aims to develop civil-military capacity for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in ASEAN, strengthen and promote partnerships of civilians and militaries throughout the Southeast Asian region, outline different information sharing platforms, discuss potential for inter-operability on HADR mechanisms, as well as use this occasion as a sharing platform among HADR practitioners and experts.

Opening remarks were presented to the participants from ASEAN Member States, other countries and international organisations by Lt. General Apinun Kumproh, Chief of Military Affairs Coordination Officers to the Office of the National Security Council and the Chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN CMCoord 2017.

"I believe that this workshop will be a significant milestone since the Ministry of Defence has initiated the workshop to be the first one that is organised on an annual basis," said LTG Apinun Kumproh.

During the second day, presentations with the themes of "Asia Pacific: The Most Disaster Prone Region" and "Key Monitoring and Early Warning Systems" were provided to give an overview of hazards in the Asia Pacific to allow the participants to better understand the existing disaster monitoring and early warning facilities.

HADR in ASEAN was placed as the theme on the third day of the workshop, to give an overview of the latest developments related to ASEAN HADR mechanisms and documents. Assistant Director of the Operations Division of the AHA Centre, Mr. Janggam Adhityawarma, served as the speaker and presented the AHA Centre's disaster response mechanisms, including SASOP and the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP).

On the last day of the workshop, group discussions related to CMCoord concepts and principles were organised to exchange views and propose civil-military coordination mechanisms based on the AJDRP scenarios.

# 7<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-ERAT INDUCTION COURSE IN MALAYSIA



## 7<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN-ERAT INDUCTION COURSE IN MALAYSIA

Group photo of 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course in Malaysia

In 2010, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) adopted the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme that contains strategies for implementing AADMER. One of the flagship projects identified by the ACDM Working Group on Preparedness and Response was the “Establishment of a fully-functional ASEAN Emergency Response & Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT)”.

ASEAN-ERAT aims to strengthen ASEAN's preparedness and capacity to respond to disasters as well as to ensure rapid and collective deployment of ASEAN's resources following a major disaster in one or more Member States within the ASEAN region. In addition to rapid assessment, the role of ASEAN-ERAT also includes logistics support, emergency communication and coordination, among others.

It was recommended by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Advisory Group Meeting in 2016 that the ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course would be hosted by different ASEAN Member States every year to ensure wider participation of the Member States.

Following the above recommendation, the AHA Centre with the support from the ASEAN Member States conducted the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course on 24 April – 1 May 2017 in Malaysia.

Activities such as testing the deployment procedure, personal preparedness and sharing session were held during the induction course, along with group, desktop and simulation exercises.

The participants did role-playing exercises given with situations revolving around coordination, including meetings with the National Focal Point and working in Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA).

The desktop exercise aimed to train the participants about the methodology and mechanisms based on the scenario that was given. This time, the scenario was about the continuous and heavy rainfall that caused flooding in several areas in Republic of “Jasinga”, where the situation worsened - because some areas experienced landslide and flash floods and the Government of Jasinga declared national calamity and called for international assistance.

Participants of the course were representatives from ASEAN Member States, the civil society partners from the AADMER Partnership Group,

other partner organisations, ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre.

The main objective of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course was to prepare for regional responders with experience in emergency management and coordination, as well as to enable them to respond to major disasters in the ASEAN region.

The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction added 36 more people into the pool of ASEAN-ERAT. As of now, there are 191 ERAT-trained members from the ASEAN Member States.

Simulation exercises of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course





## TEMPEST EXPRESS-30



A total of 24 countries from Asia-Pacific region participated in the Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) "TEMPEST EXPRESS-30" that was held on 20-28 April 2017, to enhance rapid response for national and multinational teams in times of disasters. The activity was arranged through the collaboration of the Indonesian National Armed Forces and the US Pacific Command (USPACOM) with participating countries from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Island, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu and Viet Tonga.

TEMPEST EXPRESS is a scenario-based event that includes specialised classes in staff integration and more detailed instruction on Crisis Action Planning (CAP), with the main focus to walk participants through the CAP steps from mission analysis to campaign planning. This year, participants of the TEMPEST EXPRESS-30 planned a rapid response appraisal for an earthquake that happened in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The

scenario included an evacuation planning related to two potential successive disasters, i.e. volcanic eruption in Merapi Mountain, Yogyakarta and nuclear radiation in Sleman, Yogyakarta.

As the scenario was based in Indonesia, having the AHA Centre represented by the Acting Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Adelina Kamal in the workshop helped the MPAT planners better understand the role of the AHA Centre in regional disaster response mechanisms.

