

## INSIGHTS

### THE PHILIPPINES' DISASTER OVERVIEW

## THE OTHER SIDE

**Ms. Pannapa Na Nan**

*Foreign Relations Officer with  
the Ministry of Interior, Thailand*



ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE  
NEWS BULLETIN  
VOLUME 35

## PUBLIC - PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ONE ASEAN, ONE RESPONSE



DECEMBER 2017

## THE AHA CENTRE'S 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

### NEWS HIGHLIGHT



JAKARTA,  
INDONESIA

### THE AHA CENTRE'S 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### NEWS STORY

THE AHA CENTRE FACILITATES  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
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RAKHINE STATE

CONTINGENCY PLANNING  
WORKSHOP IN MYANMAR

### ACE CORNER



ACE PROGRAMME  
GRADUATION

### DISASTER OUTLOOK

**22 TOTAL DISASTERS**

from 1 to 31 December 2017



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


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**EDITOR'S NOTE****Happy New Year, fellow ASEANers!**

It is with excitement we bring you our 35<sup>th</sup> edition. From *The Column's* beginnings in 2015, our goal was to become the number one reference for disaster management in the ASEAN region.

Fast-forward to the new year of 2018 and this optimism lives on. We believe *The Column* shall not only become the number one reference in ASEAN, but also outside the region, as ASEAN works towards becoming a global leader, as well as a centre for excellence on disaster management.

In this edition, we are thrilled to reveal the contents of the AHA Centre's 6<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary celebrations, alongside a look into Singapore's assistance to the Rakhine State, and the Contingency Planning Workshop in Myanmar.

In our signature *The Other Side* section, we are delighted to have the opportunity to sit down with Ms. Pannapa Na Nan, the Foreign Relations Officer with Thailand's Ministry of Interior, as she shares her personal experience regarding disaster management.

We also provide some great insights into the graduation of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, that is covered in the ACE Corner section.

Finally, we learn more about the Philippines' disaster overview in this edition's *Insights*, and hope that this insight will be beneficial for our readers.

We also welcome your suggestions, comments, and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org) or undertake the online survey at [bit.ly/tc\\_survey](http://bit.ly/tc_survey). Have a nice read!

