



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

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ASEAN-ERAT member observing the landfill fire in Yangon.

HIGHLIGHT

The 23rd ASEAN-ERAT
Mission in Yangon,
Myanmar

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Monthly Disaster Review and
Outlook May 2018

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Team

THE COLUMN 39

THIS ISSUE:
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IN YANGON, MYANMAR



04 | HIGHLIGHT

In response to fires breaking out in Htein Pin Dump Site, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar, the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) was deployed to provide technical support for the Government of Myanmar, and support almost 800,000 citizens affected by the incident.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



HI READERS,

With 2018 almost halfway done, June's edition of The Column brings a range of fresh news and insights to keep you up-to-date with all disaster-related events and activities from within the ASEAN region and beyond. Volume 39, brought to you by the AHA Centre, will keep you reading busily with a variety of content touching on many aspects of our all-important disaster management work.

This month we take a closer look at interesting innovations for family-friendly disaster preparedness activities, as the PREDIKT toolbox – and its skilled design team – are the focus of The Other Side article. In our Partnerships section we highlight the efforts of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, one of the AHA Centre's original and largest supporters for disaster management in the region.

While there were numerous highlights during the last month, Volume 39 provides interesting and relevant insights into the ASEAN-ERAT mission to the fires in Yangon, Myanmar. This challenging response, the 23rd mission by our own ASEAN-ERAT team, forms yet another strong example of the AHA Centre being flexible and responsive in the face of human-induced

disaster. Meanwhile, in our AHA Centre Diary, we learn about the outcomes of some recent activities in which ASEAN emergency management professionals had the opportunity to journey outside of the region – engaging in both the EAS International Disaster Assistance Workshop and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Global Induction Course.

Finally, in our Insight section, we take an in-depth look at an important publication recently released by the AHA Centre, namely the Operationalising One ASEAN One Response book. Such a publication sets the blueprint for the real implementation of this forward-thinking and innovative vision – a feeling that we hope continues to grow within our readers as they enjoy this month's edition.

Sincerely yours,

The Column Editorial Team.



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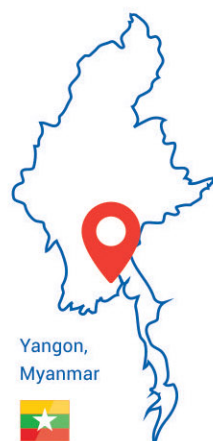
THE 23RD ASEAN-ERAT MISSION IN YANGON, MYANMAR



During the interagency coordination meeting.



ASEAN-ERAT members conducting assessment on ground zero.



In response to fires breaking out in Htein Pin Dump Site, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon, Myanmar, the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) was deployed to provide technical support for the Government of Myanmar, and support almost 800,000 citizens affected by the incident. This mission, taking place between the 28th of April and the 2nd of May 2018, became the 23rd ASEAN-ERAT response since the programme's formation in 2008.

The initial flames sparked on the 21st of April due to excessive heat on piles of non-degradable waste at the dump site located in Western Yangon, with the Government of Myanmar responding quickly to begin overcoming the situation. Anticipating the health risk posed by the resulting smoke, the Public Health Department of Yangon Region quickly launched 24-hour air quality monitoring activities within the vicinity of the dumpsite. Subsequently, on the 25th of April, the regional government released warnings regarding the potential health risk due to smoke from the site. Inter-agency coordination was also activated between the national authorities and surrounding provincial and district authorities.

Given the large coverage of the landfill, as well as the depth of the subsurface embers, taming the fire was extremely challenging – however this was not the only problem. The continuous exposure to smoke and haze was also beginning to cause acute respiratory health problems and disturb livelihoods for citizens living nearby the affected zone. As a result, within two days of receiving the notice for assistance from Myanmar's Department of Disaster Management (DDM), the AHA Centre and its Governing Board immediately activated the ASEAN-ERAT mission on the 27th of April 2018.

