



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.35 | MARCH 2018

Morning Sunrise in Rakhine State, Myanmar

HIGHLIGHT

ASEAN-ERAT Mission
in Rakhine

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Disaster Monitoring & Analysis Unit
of the AHA Centre

HAVE YOUR SAY

Have You Ever Been Affected
by an Earthquake?

THE COLUMN

36

THIS ISSUE:

ASEAN-ERAT MISSION IN RAKHINE



HIGHLIGHT

04

As part of its ongoing efforts to assist displaced population in Myanmar's Rakhine State, the AHA Centre deployed ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) personnel to Myanmar from the 15th – 31st of January, 2018.



MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

06

AHA CENTRE DIARY

12

INSIGHT

08

THE OTHER SIDE

14

PARTNERSHIP

10

HAVE YOUR SAY

15

GO

PAPERLESS

Download your personal digital
copy of The Column at

WWW.AHACENTRE.ORG



EDITOR'S NOTE

AHA CENTRE'S THE COLUMN IS BACK



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

HI READERS,

After a little extended break, The Column is back with a bang, plenty of all new content, latest stories, and a great new look.

While we may have been a little quiet on our publications, there has still been plenty happening around the ASEAN disaster management scene – all of which we have for you in this month's edition of The Column.

To open this edition, we take a look into the work of our ASEAN-ERAT members, deployed in late January to support the response to the situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Appropriately, we also have the chance to learn more about the ASEAN-ERAT programme's development through our Other Side interview with Gaynor Tanyang from the Philippines.

Alongside this, we learn a little more about Singapore's engagement in disaster management across the region and the world, and get an insight from the AHA Centre's Disaster Monitoring and

Analysis team into the range of disasters that took place over the last couple of months.

We have a number of new sections in our revitalised and refreshed monthly Column, including a look into what has been happening around the AHA Centre in the AHA Centre Diary. We also have an interesting new section focused towards our partners, with this edition giving us a great insight into the support and sharing efforts between the AHA Centre and the Pacific Disaster Centre, one of our longest-standing and most supportive partners.

While the re-development of a publication such as The Column can require a significant amount of effort, we have enjoyed this challenge and also the results we see during the following pages. We also hope you enjoy this edition of The Column.

Sincerely yours,

The Column Editorial Team.



EDITOR IN CHIEF
Ms. Adelina Kamal

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

MANAGING EDITOR
Shintya Kurniawan

JOURNALIST
Carla Budiarto, Mizan Bisri, Qing Yuan Pang

PUBLISHED BY
The AHA Centre

EDITOR
William Shea

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Yohan Andreas

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Denis Indra Permana

PHOTOGRAPHER
Dandi Rahman



ASEAN-ERAT

MISSION IN RAKHINE, MYANMAR

As part of its ongoing efforts to assist displaced population in Myanmar's Rakhine State, the AHA Centre deployed ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) personnel to Myanmar from the 15th – 31st of January, 2018. Tasked to support the work of the Disaster Management Department of Myanmar, the deployed ERAT team was made up of members from the Philippines and Singapore, alongside one AHA Centre staff.



THIS DEPLOYMENT OF ASEAN-ERAT PERSONNEL HAD THREE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:



OBSERVING

THE STATUS OF ASEAN'S
RELIEF ITEMS

Observing the status of ASEAN's relief items that were previously provided through the AHA Centre;



SUPPORTING

THE EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS CENTRE

Supporting the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of Myanmar's Disaster Management Department with information management, secondary data analysis, and report writing;



UNDERTAKING

PREPARATIONS FOR THE
NEXT ASEAN-ERAT
INDUCTION COURSE

Undertaking preparations for the next ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course that will be held in Myanmar later in 2018.

Between October 2017 and January 2018, the AHA Centre facilitated the provision of 80 tonnes of relief items, delivered in two batches from the ASEAN regional stockpile in Subang, Malaysia. In December 2017, additional relief items were locally procured by utilising a S\$100,000 contribution from the Government of Singapore. Part of this deployment mission included a two-day field observation to Rakhine State, through which the ASEAN-ERAT members confirmed that the distribution of relief items was undertaken as reported by the Disaster Management Department of Myanmar.



Reviewing the status of ASEAN relief items in Sittwe warehouse in Rakhine.



Assessing the stockpiled food items in Nga Khu Ya.