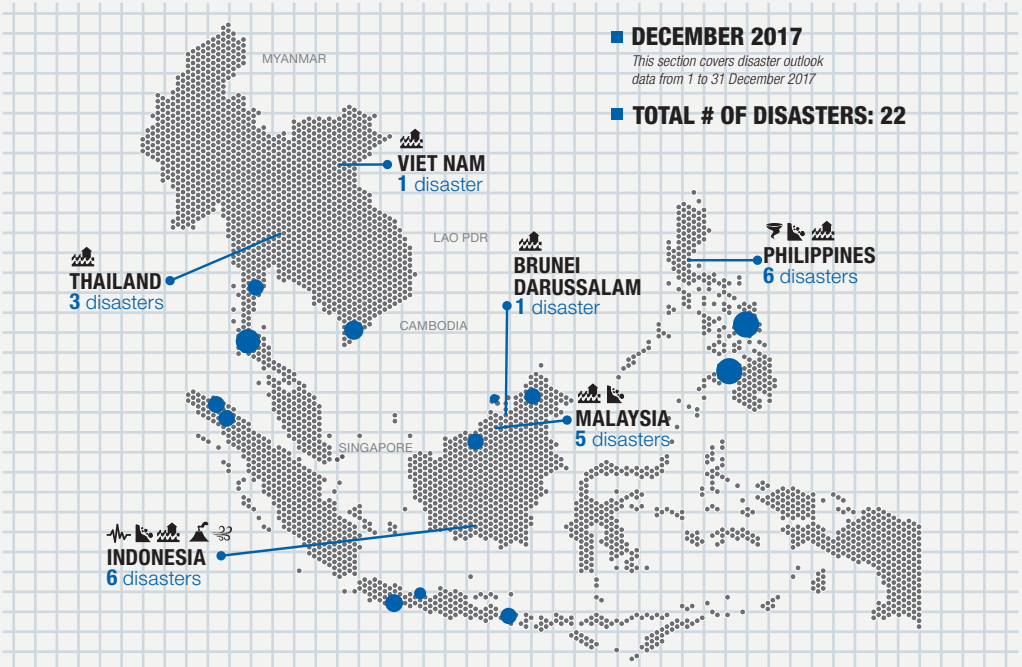
Sincerely,

*The Column Editor*



# MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK OF DECEMBER 2017

Written by: Mizan Bisri



## ESTIMATED NUMBERS



**31,698** (see disclaimer)  
Affected Houses



**195**  
Missing People



**60**  
Injured People



**245**  
Deaths



**4,345,567**  
People Affected



**1,230,906**  
Displaced People

### DISCLAIMER:

The AHA Centre was established in November 2011 by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States to facilitate cooperation and coordination among Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations and international organisations in disaster management and humanitarian assistance. This update consists of significant natural disaster events that occur in ASEAN Member States, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The disasters recorded include droughts, floods, earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions, winds, landslides and storms. The use of boundaries, geographic names, related information and potential considerations for response are for reference, not warranted to be error free or implying official endorsement from ASEAN Member States.

### DATA SOURCE:

Detailed information of each disaster and emergency situation are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>  
AHA Centre - Disaster Monitoring & Response System (DMRS); Pacific Disaster Center (PDC Global); Indonesia: BNPB, BPBDs of affected municipalities; Malaysia: InfoBanjir, National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA); Philippines: NDRRMC, DSWD, PHIVOLCS-DOST, PAGASA); Singapore: SCDF, PUB; various news agencies

# DISASTER OUTLOOK

## DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER DECEMBER 2017 // 2016



### FLOOD



### EARTHQUAKE



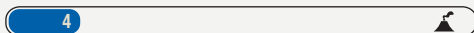
### WIND



### DROUGHT



### LANDSLIDE



### VOLCANO



### STORM

 2017 - BLUE BAR  
 2016 - BLACK BAR

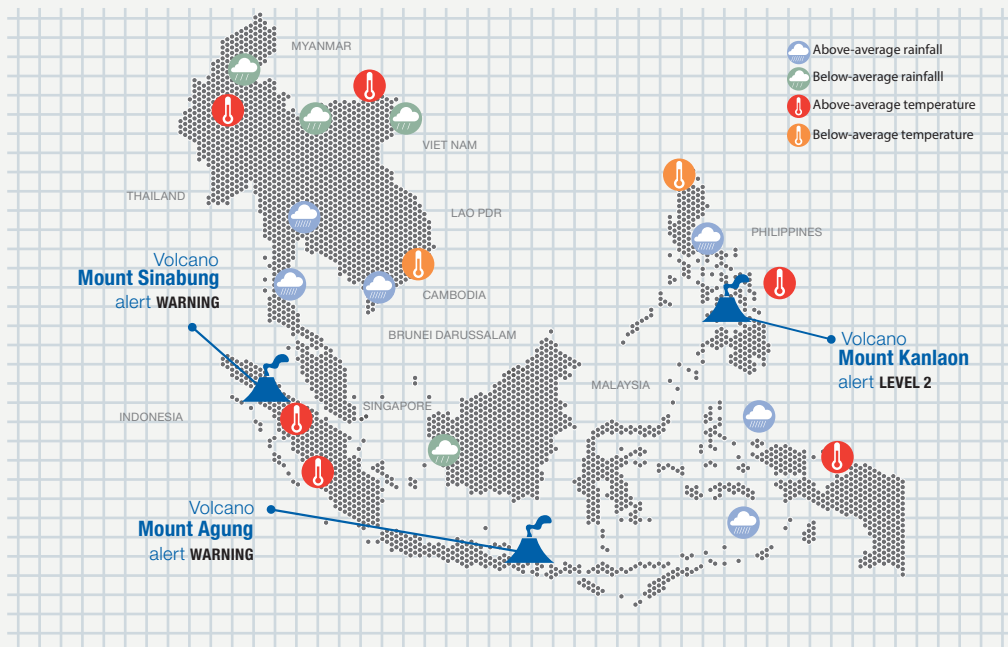
## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF DECEMBER 2017

During the month of December 2017, the ASEAN region was affected by 22 disasters, with the majority being hydro-meteorological disasters. Resultant secondary hazards such as flooding, landslides and storm surges resulted in fatalities and significant damage following Tropical Storm Kai-tak (Urduja, 32) and Typhoon Tembin (Vinta, 33). Regarding geological disasters, one significant

earthquake, as well as volcanic eruptions originated from the Indonesian volcanoes at Mount Agung and Mount Sinabung.