The deployed team was assigned specific objectives, namely to support the DDM in assessing the situation, providing recommendations on fire control strategies, and addressing potential environmental and public health issues. Alongside this, the team was also tasked to identify and recommend resources and capacities that could be mobilised from ASEAN Member States, through AHA Centre facilitation. ASEAN-ERAT Team worked closely with DDM, Yangon City Development Council (YCDC), Yangon Fire Service Department, local police, and military to conduct the rapid assessment.

The ASEAN-ERAT's recommendations were classified across short-term, urgent measures to isolate fires, as well as to reduce health risks; a medium-term recovery strategy; and long-term mitigation efforts through improved waste-management systems. Almost all of the short-term recommendations were implemented immediately, with significant positive impact and results witnessed within a week. Overall, the fires were brought under control by early May of 2018. Such outcomes could only be achieved through the collaborative expertise of various parties. This included ASEAN-ERAT personnel on deployment – such as staff of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (who provided technical recommendations on firefighting operations and handling of hazardous materials) and ASEAN Secretariat

staff from the Philippines (an expert in public health management) – alongside staff from Myanmar's DDM with their knowledge of local resources and geography, and the AHA Centre's staff member who served as the In-Country Liaison Team Leader.

Additionally, the Government of Myanmar also welcomed the assistance of the Kingdom of Thailand through bilateral cooperation. The support team consisted of fire fighting specialists and environment specialists from the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Industry. During the mission, the ASEAN-ERAT and team from Thailand closely coordinated to exchange information and validate observations and recommendations. While the ASEAN Community has once again demonstrated its solidarity in responding to non-natural disaster, the incident also draws attention to the advantages of having a variety of skills, background and expertise within the current pool of ASEAN-ERAT. As stated by the AHA Centre's Director of Operations, Arnel Capili, at the end of the deployment,

"Sometimes key support is not about helicopters, ships and massive amounts of relief items. It can also be delivered through sound technical advice to mitigate the consequences of a hazard."

Written by: Shintya Kumiawan | Photo: AHA Centre



PARTNERSHIP



Japan-ASEAN Cooperation

JAPAN-ASEAN INTEGRATION FUND



ASEAN Mobile Storage Unit is utilised as temporary warehouse during flood response in Kelantan, Malaysia, 2015.



DELSA relief items deployed by the AHA Centre after Kelantan flood in Malaysia, 2015.

The Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), officially established in early 2006, is a specific funding mechanism developed by the Government of Japan to support the continuous development of the ASEAN Community. Since its establishment, with contributions totaling over 650 million USD, JAIF has strengthened the relationship between Japan and ASEAN across a range of areas. Guided through the implementation of the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together blueprint, JAIF has funded and supported multiple projects related to disaster management, counter-terrorism, economic integration, youth exchanges and cultural understanding. Based on this shared interest in disaster management, the Government of Japan through JAIF has been an integral partner for the AHA Centre (and by extension disaster management in ASEAN) since the programme's founding years.

659
MILLION
— USD

Total JAIF
contributions
since its
establishment.

This shared interest has been a key platform for a partnership that was forged during the AHA Centre's early days in 2011, with the Japanese Government's support (as one of the ASEAN Dialogue Partners) materialising within the AHA Centre-JAIF partnership functions. Support has not only been in financial form, but also through capacity development and knowledge and skills sharing across a range of programmatic functions. Both parties hold extensive and relevant portfolios in disaster management – a reality which allows for mutual benefit within the partnership context. Due to Japan's close geographic proximity to the ASEAN region, both parties are explicitly intertwined, with much to gain from a close

and strong relationship. The Government of Japan and ASEAN use this context to increase the interoperability and interaction of processes, mechanisms and skills within their respective disaster management sectors. As a result of Japan's deep experience in managing and responding to large-scale natural disaster within its borders, JAIF has allowed the AHA Centre to tap into some of the most extensive knowledge and resources in the world, while allowing Japan's access to regional knowledge and contacts, and the opportunity to further engage with its closest neighbours.