Meeting with the Director General of Disaster Management Department, Dr. Ko Ko Naing.



Conducting assessment in Hla-Phoe-Kaug.

The ASEAN-ERAT team also observed the state of temporary shelters, prepared by the Government of Myanmar for displaced communities in Rakhine, as well as those that may return from outside the State. This temporary settlement is equipped with clean water, as well as pre-positioned materials such as clothes, food, and kitchen sets.

In addition to the existing efforts, the Government of Myanmar has developed a stockpile of contingency relief items in Sittwe and Maungdaw, in anticipation of future events, such as flooding, during the approaching monsoon season. Throughout their mission, the ASEAN-ERAT members worked closely with the Director-General and staff of the Disaster Management Department, alongside the Myanmar Red Cross, the General Administration Department in Rakhine, and the

Fire Services Departments in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Rakhine. They worked together conducting a needs assessment, and developing recommendations to further enhance the ongoing provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected communities in Rakhine State.

"THE AHA CENTRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR FOR WELCOMING OUR ASEAN-ERAT MEMBERS TO WORK IN NAY PYI TAW AND RAKHINE STATE. THE MISSION DEMONSTRATES ASEAN'S SOLIDARITY, HELPING ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY, UNDER THE SPIRIT OF ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE," SAID ADELINA KAMAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AHA CENTRE.



MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS
(DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE



REGIONAL TALLY

2018

2017

• Total number of recorded-significant disasters	57	39
• Number of deaths	39	29
• Number of injured people	39	208
• Number of missing people	46	3
• Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	236,841	349,731
• Number of affected people	1,371,368	1,688,228
• Affected houses (collapsed & damaged)	22,774	3,671

(COVERING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018; WEEK 1-9)

DISCLAIMER

AHA Centre estimation is based on data and information shared by National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) and other relevant agencies from ASEAN Member States, international organisations and news agencies. For each recorded-significant disaster, description and details of data and information are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF JAN AND FEB 2018

Between January and February 2018, a total of 57 disasters were reported from within ASEAN Member States. Due to the higher-than-average rainfall; 57.8% of all disasters reported in this period are attributed to floods. In addition, landslides are of major concern in areas prone to slope failure which potentially cause disruptions and significant damage to major circulatory transport systems, as well as impacting communities and trade. In the northern ASEAN region, record-low temperatures have been reported during this winter season, with storms recorded in Viet Nam, Thailand and Cambodia. Whereas the emergency response operation for Typhoon Tembin was extended until the third week of January, additional impact of Tropical Storm Sanba (Basyang) affected more than two hundred-thousand people in the Philippines.

Earthquakes and volcanic activity remain high on the agenda, with two significant earthquakes observed in the region. A magnitude 6.1 earthquake occurred on the 23rd of January 2018, affecting provinces of Banten, West Java and Jakarta in Indonesia. Although there were over seven thousand homes damaged, the emergency response was managed well by the Indonesian authorities. More recently, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake was recorded in Papua New Guinea on February 26th, with tremors felt and light damage caused in several regencies of the Papua Province (Indonesia). The earthquake was followed by 53 strong aftershocks (M 5.0 and above) within the following week, without additional damage experienced in any

parts of Indonesia. Also in Indonesia, the situation on Mount Agung, Bali, has greatly improved, with its alert level being lowered, and its mandatory exclusion zone relaxed. In the Philippines, Mount Mayon's Phreatomagmatic Eruption, has been ongoing throughout January & February. This activity has affected the daily lives of more than 90,000 people in the Albay Province, yet there have been no human casualties reported, showcasing the result of effective preparedness and response.

OUTLOOK FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2018

ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) has forecasted that during the coming months, the region will begin a gradual transition from the current Northeast Monsoon season to the inter-monsoon period. The inter-monsoon period (April and May) is a transition period that sees low-level winds in the region being generally light and variable in direction, with an increase in light rain activity expected across ASEAN during this time.

For the March-April-May 2018 season, slightly below-average to near-average rainfall is forecasted for most parts of Southeast Asia, except for the Philippines, who can expect slightly above-average rainfall during these months. During March and April, slightly above-normal rainfall is forecasted over the northern parts of Kalimantan and Sulawesi, as well as the western districts of Papua.

DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

WHITE BAR | 2017 RED BAR | 2018

Earthquake	1	1
Flood	31	34
Landslide	-	14
Storm	7	2
Wind	-	7
Volcano	-	1
Total	39	59
Brunei Darussalam	0	2
Indonesia	0	34
Malaysia	35	8
Singapore	2	2
Thailand	2	1
The Philippines	0	12
Total	39	59

SINGAPORE'S DISASTER OVERVIEW



Singapore's Civil Defence Academy.

Due to its geographical location which is outside the 'Pacific Rim of Fire', Singapore is spared from natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. However, Singapore cannot insulate itself from disaster prevention and management efforts as it is still susceptible to man-made disasters; which can be in the form of terror attacks or hazmat incidents. The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), under the command of Ministry of Home Affairs, is the National Authority that will coordinate, plan, command and control all operations undertaken by the various agencies to mitigate major disasters.

SINGAPORE'S CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Due to the increased interconnectivity between the ASEAN Member States, the effects of a natural disaster on a particular Member State can also affect the entire ASEAN region. In this regard, Singapore is strongly engaged not only in ASEAN but also on a global scale, and strive to be a leader in disaster preparedness and response practices.

Singapore is represented in the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Advisory Board and the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Steering Group, helping to shape strategies and policies for adoption globally by the disaster management fraternity. The 76-member SCDF Ops Lionheart team is the first team in the Asia-Pacific region to be classified as a "Heavy" Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team under the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) – the highest classification provided to USAR Teams by the United Nations. SCDF's Ops Lionheart Contingent had been deployed to 17 overseas humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions and is constantly on standby to offer assistance to any country which has been struck by disasters such as earthquakes, floods or tsunamis.

Other than the SCDF's Ops Lionheart Contingent, SCDF has a pool of trained officers on standby round the clock throughout the year, ready to be activated alongside international humanitarian partners in disaster coordination in the following capacities:

- Active UNDAC members who have supported several overseas missions and exercises regularly;
- One of the founding members of Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership (APHP). SCDF has an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Support Module Team that can support the UNDAC operations at the disaster site with specified communications equipment and assist in establishing the On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC);
- Specialised officers trained to form the Hazmat Assessment Unit (HAU) that respond to environmental emergencies in support of the UN Joint Environment Unit (UN-JEU); and
- Operational officers trained as ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) that supports the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions that are coordinated by the AHA Centre.

Some of the recent major disasters which SCDF has provided support included the deployment of ASEAN-ERAT for the Aceh Earthquake in 2016, Ops Lionheart mission for the Nepal earthquake in 2015, responding to the Malaysian floods in 2014, the Christchurch earthquake in 2011, APHP support for Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and UNDAC/APHP support for Typhoon Bopha in 2012.

Singapore has also played a key role in the ASEAN regional disaster management efforts. At the regional front, the SCDF serves as Singapore's focal point for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and a member of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre. Together with Indonesia, Philippines and the ASEAN Secretariat, Singapore was a member of the Task Force set up in 2009 for the establishment of the AHA Centre and played a pivotal role in the operationalisation of the Centre, particularly in the setup of its ICT infrastructure and systems. As co-chairs of two of the ACDM Working Groups; Preparedness and Response with Malaysia and Knowledge and Innovation Management with



Indonesia and Viet Nam, Singapore through the SCDF drives several key initiatives under the AADMER Work Programme. This includes the development of ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures, or SASOP, ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan, establishment of ASEAN-ERAT, Disaster Emergency Logistics Systems for ASEAN, and developing thought leadership in ASEAN through the hosting of the annual Strategic Policy Dialogue in Disaster Management and the Senior Executive Programme in Disaster Management.

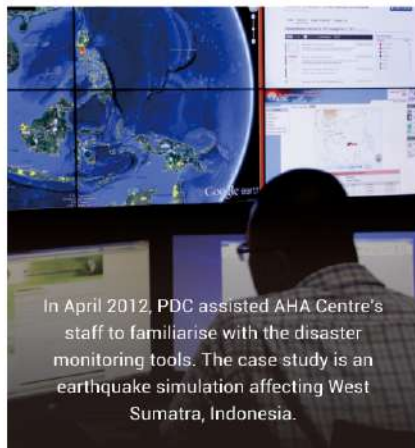
Singapore is actively engaged in a range of disaster management activities and shares her best-in-class practices, systems and processes with the international community through overseas exchange programmes, rescue assistance, and the provision of a plethora of training courses in disaster management. Singapore's Civil Defence Academy, established in March 1999, conducts a wide range of training for the international community. The Academy frequently leverages on technology and has incorporated the use of immersive virtual technology for decision making and command training. CDA's flagship programmes include the International Firefighting, Hazardous Materials (HazMat) and USAR courses. Besides training the operational personnel and developing countries, CDA has also been training senior officials at the strategic-level and developed countries through the conduct of courses such as the Leadership Programme in Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Course.