TS Kai-tak (32) made headlines on the December 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, after causing significant damage in Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, MIMAROPA and Caraga in the Philippines. A total of 1.7 million people were affected in 2,471 barangays across affected regions, with 2,763 people internally displaced. The cyclone also caused flash floods in Brunei Darussalam, as well as flooding in some locations in the states of Sabah and Sarawak, Malaysia. A week later, on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2017, tropical depression Tembin (33) intensified into a tropical storm, and subsequently a category 1 typhoon. The Government of the Philippines reported that Tembin resulted in 160 deaths, 163 people missing, 141,233 residents displaced, and over 790,000 people affected in total. The most affected areas of the Philippines, Lanao Del Norte and Cagaya de Oro, are known as highly vulnerable to such events. From a regional perspective, the initial forecast for Typhoon Tembin displayed similarities, and invoked memories of the 1997 Typhoon Linda, which was the worst to hit southern Viet Nam in the past 100 years. Drawing from past lessons, the Government of Viet Nam intensified their efforts and were able to evacuate more than 400 thousand people as Typhoon Tembin approached. Fortunately, Typhoon Tembin changed its course, reduced its speed and did not make landfall in southern Viet Nam. Both TS Kai-tak and Typhoon Tembin also caused flooding in Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Thailand.

In Indonesia, a magnitude 6.9 earthquake occurred on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2017, triggering tsunami warnings for several municipalities in southern West Java, Central Java and Yogyakarta. Although warnings were cancelled after three hours with no tsunami, the earthquake itself claimed four lives, with more than 3,000 houses damaged. This event exhibited potential Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) progress in Indonesia on tsunami early warning system, since the 2006 Pangandaran Tsunami (M 6.9), as well as highlighting coordination improvements during the first week of emergency response efforts since the 2009 West Java Earthquake (M 7.3). Mount Agung, Bali, erupted again on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017, spewing volcanic ash inside the exclusion zone. Approximately 71,000 people are still displaced and stationed in 240 evacuation centres across 9 of the island's cities/regencies. The Government of Indonesia re-developed its communication strategy to decrease the impact on the tourist industry caused by crisis management activities for Mount Agung.



## OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY 2018

ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) forecast suggests the North-east Monsoon season will be extended until March 2018. For January-February 2018, above-average rainfall is expected over the eastern Maritime Continent, southern Viet Nam, and central and southern Thailand. Below-average rainfall is expected over western Borneo and northern Southeast Asia. Elsewhere near-average rainfall is forecast. Above-average temperatures are forecast for much of the Southeast Asia region during the upcoming boreal winter monsoon season, with higher probabilities over the eastern Maritime Continent, northern Southeast Asia, and Sumatra. Below-average temperatures are expected over northern Philippines and southern Viet Nam. The reported cold-snap during the past few weeks in northern Viet Nam may continue. The same phenomenon is consistent with the weak La-Nina effect that could continue until February 2018.

Regarding geological hazards, volcano status and updates from earth observations in Indonesia and the Philippines require significant attention. In Indonesia, Mount Agung and Mount Sinabung in Indonesia are still at "warning" level (the highest out of 4 alert levels), and eruptions may occur from time to time releasing volcanic ash. In addition, there is an advisory alert for 18 other volcanoes across Indonesia (alert level 2 out of maximum 4). Towards the end of 2017, the Government of Indonesia released the latest Indonesian Earthquake Source and Hazard Map, a revision of the 2010 map. The map incorporated 295 new earthquake sources (faults), updates on megathrust subduction segmentation, and includes various probabilistic earthquake scenarios. Considering the new hazard map, adjustments to disaster mitigation, preparedness and response planning are required. In the Philippines, Mount Kanlaon is at alert level 2 (from total of 5 alert levels) with increased volcanic activity. The general public is advised to avoid volcano exclusion zones in both countries, ensure preparedness for earthquakes, and pay attention to official alerts from national and local authorities.

## INSIGHTS

# THE PHILIPPINES' DISASTER OVERVIEW

*Written by: Prasasya Laraswati*

According to the Philippines Disaster Management Reference Handbook 2015 published by Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA), the Philippines is a geographically and culturally diverse country due to its archipelagic nature, and is considered one of the world's mega-biodiversity countries due to its unique flora and fauna. The country's location on the Pacific Ring of Fire and proximity to the equator makes the country prone to earthquakes and typhoons, and sees it ranked as the third-most disaster-prone country in the world.

## RECENT HISTORY OF NATURAL DISASTERS



## TYPHOON

Typhoons are both the most common and most destructive natural disaster event in the Philippines. Annually, approximately 80 typhoons develop above the world's tropical waters. From this, an estimated 20 enter the Philippines' region, with six to nine making landfall, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC). Due to the number of typhoons generated in the region annually, the country has gained the name Asia's Typhoon Welcome Mat.



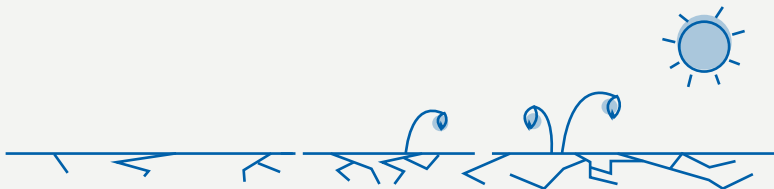
## VOLCANOES

The Philippines is also unique for its high level of exposure to volcanic hazards. Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, the country lies at the intersection of two tectonic plates - the Eurasian and the Pacific. These plates move continually, causing both volcanic events and earthquakes. The country is home to approximately 300 volcanoes, of which 22 are active and 5 are very active; namely Taal, Mayon, Bulusan, Kanlaon and Hibok-Hibok. Of these volcanoes, the most recent eruption was Mayon in 2013.



## FLOOD

Monsoon rains are those not associated with an identified, singular, named storm, but they can nonetheless be very damaging to the many low lying, marginally developed areas in the country. While annual rains are expected in the Philippines, more recent, unusually strong monsoon events have combined with urban development issues to intensify the impacts and vulnerability. Such urban development has created blockages to traditional flooding channels, increasing the flooding hazards within vulnerable urban communities.



## DROUGHT

The Philippines is also vulnerable to the El Niño phenomenon, which induces drought and delays the onset of monsoon rains. This has resulted in scarcity of drinking water in urban areas, and shortfalls in hydro-electricity generation due to reduced water levels in major dams. Furthermore, during drought events there is less water available for household use, income losses, increased waterborne disease, and diminished water quality.

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NEWS HIGHLIGHT

# THE AHA CENTRE'S 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Written by: Ananda Gabriella



The panelists during the AHA Centre's 6<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary



The AHA Centre welcomes guests in its Emergency Operation Centre, the Home of One ASEAN, One Response

November 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 was a special day for the AHA Centre, as the organisation marked its 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, the AHA Centre held a seminar with the theme “Fostering Public-Private Partnerships to Enhance Disaster Management: Towards One ASEAN, One Response.” The event took place at Graha BNPB, Jakarta, on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Since its inception, the AHA Centre has played a vital role in promoting improved coordination and collective responses to disasters. In order to increase services and improve functionality within the ASEAN region, the AHA Centre is focusing towards the enhancement of partnerships between the public and private sector for disaster management.

Looking back, the AHA Centre has responded to 19 disaster emergencies in 7 countries across the region, trained 222 personnel as part of our assessment team and deployed them to 21 emergency missions, trained over 60 future leaders of disaster management,



The panellists (from L to R): Mr. Dody Ruswandi, Executive Secretary of the National Disaster Management Organisation of Indonesia (BNPB); Mr. J.S George Lantu, the Director of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; and Mr. Rene S. Meily, President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)

and established a regional stockpile of relief items in Malaysia and soon the upcoming two satellite warehouses in the Philippines and Thailand. The AHA Centre is also increasingly becoming a model for other regional organisations in the world.

To mark its six-year contribution to the ASEAN community, the AHA Centre seeks to engage more stakeholders – including from the private sector – to participate and foster a dialogue for partnerships in disaster management. Throughout the seminar, the AHA Centre highlighted the importance of Public – Private Partnerships (PPP) in Disaster Management, as stated by Ms. Adelina Kamal, the Executive Director of AHA Centre:

"To achieve One ASEAN One Response, we have to be even more united. The complexity, intensity and frequency of disasters in our region are increasing. We have to work together to be able to increase the speed, the scale and the solidarity of our actions in case of calamities."