Apart from international participants, there were also local government agencies involved, namely the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Provincial Government of Yogyakarta, the Local Government of Sleman, the Local Government of Bantul, the Regional Disaster Management Agency of Yogyakarta, the National Nuclear Energy Agency of Yogyakarta, the National Search and Rescue Agency and the Yogyakarta Police Department.

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# THE OTHER SIDE

## Mr. Herve Gazeau

*Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Manager to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Thailand*



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### To start, can you share about your role and responsibilities as a Disaster Risk Reduction Manager to the IFRC?

I am based in the IFRC office in Bangkok as part of a multi-disciplinary team, supporting the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies across Southeast Asia in their Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives, with the overall objective to enhance community resilience.

More specifically, since 2014 I am responsible for the management of the Regional Resilience Initiative, a four-year endeavour supported by Canada, focusing on regional cooperation and technical advocacy for DRR, collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that the voices and needs of all people at risk in Southeast Asia are taken into consideration in the development of national and regional policies, strategies and plans.

As the manager of the initiative, I focus on the overall planning, monitoring and reporting aspects, while also interacting with various teams and experts within IFRC who are responsible for specific technical areas, such as disaster law, communications, gender and diversity policies. Altogether, we collaborate with a wide range of partners, starting from the National Societies in the region and including governments, ASEAN, UN agencies, I/NGOs, academia, etc.

### What was your journey like to get where you are now?

I have been living in Asia Pacific since 2003 when I started working as a community volunteer in the remote islands of Indonesia, just after finishing my studies in France. After two years and following the Indian Ocean tsunami, I joined the UNESCO office in Jakarta, supporting local Acehnese artists to heal trauma among disaster-affected children through traditional arts. A few months later, a devastating earthquake hit Yogyakarta and I became involved in the early efforts of the Indonesian government to rehabilitate the Prambanan temples, not only as a world heritage site recognised for its outstanding cultural value but more importantly as a key factor of disaster recovery for neighbouring communities.

Through these experiences, I gained my initial practical experience in DRR and I was privileged to join the Red Cross, again in Jakarta, as part of the French Red Cross team who was then supporting the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and Indonesian government in the field of disaster management. I continued to work with the Red Cross in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and then in Bangkok in more regional roles since 2011. Eventually, I joined the IFRC in 2014 as I mentioned earlier.

**We are aware that you have entered in the field of disaster risk reduction since 2007, do you have any particular reasons or personal ambitions of why you chose to join the IFRC?**

In my several assignments on DRR since 2007, I had the opportunity to work with several countries as well as National Societies and I have always been inspired by the dedication and know-how of all my colleagues. Of course, the contexts, capacities and challenges are different from one place to the other but in each country, I really felt we were working in the same direction and under the same principles. So, it was natural for me to apply to the IFRC, to support on one side the local action from the volunteers and the branches in each National Society and on the other side the contribution to national, regional and global dialogues around DRR.

**Did you have any expectations and concerns when you entered the field?**

Through several events, I became more aware of the impacts of disasters, not only in the day-to-day life of communities but also in their long-term local development. In that sense, I expected that governments and organisations would take DRR as a priority and I must say it is impressive to witness the progress in Southeast Asia in the past 10-15 years.

**What are the challenges you face being in the disaster risk reduction field? Did you have any difficulties in performing your role in the IFRC?**

I guess one of the key challenges we face when working in DRR is to be able to work in an integrated and coordinated manner, ensuring that our initiatives do not stand alone but also that they integrate inter-connected issues with a long-term perspective of sustainable development.

Concretely, it is about being connected to others (within our Red Cross “family” and with all stakeholders) and invest time and resources on knowledge management and information sharing, which often tend to be less of priority when we are responding to emergencies or implementing projects with tight deadlines.

At the same time, the cross-cutting nature of DRR obliges us to reinvent the way we work in “coalitions”, which is for me the most interesting part of my work. A great example which comes to my mind in relation to this is the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme where we were approached by the AHA Centre to facilitate some sessions, while also allowing our National Societies to take part in some selected training sessions. This type of win-win collaboration requires time to build trust among our teams, also to recognise the added value of each partner in its contribution to a common objective.

**What do you have to commit and how important is ‘commitment’ when working in your field?**

I believe trust among partners is built on our commitments and the way we truly follow up on our pledges. There are various commitments that I make in my daily work such as (budget and technical commitments as project manager, committing my time to colleagues to support them in a specific file of activities, committing to support about activities, workshops and trainings, etc.) and I do my best not to raise expectations which I am not in a position to fulfil them.





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

## Talk to Us

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**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 AHA Centre by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of State / Government 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 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.