PACIFIC DISASTER CENTRE

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness across Asia-Pacific
with the Pacific Disaster Centre

THE PACIFIC DISASTER CENTER (PDC) IS A HAWAIIAN-BASED ORGANISATION WITH A FOCUS TOWARDS DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS FOR IMPROVING DISASTER MITIGATION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY. FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES, PDC HAS DELIVERED A VARIETY OF TOOLS AND SERVICES TO THE GLOBAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY – INCLUDING TO THE AHA CENTRE. SUCH TOOLS AND SERVICES INCLUDE GLOBAL MULTI-HAZARD DISASTER MONITORING, EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS AND DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS, RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOLS, MODELING AND VISUALISATION PLATFORMS, SIMULATION EXERCISE SUPPORT, AND A RANGE OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.



In April 2012, PDC assisted AHA Centre's staff to familiarise with the disaster monitoring tools. The case study is an earthquake simulation affecting West Sumatra, Indonesia.



The partnership between PDC and AHA Centre continues to date and reaffirms through the signing of MOI in 2017.

ASEAN's collaboration with the PDC began in mid-2004, prior to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, and the PDC has been constantly involved in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). More recently, the PDC – supported by the United States Government through its US Agency for International Development (USAID) programmes – has worked with ASEAN and the AHA Centre to implement programmes such as the AADMER Work Programme for Risk Assessment, Early Warning, and Monitoring Activity

(2010-2015), the AHA Centre Information Communication Technology (ICT) Gap Analysis, and the development of a Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) powered by PDC's DisasterAWARE™ platform.

The most notable recent collaboration between the two Centres has been the development of the DMRS. The system was initiated following an offer made by the United States' President Barack Obama at the First ASEAN-US Leaders' Meeting in November, 2009, in Singapore. The DMRS is supported by the United States Government through the USAID and US Department of State-funded ASEAN-US Technical Assistance and Training Facility. The United States has been an ASEAN Dialogue Partner since 1977.

The DMRS enables the AHA Centre to integrate all monitoring of hazard data within one system. The system compiles and transforms various hazard and other natural disaster information from national and international disaster monitoring agencies into a regional, event-tracking and decision-support tool, further enhanced by its utilisation of maps and modelling applications. Through this integration, the AHA Centre operations team can immediately obtain a global overview of any situation, which improves response times and leads to more efficient use of relief resources.

"I would characterise PDC as a very committed and sustainable partner of the AHA Centre. Through their support, we now have comprehensive disaster monitoring tools that allow us to monitor hazards in an almost real-time manner. The early warning alerts allow us to plan ahead of time," explains Arnel Capili, the Operations Director of the AHA Centre.

Following more than a decade of collaboration, The PDC and the AHA Centre signed a new Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on the 5th of June, 2017, at the AHA Centre's headquarters in Jakarta.

The MOI aims to strengthen the two Centres' ongoing partnership in advancing disaster risk reduction and regional cooperation, including steps to progress the vision of One ASEAN One Response. The PDC and AHA Centre will continue working together to pursue new endeavours to support the vision, including a project to conduct a regional risk assessment for the ASEAN Member States that will support the development of sound policies for risk reduction across the region.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

SIMULATION EXERCISE WITH GIDRM AND SDC, 24-25 JANUARY 2018

AT 04:23AM, THE AHA CENTRE'S WHATSAPP GROUP WAS ALIGHT WITH MESSAGES, AS STAFF IN JAKARTA AND BEYOND WERE ROUSED FROM THEIR SLEEP BY THE NEWS OF AN EARTHQUAKE. THIS SIMULATED EARTHQUAKE EVENT FORMED THE BEGINNING OF THE AHA CENTRE'S EXERCISE WITH GIDRM AND SDC.