"As a Dialogue Partner, Japan actively cooperates and takes initiatives to strengthen cooperation on disaster management in the ASEAN region. Since its establishment in year 2011, the JAIF Management Team (JMT) has been closely working with the AHA Centre to conceptualise and formulate project proposals and implement significant and successful projects in support of fulfilling the AHA Centre's mandate. For JMT, the collaboration with the AHA Centre only makes JAIF supported projects in disaster management better and more aligned with the needs of the region," said Zin Aung Swe – the Programme Coordinator of JAIF Management Team.

Historically, JAIF has been one of the key support mechanisms for a range of ASEAN disaster management functions – in particular elements such as the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) and the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme – throughout the AHA Centre's first six years of existence. The finance, skills and knowledge provided through these original programmes helped ensure longevity and stability of disaster management resources for the ASEAN region. Due to such success in the implementation of these programmes during the AHA Centre's first six years, trust and support between

the Government of Japan and the AHA Centre has been evidenced through the recent approval of a second phase of the DELSA. Alongside this, JAIF has agreed to continue its outstanding support for the annual AHA Centre Executive Programme, which will continue to prepare future leaders of disaster management in the ASEAN region, as well as fourth phase of the Information and Communications (ICT) project for the AHA Centre. These three abovementioned projects are planned to continue until the year 2020. Meanwhile, the AHA Centre is also implementing the ASEAN-ERAT Transformation Project, being implemented between 25 November 2016 until 2019. Since its establishment in November 2011, the AHA Centre has benefitted from over USD 33 million for a range of projects, with over USD 7 million currently designated to projects in the pipeline, seeing the Government of Japan – through JAIF – forms the largest contributor to the AHA Centre's programmes thus far.

Written by : Will Shea | Photo : AHA Centre

MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

MAY 2018
DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MAY 2018

Hydro-meteorological hazards continued to form a majority of disasters within the ASEAN region during May 2018. Using yearly data comparisons, it is evidenced that the ASEAN region experienced twice as many disasters when compared to the same time period last year. Data for the initial three weeks of the period showed low numbers of recorded disasters. However, numbers increased significantly as Tropical Depression 5 developed and moved across Sulu Sea and into the South China Sea. This situation resulted in flooding, storm surges and strong wind events across Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam. Monsoon season has begun in areas within proximity of the Indian Ocean, which creates increased flood risks for northern Myanmar along the Irrawaddy basin. This is consistent with ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre's (ASMC) observation of the end of the dry season on the 16th of May, marked by an increase in shower activities across the northern part of the ASEAN region.

There were 37 moderate earthquakes with magnitudes of > M .4.0 felt in Indonesia and the Philippines, which were observed at around II to IV MMI. Despite the magnitude of such events, no casualties or damage was reported as a result of earthquakes in both countries. As of the end of May, the alert status for volcanoes in Indonesia are as follows – Warning Alert (Awasi, the highest of 4 levels) for Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra; Watch Alert (Siaga, second highest) for Mount Agung in Bali; and Cautionary Alert (Waspada, a level 3 alert) for 19 other volcanoes across the nation. Despite its Cautionary alert level, Mount Merapi in Central Java, Indonesia, has experienced significant increased activity recorded on the mountain, with phreatic eruptions and release of volcanic ash columns beginning on the 21st of May. Three eruptions at the end of Week 22 (1st of June 2018) forced two airports in Central Java to temporarily shut down their operations as a result of the ash plume.

DISCLAIMER

AHA Centre's 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. Further information on each recorded-significant disaster, description and details of data and information are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>.

OUTLOOK FOR JUNE-JULY 2018

According to the ASMC, wet weather conditions are expected over the northern parts of the ASEAN region for the rest June, with more shower activities forecast as the transition to the Southwest Monsoon is expected to begin during the month. Rainfall can be expected to increase during this time due to the presence of the monsoonal rain band across the north of the ASEAN region. The Southwest Monsoon season typically prevails over the region between June and October, and is associated with the traditional dry season in southern parts of ASEAN contrasting with the wet season in northern parts of the ASEAN region.

In stark contrast to the northern ASEAN region, extended periods of dry weather can be expected during June and July in the southern reaches of ASEAN. This may lead to an escalation of hotspot activities, with smoke plumes should ignition occur, particularly in parts of Sumatra and Kalimantan. Slightly below-normal to near-normal rainfall may still occur over most parts of the region during this period, with below-normal to slightly below-normal rainfall expected for Java, Nusa Tenggara and Timor Leste during the early part of the Southwest Monsoon season.

As always, you should keep posted on weather updates from your respective Meteorological Services and Disaster Management Organisations for evacuation notices (if any). You can refer to our social media for links to the respective national agencies and organisations for further information.



3 ERUPTIONS OF MOUNT MERAPI

in Central Java Indonesia, forced two airports to temporarily shut down their operations.

REGIONAL TALLY		
	2018	2017
• Total of recorded-significant disasters	43	15
• Number of casualties	14	12
• Number of injured people	2	26
• Number of missing people	0	0
• Number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	1,149	15,907
• Number of affected people	953,921	302,535
• Affected houses (collapsed & damaged)	1,414	8,297

(covering the period of May 2018; Week 18-22)



DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS		
	WHITE BAR MAY 2017	RED BAR MAY 2018
Earthquake	1	-
Flood	10	19
Landslide	-	3
Storm	1	5
Wind	3	10
Volcano	-	6
Total	15	43

Brunei Darussalam	-	1
Cambodia	-	2
Indonesia	10	25
Malaysia	-	3
Myanmar	1	1
The Philippines	-	4
Thailand	3	3
Viet Nam	1	4
Total	15	43

Data sources:
ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre,
United States Geological Survey

STRENGTHENING THE INTEROPERABILITY OF ASEAN-ERAT AND UNDAC

SWITZERLAND, 29 APRIL - 11 MAY 2018

THE ASEAN REGION WAS REPRESENTED BY THREE MEMBERS OF THE REGION DURING THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION (UNDAC) GLOBAL INDUCTION COURSE, HELD IN SWITZERLAND FROM THE 29TH OF APRIL TO THE 11TH OF MAY, 2018. THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE UNDAC TRAINING SERVES TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ASEAN FOR INCREASING COLLECTIVE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION.



Conducting assessment and analysis updates submitted to UNOSOCO

At the completion of the course, numerous key-learning could be identified, especially regarding points of improvement for adoption from UNDAC within ASEAN-ERAT processes. These included, amongst others, the strategic elements of coordination, access to assessment results, and back-end support mechanisms of UNDAC missions. A particular highlight is the strategic element of UNDAC system that forms a link between their assessment results and greater resource mobilisation, as well as public disclosure of such assessment results to increase the transparency of UNDAC and its standing in the wider humanitarian community. Therefore, dissemination of the assessment report produced by ASEAN-ERAT at the completion of each deployment/disaster response is increasingly important. While a response might not necessarily lead to greater resource mobilisation, having a public report will increase the visibility of ASEAN-ERAT, promote the values of ASEAN-ERAT, and potentially fortify the partnerships with global humanitarian partners.

The participants, from Indonesia, Malaysia and Lao PDR, included two members of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), thus their engagement in the UNDAC course formed another opportunity to test the interoperability between international and regional humanitarian mechanisms.

"The purpose of our involvement in the UNDAC course is to ensure quality learning process of UNDAC methodology and approach, increase the number of ASEAN-ERAT members who are also UNDAC-certified, as well as showcasing the quality of ASEAN-ERAT in collaborating together with other humanitarian actors within the UNDAC system," said Dr. Mizan Bisri, the Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Officer of the AHA Centre, and one of the participants in the 2-week course.



All participants and facilitators of the UNDAC Global Induction Course.

Written by : Mizan Bisri | Photo : AHA Centre, United Nations

The training also provided in-depth insights that may be integrated into the development of ASEAN-ERAT Level-2 curriculum, particularly related to rapid assessment, information management, logistics, humanitarian civil-military coordination and early recovery. The UNDAC holds a wide array of experiences designing back-end support with partner organisations, both within and outside of the UN system, particularly focused towards assessment and analysis, and information management aspects. Based on these experiences, within the Southeast Asian context, there are opportunities to enable ASEAN-ERAT members to provide remote support for ongoing missions on the ground.

18 OUT OF 252
ASEAN-ERAT MEMBERS HAD BEEN TRAINED AND QUALIFIED AS UNDAC PERSONNEL

During the UNDAC global induction course, ASEAN-ERAT was highlighted as a key regional partner for responding on the ground, capacity building and inter-operability preparedness. The ongoing participation between both ASEAN-ERAT and UNDAC within each other's respective induction courses and exercises was highlighted and praised. UNDAC members also evidenced awareness that, in the case of disasters in ASEAN region, there is a great likelihood that a Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA) would run in parallel to the Onsite Operations and Coordination Centre (OSOCC). Both centres would serve as coordinating platforms and provide support to the affected countries to manage incoming assistance. The existence of a Standard Operating Procedure between the OCHA/UNDAC and AHA Centre/ASEAN-ERAT, tailored to the respective UNDAC and ASEAN-ERAT mission cycles, was highlighted as a good institutional approach to ensure quality response for supporting the needs of the affected population. Overall, better strategic, tactical and operational linkages between ASEAN and UN agencies are fundamental to the holistic implementation of One ASEAN One Response, both for responding inside and outside the region. As of May 2018, there are 18 out of 252 ASEAN-ERAT members who had been trained and qualified as UNDAC personnel, with plans to continuously increase these numbers, in line with the ASEAN-ERAT Transformation Plan as part of the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020.



Mizan Bisri of the AHA Centre reunites with the UNDAC organiser whom he previously met during emergency responses in Padang and Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



EAS INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP

OFFERS GLIMPSES OF ASEAN'S COLLECTIVE RESPONSE BEYOND THE REGION

PERTH, AUSTRALIA, 8-10 MAY 2018



The AHA Centre will be expected to play a crucial and pivotal role in facilitating ASEAN collective response beyond the Southeast Asian region, in particular to provide disaster assistance to non-ASEAN countries who are participating in East Asia Summit (EAS). This formed a key theme for discussion during the EAS International Disaster Assistance Workshop, held in Perth, Australia, from the 8th to the 10th of May 2018.

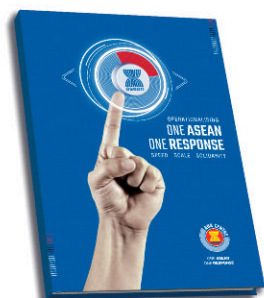
The workshop presented the participants with a scenario in which multiple disaster events strike Australia simultaneously. Despite the calculated low odds of the reality of such events occurring simultaneously, the scenario would severely stretch the existing disaster management system in Australia. Under this scenario, Australia will be forced to call for international assistance.

Participants engaged from different agencies within the Australian Federal Government, Local State Governments, as well as representatives from the ten ASEAN countries and other eight EAS participating countries (i.e. Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, United States and New Zealand) to discuss the potential ramifications of this scenario. Points included Australia's mobilisation of its internal resources and facilitation of international assistance, including the one from ASEAN.

Written by : Dipo Summa | Photo : Emergency Management Australia

The Southeast Asian region continues establish its roles and responsibilities within the global context – including within disaster management. ASEAN Leaders are in the process of repositioning themselves as a region with the capacity to provide disaster-related assistance to other regions in the world if required. This ambition is clearly stated in the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, signed by the ASEAN Leaders in September 2016. Therefore, the EAS workshop stands as a key initial step towards the goal of enabling ASEAN to respond collectively beyond the region. The AHA Centre, as the primary regional coordinating agency in disaster management, welcomed this opportunity to clarify the arrangements that must be in place to enable ASEAN in attaining the shared vision.

The workshop also represents the opportunity to partially test the EAS Disaster Response Toolkit developed by Australia and Indonesia in 2015. The Toolkit contains important information on how individual EAS participating countries may send and receive international assistance, as well as list of national focal points that could be contacted to arrange an offer of assistance. The workshop was co-hosted by Emergency Management Australia, the Government of Western Australia and the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency Authority (BNPB), in close collaboration with the AHA Centre.



BOOK REVIEW

OPERATIONALISING ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

Readers of The Column, and those with general knowledge of disaster management in the ASEAN region, should by now be well acquainted with the One ASEAN One Response vision. This vision forms the blueprint for the current and future state of disaster management in ASEAN, driven by the AHA Centre, and strives to develop timely, appropriate and united responses to disaster across the ASEAN region and abroad. One ASEAN One Response is a broad and complex vision, with such breadth and complexity also reflected within its implementation and realisation. Therefore, in early 2018, the AHA Centre developed a book – **Operationalising One ASEAN One Response – to form the framework and guidance for the real steps that must be taken to ensure the implementation and realisation of One ASEAN One Response for all stakeholders throughout the ASEAN disaster management sector.**

The book begins by tracking back and compiling the context and history of the One ASEAN One Response vision's development, including the birth of the idea after Typhoon Haiyan, its conceptualisation and promotion, and other steps in its journey until its formalisation through the Declaration on One ASEAN One Response – signed by all ASEAN Member States in 2016. Throughout the early chapters of the book we also learn more about a range of elements, processes and key stakeholders within the One ASEAN One Response movement, allowing for a strong understanding of the mechanisms and parties central to the vision's real implementation.

With a sound understanding and picture of the One ASEAN One Response context and history, the book then turns to the all-important operationalisation of the vision, capturing the processes, mechanisms and measurements that guide the realisation of a collective regional response for all members of the

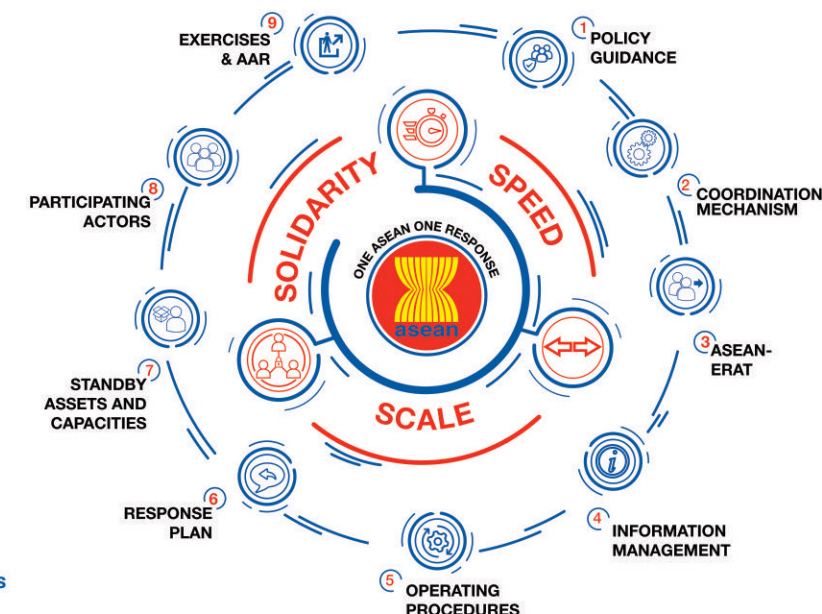
ASEAN community. The overall goal of One ASEAN One Response is the umbrella under which the operationalisation takes place – namely to increase speed of disaster response, provide to-scale resources for preparedness and response, and do so in solidarity as a strong, united ASEAN region with the common objective of responding to the needs of those affected by disaster. With such a goal identified, the book then identifies the seven key principles of One ASEAN One Response, which ensure that ASEAN responds through singular mechanisms including:

1. ONE POLICY FRAMEWORK – AADMER
2. ONE SOP – SASOP
3. ONE RESPONSE PLAN – AJDRP
4. ONE POLICY BODY – ACDM
5. ONE POINT OF CONTACT – NDMOs
6. ONE REGIONAL COORDINATING AGENCY – AHA Centre
7. ONE FIELD COORDINATION CENTRE – JOCCA

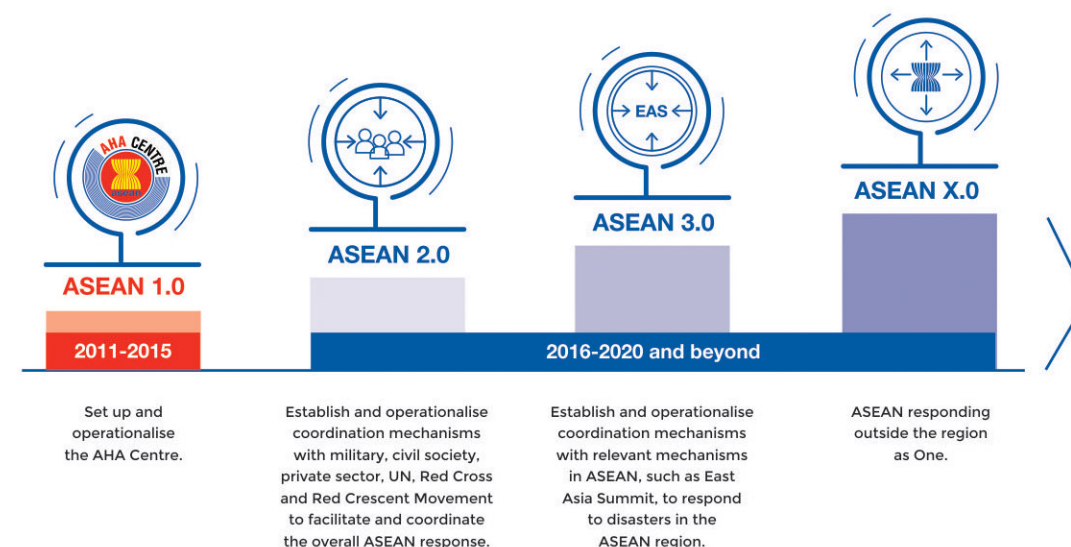
Written by: William Shea | Photo: AHA Centre

The book then moves on to providing answers regarding key elements of One ASEAN One Response operationalisation, covering nine specific elements that form the entire cycle of disaster management in the ASEAN region. These elements are made up of:

1. Policy guidance
2. Coordination mechanism
3. ASEAN-ERAT
4. Information management
5. Operating procedures
6. Response plan
7. Standby assets and capacities
8. Participating actors
9. Exercises and after-action reviews



Finally, the book concludes with an overall roadmap of One ASEAN One Response implementation, including progress indicators that can be used to measure the implementation stages of the vision. Overall, the implementation has four key phases – namely ASEAN 1.0, ASEAN 2.0, ASEAN 3.0 and ASEAN X.0. As highlighted within this roadmap, at time of printing the One ASEAN One Response has already reached, and is working its way through ASEAN 2.0. As the implementation continues, ASEAN 3.0 should see the region able to successfully engage East Asia Summit participating countries within all aspects of response mobilisation, and further into the future, ASEAN X.0 would see ASEAN capable of engaging in responses outside of the ASEAN region itself.





PREDIKT TEAM



Disaster awareness and preparedness forms a key element within overall disaster management efforts, supporting significant decreases in severity of disaster impact on affected communities. While there is a vast array of science and knowledge behind awareness and preparedness, there remain many challenges in communicating such knowledge to a vast and diverse communities across the ASEAN region. Developing engaging, child and family-friendly tools for communicating disaster awareness and promoting preparedness is the defining element behind the creation of PREDIKT – the Preparedness for Disaster Toolkit – a unique and innovative toolkit designed by a group of young Indonesian change-makers. One of PREDIKT's designers, Avianto "Anto" Amri, spoke to The Column about this innovative and interesting project.



The idea for PREDIKT came about due to the designer's personal experiences of a lack of family-friendly information and tools for disaster awareness and preparedness in the home – particularly to support parents and their children on learning about disaster preparedness together. As many children are at home when disaster strikes, in-home learning forms a key element of overall disaster preparedness efforts, and empowers children and their families with the knowledge of what must be done should they face a disaster.

Initially, as part of his PhD studies, Anto designed a family disaster preparedness plan in the form of poster guidance cards that allowed children and their parents to learn essential steps for ensuring preparedness within their homes. Based on positive testing results, Anto teamed-up with Tasril "Iriel" Mulyadi (designer) and Wahyu "Billie" Minarto (child safety expert), to further develop and then submit

the toolkit to a Flood Resilience Innovation competition organised by the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Zurich Insurance – a competition in which their innovation took out first place. This was followed by the team proposing for, and being awarded a grant for the toolkit through the United States Government-sponsored Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Seeds for the Future programme, and with the addition of another team member – Meliza "Liza" Rafdiana – PREDIKT hit the ground running.

PREDIKT itself is formed by a set of board games and physical learning materials that form a fun and hands-on way for children and their parents to learn about disaster preparedness at home. As the ASEAN region continues to modernise, many such tools have moved to online and electronic platforms – yet PREDIKT chose to focus on a more traditional, physical style. As stated by Anto, online platforms still face significant limitations within a rapidly developing ASEAN community.



During launching with the guest speakers



"We wanted to create something offline because we know that there are still many places in Indonesia as well as in many ASEAN countries that do not have access to internet or even electricity."
– Anto explains.

Here-in lies the inclusiveness and accessibility of the PREDIKT format. The team also aims to facilitate a fun and interactive atmosphere for the entire family, allowing children to engage with their parents and ask questions related to disaster preparedness.

The toolkit bases itself on five key elements, all of which add-up to form the reason for its attractiveness and functionality. PREDIKT has been developed to be easy to understand, using child-friendly wording and visual elements, and also aims to motivate children to discuss preparedness with their family. The toolkit always aims to remain affordable, alongside its offline status to ensure access for any family regardless of their situation. Finally, PREDIKT aims to be expandable, allowing it to be further developed to encompass a range of other relevant elements related to disaster hazards and preparedness functions. This expansion forms a key facet of PREDIKT's plans for the near future. Currently focusing on 5 specific disaster hazards, the team is in the process of expanding the toolkit to cover a wider range of disaster content. Alongside this, they are also working

institutions to increase the toolkit's inclusivity – with particular focus to children with visual impairments or other disabilities. Not disregarding the importance of online presence, PREDIKT also plans to focus towards building and strengthening their website as an online hub for child-friendly disaster preparedness information sharing.

As for the response, so far PREDIKT has received great praise – particularly from users themselves. "We continue to be amazed with the reactions of parents who have played PREDIKT", says Anto. He recalls a mother who was particularly excited by the toolkit's ability to allow her children to learn as they play. "She was excited that finally her children would take their eyes off their gadgets to engage with her in learning and games". "It's like taking a course on disaster preparedness, minus all the boring parts" says Anto as he quotes another response from a happy mother. The variety of positive responses continue to display the value in the engagement of children, as well as their desire to ask questions and learn more. These responses evidence the importance and aims of PREDIKT itself, as concluded by Anto when he stated that "PREDIKT really does fill the gap for children to learn, together with their parents, about disaster preparedness in a fun and interactive way".

Written by : Shintya Kurniawan | Photo : AHA Centre, PREDIKT

ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



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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.