The objective was endorsed through a statement by the then-Secretary General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, who stated that "I really hope that through the ASEAN Declaration on 'One ASEAN One Response,' and with the AHA Centre at the helm, our efforts to boost disaster management

capabilities in ASEAN and its member countries will be achieved faster, especially with the support of the private sector."

The concept and importance of the PPP are further highlighted through a discussion with prominent panellists such as: Mr. Dody Ruswandi, Executive Secretary of the Indonesian National Authority of Disaster Management (BNPB); Mr. J.S George Lantu, the Director of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; and Mr. Rene S. Meily, President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF).



The then Secretary General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, shares his remarks prior to the panel discussion

# THE AHA CENTRE FACILITATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM SINGAPORE FOR DISPLACED COMMUNITIES IN RAKHINE STATE

Written by: Prasasya Laraswati



Ambassadors of ASEAN Member States to Myanmar stand together in supporting Myanmar to address the humanitarian needs for the displaced communities in Rakhine.

The Government of Singapore entrusted the AHA Centre to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance for the displaced communities in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Based on identified needs, the AHA Centre locally procured 3,800 kitchen sets to be further distributed to displaced communities in Rakhine State, which were symbolically handed-over in Yangon on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The assistance from Singapore builds on the 80 tonnes of ASEAN humanitarian assistance relief items that were distributed to 99 villages or townships in Northern Rakhine State by October 2017.

“Our gratitude goes to the Government of Singapore and the Government of Myanmar for trusting the AHA Centre to operationalise ASEAN’s solidarity in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced communities in Rakhine State. The additional support from Singapore

amplifies AHA Centre’s efforts to provide further assistance for the people in Rakhine, regardless of their origin, ethnic group, race or religion,” said Ms. Adelina Kamal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre, during the handover ceremony.

On the same occasion, Mr. Robert Chua, the Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar, emphasised that, “Singapore has been a close friend and ASEAN neighbour of Myanmar and at this difficult time, we are committed to offer this assistance to address the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. We wish the Government of Myanmar well, as it seeks to restore peace, stability, and implement its recovery development programme for the people of Rakhine State. We hope that our contribution will help alleviate the suffering of the people. It is our wish that all parties involved will work together to reconcile differences, so that those affected can rebuild their lives and live in peace, dignity, and harmony.”

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP IN MYANMAR

*Written by: Ananda Gabriella*



The participants pose for a group photo during the Contingency Planning Workshop in Myanmar

The vulnerability of ASEAN countries to natural disasters is not a new phenomenon, particularly due to the region's geographical location. In December 2017, the AHA Centre, together with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement of Myanmar, the ASEAN-US PROGRESS, and the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance of the United States of America, conducted a contingency planning workshop in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar is one of the ASEAN Member States that is most exposed to disaster risks. According to the Relief and Resettlement Department of Myanmar, as much as 73% of disasters that have occurred in Myanmar are caused by fires. This is followed by floods, storms, and earthquakes, due to Myanmar's location on one of the region's fault-lines.

Endorsed by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the AHA Centre developed a response mechanism called the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) to operationalise One ASEAN One Response. The AJDRP's key

function is to provide a well-structured and effective mechanism to increase the speed and volume of emergency relief capacities, as well as assets, that can be delivered to affected communities during a disaster contingency planning workshop.

During the two-day workshop, the AHA Centre's representative, Mr. Janggam Adhityawarma, Assistant Director of Operations, delivered the overall concept and purpose of AJDRP, to increase awareness of the participants regarding ASEAN solidarity in disaster management.

The event was attended by approximately 30 participants, including policy makers, disaster managers, and military counterparts in Myanmar. Moreover, the workshop resulted in the first national contingency plan for Myanmar that can be supported by the AHA Centre and partners, under the framework of AJDRP.

The softcopy of AJDRP is available at:  
<http://ahacentre.org/files/AJDRP.pdf>



## ACE PROGRAMME GRADUATION

*Written by: Ananda Gabriella*



Maria Pondevida, ACE participant from the Philippines shares how the programme makes an impact in her life

As part of its goal to become a centre of excellence for disaster management within the ASEAN region, in 2014, the AHA Centre established the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme. The ACE Programme is designed for selected ASEAN Member State (AMS) disaster managers to enhance their skills and capacity in disaster management, through a range of intensive training activities throughout a 6-month period.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> 2017, the official graduation for the fourth batch of ACE Programme participants took place in Jakarta, Indonesia. The graduation ceremony was attended by H.E. Kazuo Sunaga – the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee – Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, as well as representatives from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, the United Nations, the IFRC, other partners and supporters of the AHA Centre. By the graduation day, the 17 graduates had developed their technical knowledge and skills, as well as mastered disaster coordination procedures.

The AHA Centre believes that leadership skills should be nurtured in advance to prepare future leaders of disaster management in the region.

Through a one-of-a-kind customised course like the ACE Programme, future leaders could enhance their capabilities by learning from each other, from existing leaders and experts who are the best in their respective fields, and from the practical experiences in preparing and responding to disasters.

The benefit of the ACE Programme was summed-up by one of the participants from the Philippines, Ms. Maria Pondevida, as she shared a personal experience about her transformation throughout the course. “I was shy when I first joined this programme. I could not imagine that I would be standing here to deliver the graduation speech on the podium today. I would like to thank everyone involved in ACE Programme who allowed me to find my voice and a new family.”

With the support from the Government of Japan, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), the AHA Centre has successfully conducted four batches of the ACE Programme. Finally, congratulations to all graduates. ASEAN relies on you as the future leaders in disaster management for the region, and we are sure you will undertake this role with great professionalism and care.



Japanese Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Kazuo Sunaga reiterates his country's support to the AHA Centre and disaster management in Southeast Asian region during the graduation ceremony

# THE OTHER SIDE

*Written by: Prasasya Laraswati*

## Ms. Pannapa Na Nan

Foreign Relations Officer with  
the Ministry of Interior, Thailand



The Column had the opportunity to interview Ms. Pannapa Na Nan, who is known as Aimee. In this edition, she shares the importance of work-life balance for those working in disaster management.

### Would you please introduce yourself and explain a bit more about the role and responsibilities in your department?

My name is Pannapa Na Nan, but everybody here in the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) calls me Aimee. I work for the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand, and have been working in the Research and International Cooperation Bureau in charge of the Asia section for the past eight years. My responsibilities include managing capacity building on disaster management between Thailand and its partners, mostly with the governments.

### What is the biggest challenge for you working in the humanitarian or disaster management field?

Most of the time, the challenges are related to understanding – such as the struggle to have other people understand your work, the importance of your mandate, and the effort to obtain the kind of support you need. In reality, most of the time, people believe disaster management is a small job.

But management is focusing on the importance of disaster response as well as humanitarian assistance, so everyone now has begun to realise the importance of this issue.

## Does it also include explaining to your family and getting their support to visit a disaster-prone area? Do you find it challenging?

Well, for me it's not challenging at all since I grew up in a family of government officials. We are used to having our family members being assigned to a disaster site immediately.

## We know that the demand for humanitarian personnel is quite high, especially when a disaster strikes. How do you maintain your work-life balance?

I do take my vacations seriously, and if there are no urgent issues, I go straight home after office hours - I don't hang on to my work after hours. I think, after trying to balance it in the first couple of years, I found out that once the computer is turned off you should take your time to enjoy and relax - while still keeping yourself available on other channels. I think being available is important for the people who want to work in this field. You never know what's going to happen.

## What's your proudest achievement so far or the most memorable deployment?

Last year I was deployed to an earthquake exercise in Jakarta, Indonesia, and was assigned as a team leader in the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT). The exercise was very challenging, as I needed to balance the way each team member complements each other. Considering the situation that we were assigned - it was not easy at all. I think so far this is one of the key achievements I am proud of.

## Do you have any tips or any information to share with anyone considering joining the humanitarian field in the region?

I think one thing that I learned from my experience is that you have to remember your main purpose for being in this field - saving lives. Sometimes you will run into circumstances or obstacles that may be challenging, but always remind yourself that your ultimate purpose is to save lives and help people in need.


# 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.