Our Director of Operations and Resource Mobilisation Manager initiates an immediate discussion upon arrival at the EOC.

EXERCISE

A 7.9 Magnitude earthquake was recorded near Pontianak with 10 Km depth. Disaster Monitoring and Analysis will update if there is a tsunami advisory issued.

EXERCISE

Twelve minutes later, another message appears on the mobile phone screens of the group.

EXERCISE

Given the shallow depth, tsunami warning may be triggered for Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.



At times, preparedness also requires being ready to respond to enquiries from the media.

These alerts were followed by a request to gather at the AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre at 7 a.m. and series of internal coordination meetings for the next 36 hours. For the first time ever, the AHA Centre was involved in a two-day scenario, responding to a fictitious large-scale disaster which presumably affected three ASEAN Member-States. Every few hours, new injects were given and complicate the situation. The injects include, among others, a biohazards leakage at an industrial area in Pontianak and a kidnapping case of the ASEAN-ERAT member.



Throughout the exercise, staff often take turns to role-play various duties. This encourages all parties to better understand a variety of responsibilities outside their daily role, fostering improved coordination and collaboration.

This unique scenario helped staff to practice their internal preparedness and response mechanisms. At the end of the exercise, the AHA Centre evaluated its response mechanism, noting gaps and weaknesses, and discussed the solutions that could support the improvement of the organisation's readiness in responding to complex disaster situations. This interesting and engaging exercise was facilitated by the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

AHA CENTRE WELCOMES THE NEW ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 FEBRUARY 2018

Written by: Shintya Kurniawan | Photo: AHA Centre



The Executive Director of the AHA Centre welcomes H.E. Lim Jock Hoi and delegation from ASEAN Secretariat.



Familiarisation with the AHA Centre's disaster monitoring facilities and response mechanism.



Presenting the ASEAN field vest to Mr. Secretary General, who will assume the role of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (AHAC) if a large-scale disaster strikes the region.

Within a month of his appointment as the new Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi visited the home of One ASEAN, One Response – the AHA Centre. Together with Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalee, and other ASEAN Secretariat delegates, Dato Lim Jock Hoi undertook a tour of the AHA Centre's office in East Jakarta. During this visit, the Executive Director and staff of the AHA Centre shared updates regarding the activities of the organisation, as well as the updated status of the standby relief items in ASEAN's warehouse.

The Secretary-General was highly supportive of the AHA Centre, and stated his aspiration to enhance multilateral and cross-sectoral cooperation for disaster management in the region. H.E. Lim Jock Hoi further commended the work of the AHA Centre and recommended that the AHA Centre continue to share

information about its work and activities, coordinating disaster management across ASEAN. Alongside this, he also committed to support the AHA Centre in its resource mobilisation efforts.

Before his departure, the AHA Centre presented Dato Paduka Lim Jock hoi with an ASEAN vest embroidered with his Excellency's name. The AHA Centre fully supports the leadership of Dato Lim Jock Hoi as the 14th Secretary-General of ASEAN as well as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, and looks forward to further collaboration during his tenure throughout the next five years.



THE OTHER SIDE

Gaynor Tanyag

Managing Director, Lumina Ventures
ASEAN-ERAT Member from the Philippines



Gaynor's path into the disaster management field, and direct engagement as an ASEAN ERAT member was formed through more than ten years of work in the development sector. Her first experience directly with disaster management in the ASEAN context came when she joined Oxfam on a programme being implemented within the AADMER partnership. She tells the AHA Centre, "I was just volunteering with a local organisation, when a contact recommended I apply for the role".

Having gained some disaster-related experience in her time undertaking gender audits of disaster responses, Gaynor first heard of the AHA Centre through Oxfam's support to the ASEAN Secretariat developing this new disaster management institution in 2011. She then acted as an observer of the 2013 ASEAN-ERAT training course, managing the simulation exercises, before strengthening her involvement by undertaking the role of facilitator during a 2014 ASEAN-ERAT refresher training. It is this training element that forms a large part of Gaynor's passion for the work. "Most of my work with NGOs involved training, so that is what I really enjoy most" she states.

As an ASEAN-ERAT member, Gaynor has experienced one deployment. It was this deployment, however, that influenced significant change in the landscape and format of the ASEAN-ERAT course. The deployment was to her home nation of the Philippines, and the assignment was as an initial responder to the devastating Typhoon Haiyan that struck Tacloban in late 2013. Gaynor's arrival into the affected area was an experience that would stay with her. "Usually, even after a disaster, there are still markets, and people are still going about their lives – but Haiyan was different.

Everything was destroyed. There were no markets, no shops open – no-one cared about your money" she recalls. "When we arrived in Tacloban, our only water was a half-bottle left over from our lunch".

"AT THAT TIME, WE WERE NOT FULLY PREPARED, AND THIS PREPAREDNESS IS A KEY LESSON WE LEARNED FROM HAIYAN." GAYNOR ADMITS. "TRAINING CAN HELP YOU PREPARE TO SOME DEGREE, BUT HAIYAN WAS JUST SO DIFFERENT. THE DEVASTATION WAS SO MASSIVE. ALL ASPECTS OF LOGISTICS WERE EXTREMELY CHALLENGING."

Local knowledge and connections formed key elements of Gaynor's and the other ASEAN-ERAT members' ability to gain access to the disaster zone. Without their local Filipino contacts, gaining vehicles and transportation would have been almost impossible. This stands as one of Gaynor's tips to first responders – "take advantage of local connections and personal contacts".

The lessons learned from the Haiyan response have guided the AHA Centre during its more recent development, and Gaynor played a central role in the development of these lessons and the recommendations that followed. "After my experience in Haiyan, I realised that the ERAT course needed some changes" she recalls. Her input was accommodated when the AHA Centre expands the roles of ASEAN-ERAT, from assessment towards responses, including pre-deployment preparation. Regarding this preparedness, Gaynor's primary tip to responders is to "expect the worse – take a bare minimum of items to survive in trying conditions and always carry a strong sense of purpose."



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN AFFECTED BY AN EARTHQUAKE?

From this month on, The Column will present testimonies and opinions from our readers on disaster-related topics. You can have your say featured in this newsletter by participating in discussions on the AHA Centre's social media accounts. For this edition, we take in some stories from readers who have been affected by earthquakes.



"I experienced an earthquake in 2009 when I was working in my office on the 17th floor. Luckily, our building conducts regular disaster drills, so we know what to do. We did not get panic and calmly exited the building using the emergency stairs. There was a warden who helped by giving instructions and ensured our safety as we evacuated. Lesson learnt: do not panic when there is an earthquake, make sure you know the building's evacuation process, and take cover under the table."

Gadis, Jakarta, Indonesia



"Since Nepal is prone to earthquake, I was exposed to such disaster risks from an early age. I remember encountering three earthquakes and countless aftershocks. The biggest one was of course the earthquake in 2015. I was at a futsal court watching a match, when all of a sudden people started screaming. Then the walls crumbled and we rushed out of the area. This experience changed my perspective about disaster preparedness, and I realised the grave consequences of a large-scale disaster. Nowadays, we pay attention to the simple things, such as the position of mirrors, cupboards, and the like. I have also prepared a grab-bag full of essentials that we can take for immediate evacuation."

Sunjuli, Kathmandu, Nepal



"I studied in Yogyakarta when a big earthquake struck in 2006. Since this incident, I have become more sensitive towards tremors. I have also built a sense of disaster-preparedness whenever I visit new places. For example, I am more aware of the possible risks, and try to map the high areas in my surroundings, so that I know where to evacuate if necessary."

Teresia, Bekasi, Indonesia



"I have encountered earthquakes couple of times. Some of them are really short, so you don't really notice it much. But one was a longer and harder event. Unfortunately, I don't remember the magnitude of the earthquake, but I remember I was in the bathroom. The window of the bathroom started shaking violently, and I realised it was an earthquake and ran outside. Fortunately, I was in a decent condition, but a lot of men were running outside just in towels around their waist. So, I guess there is no way one can tell when to be ready to run. I realised that when an earthquake strikes, the best option is to run outside of the house as soon as possible, and find ground which is open and empty and stay there until the earthquake ends."

Sheetal, Kathmandu, Nepal

ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



THE AHA CENTRE OFFICE

Graha BNPB, 13th Floor
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38
Jakarta - 13120
INDONESIA



www.ahacentre.org



comm@ahacentre.org



AHA Centre



@ahacentre



@ahacentre

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.

Supported by:



Japan-ASEAN Cooperation



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE