



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.42 | SEPTEMBER 2018

BNPB provides shelters for the displaced people in Tanjung, North Lombok, Indonesia

## HIGHLIGHT

One ASEAN  
One Response  
for Lombok

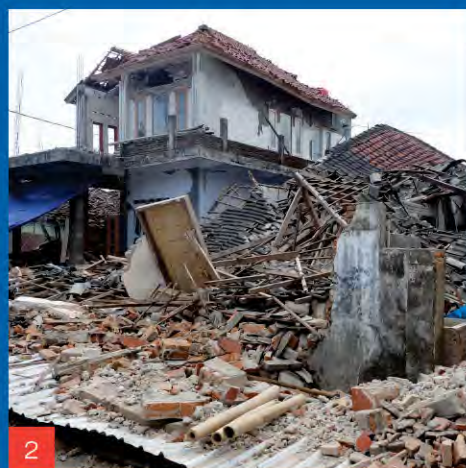
## MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook  
for July and August 2018

## THE OTHER SIDE

Mr. Harlan V. Hale





## 02 | HIGHLIGHT

During August 2018, the AHA Centre once again evidenced ASEAN's solidarity for disaster-affected population in the Southeast Asian region, this time supporting communities in the well-known tourist destination of Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

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ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



### HI READERS,

Welcome to the AHA Centre's September 2018 edition of The Column. While we continue with one of our busiest periods to date, this month we have jam-packed our pages in order to try and get you up-to-date with all the disaster management happenings across the ASEAN region – alongside a little extra that didn't quite make last month's edition. Volume 42's Monthly Disaster Outlook will give us an overview of all the disaster activity across ASEAN from both July and August 2018, of which there has been plenty.

September's Highlight takes a look back at the AHA Centre's response to the multiple earthquakes on the island of Lombok, Indonesia, as the island begins to rebuild following numerous weeks of strong magnitude quakes. In our Insight article, we take a closer look at volcanoes, their science, impact, and the range of related disasters that can be experienced as a result of volcanic activity.

The AHA Centre Diary this month looks at three activities the team has engaged with outside of responses, including the implementation of the

ASEAN-ERAT Advanced Course on Information Management, the meeting of the DELSA II Project Steering Committee, and the commencement of this year's AHA Centre Executive (ACE) programme, which aims to generate 17 potential leaders for ASEAN in disaster management. In the Other Side interview, we speak with Mr. Harlan Hale, a Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor for USAID with over thirty years' experience across the African and Asian continents.

We hope you enjoy catching up with all that's been happening disaster management-wise across the ASEAN region, and gain further insight into our work from the range of information and stories found within Volume 42's pages.

Sincerely yours,

**The Column Editorial Team.**



EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Adelina Kamal

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# ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE FOR LOMBOK



Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara,  
Indonesia

**154,438** USD

total value of relief items  
distributed to Lombok  
along with information  
management, information  
dissemination and the  
deployment of ASEAN-ERAT.

During August 2018 the AHA Centre once again evidenced ASEAN's solidarity for disaster-affected population in the Southeast Asian region, this time supporting communities in the well-known tourist destination of Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. The area was recently the epicentre of multiple earthquakes, with the initial major quake recorded at M 6.4 on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. A week later, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, a larger M 7 earthquake hit the already-affected area, increasing numbers of casualties and causing greater damage to buildings and livelihoods within the Lombok region. The main shock also triggered a tsunami warning, which thankfully did not result in an actual tsunami event. However, throughout the month of August, over 1000 aftershocks were recorded by the Meteorological, Climatology, and Geological Agency of Indonesia (BMKG), with the region still remaining vulnerable to quakes during the ongoing recovery phase.

Following the main earthquake on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, the AHA Centre intensified its cooperation with Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), which had been ongoing since the initial quake in late July. Upon receiving notification of the second earthquake, the AHA Centre immediately deployed a staff member to the field, provided information management and translation support for BNPB, as well as facilitated the deployment of an ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) to the affected region. A little later, the AHA Centre obtained a green-light to mobilise relief items from the ASEAN emergency stockpile in Subang, Malaysia. These relief items - worth approximately USD \$154,438 - were picked-up by the BNPB using a chartered flight, arriving in Praya Airport, Lombok, in three batches between early to mid-August.



H.E Willem Rampangilei  
and Ms. Adelina Kamal  
inspect ASEAN relief  
items stored in the Mobile  
Storage Unit.

## ASEAN RELIEF ITEMS FOR LOMBOK

**350** Family tents  
**800** Personal hygiene kits  
**1** Mobile Storage Unit  
**300** Family kits

On a similar note, the Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal, stated that "the ASEAN relief items belong to all ASEAN countries, including Indonesia. When a disaster occurs and relief items are required, ASEAN Member State can access the regional stockpile, and the AHA Centre will facilitate its mobilisation to the affected areas. We would like to show our appreciation to the BNPB for the confidence given to the AHA Centre in complementing the government's life-saving efforts on the ground. Our partnership strengthens the vision embodied in the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response".

All ten ASEAN Member States have recognised the AHA Centre as the primary regional disaster management coordinating agency in ASEAN. Indonesia has been actively involved in the establishment of the AHA Centre, and has been hosting the AHA Centre since it first opened in November 2011. The mission to Lombok is the AHA Centre's fifth response this year, bringing the total responses to 23 emergencies in 7 ASEAN countries since the AHA Centre's establishment.

Written by Shintya Kumiawan | Photo : AHA Centre

For Lombok, earthquake events are not particularly new, with notable earthquakes recorded in the region from as early as the year 1856. Consolidated data from the United States Geological Survey and the Indonesian Meteorological and Climatology Agency (BMKG) also noted that major earthquakes above M 6 occurred on the island in 1970, 1972, 1978, 1979, and 2000. Based on the latest National Disaster Risk Index - published by BNPB in 2016 - Lombok is categorised as a medium to high-scale earthquake-prone area. Considering these vulnerabilities and risks, the resettlement areas currently underconstruction will use similar earthquake-resistant technology that has been adopted through the post-earthquake recovery periods in Aceh and Nias, Sumatera, Indonesia.

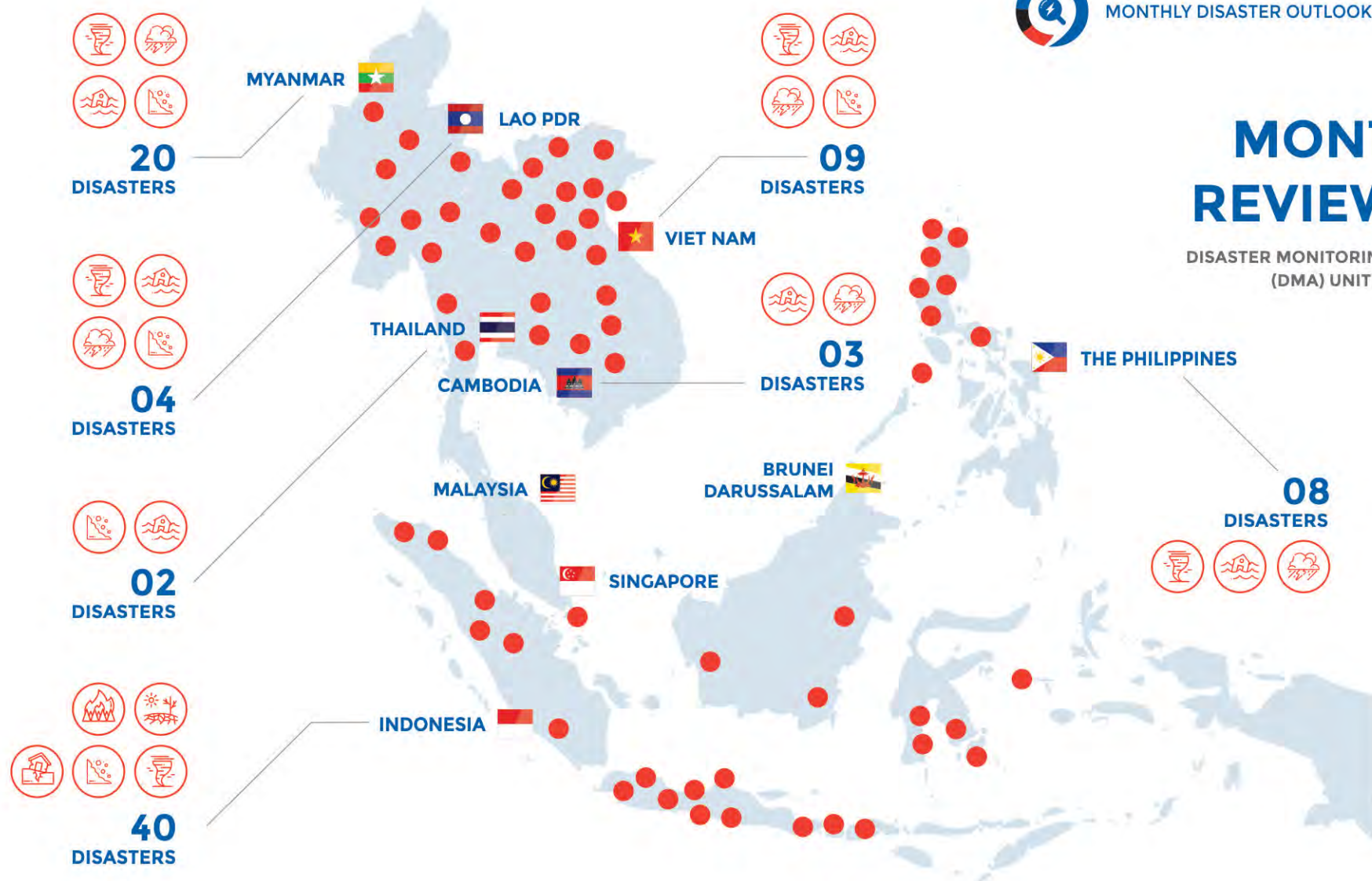
"Indonesia is part of the ASEAN community, and the BNPB has been working closely with the ASEAN coordinating agency for disaster management, or AHA Centre. All Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries have agreed to stand as one, whenever natural disasters happen in neighbouring states. Based on the One ASEAN One Response Declaration, Indonesia trusts the AHA Centre to provide additional logistical support that is required for the emergency response. For example, this Mobile Storage Unit we stand in that can serve as a portable warehouse, and family tents that can provide shelters for the displaced communities", said H.E Willem Rampangilei, the Chief of BNPB, in between the emergency responses in Lombok.

## LOMBOK EARTHQUAKE



- 1 BNPB mentions that over 71,900 houses are damaged in the aftermath of the earthquakes.
- 2 ASEAN-ERAT member works together with BNPB staff during the groundhandling of the 2nd batch of relief items.
- 3 Members of ASEAN-ERAT who were deployed come from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and AHA Centre.
- 4 The AHA-Centre and ASEAN-ERAT always coordinate with the field team of BNPB to consolidate findings and identity needs.
- 5 Mr. Dody Ruswandi, the Executive Secretary of BNPB welcomes ASEAN relief items in Lombok Praya Airport.





REGIONAL TALLY		
	2018	2017
• Total of recorded-significant disasters	86	21
• Number of casualties	104	80
• Number of injured people	46	65
• Number of missing people	62	363
• Number of Internally Displaced People (IDP)	922,204	138,923
• Number of affected population	9,363,836	1,326,017
• Affected houses (collapsed & damaged)	35,790	17,544

(covering the period of July-August 2018 Week 27-35)

# MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT , AHA CENTRE

JULY & AUGUST 2018

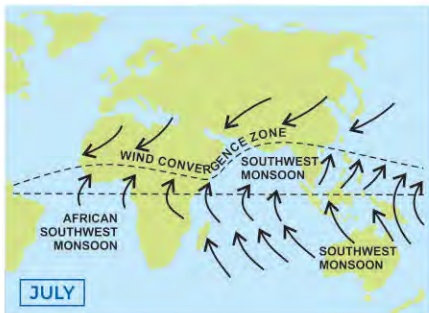
## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF JULY AND AUGUST 2018

A two-week period in July saw the development of 5 tropical storms, one of which had a severe affect on the northern ASEAN region. The Southwest monsoon (refer to figure 1.) brought with it heavy torrential rains, resulting in flooding through the Mekong River region. Hydro-meteorological disasters formed the main hazards during this period, and are expected to persist with continued rain over the northern ASEAN region, coupled with drier conditions in southern part of ASEAN.

In contrast to the situation in the northern ASEAN region, droughts in 16 municipalities have been reported across seven consecutive weeks thus far, with one reported wildfire occurrence in the past month. The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre detected hotspots in Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sumatra during July. General conditions for August remained similar to July, with high rainfall experienced over the northern region, impacting countries in the Mekong region and northern parts of the Philippines.

Throughout the last 2 months, large numbers of earthquakes were recorded and experienced by ASEAN communities. The increased seismic activity is not only restricted to the region,with the phenomenon also seen globally. A total of 232 earthquakes were recorded internationally between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of August along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and its adjacent tectonic plates. Of these recorded earthquakes, 37 (15.9%) were recorded at a scale of M 5.0 or above, with 25 (67.6%) of these major earthquakes (≥M 5.0) occurring within a span of 48 hours between August 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. Of these 232 earthquakes, 32 (13.8%) were reported within the ASEAN region. Of the 32 recorded in the region, 11 (34.4%) were reported to be M 5.0 and above. The increasing seismic activity is currently being observed by seismological agencies in anticipation of increased volcanic activity, earthquakes, tsunamis and other related hazards. Nevertheless, in July and August 2018, activity of volcanoes in Philippines and Indonesia stayed within their normal threshold, with no changes in any of their alert levels

Figure 1.



## DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

Drought	-	16	Cambodia	1	3
Earthquake	2	2	Indonesia	5	40
Flood	12	36	Lao PDR	3	4
Landslide	1	11	Malaysia	1	-
Storm	5	12	Myanmar	1	20
Wind	1	7	The Philippines	3	8
Volcano	-	-	Singapore	-	-
Wildfire	-	2	Thailand	3	2
Total	21	86	Viet Nam	4	9
	WHITE BAR   2017	RED BAR   2018	Total	21	86

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

**232**  
EARTHQUAKES  
were recorded internationally between the 20th and 26th of August along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and its adjacent tectonic plates.

## OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST-OCTOBER 2018

Warmer than average conditions can be expected over the equatorial ASEAN region, especially in Borneo and south-eastern Sumatra, while near-average or slightly above-average temperatures are forecasted over most other areas during the August-October season.

For the equatorial ASEAN region, below-average rainfall is forecasted between August and October. The drier-than-usual weather could lead to an escalation in hotspot activities and an increased risk of transboundary smoke haze.

Near-average rainfall is forecasted for the rest of the region, including the northern ASEAN region. Hotspot activities in the northern ASEAN region are likely to remain subdued due to wet weather. The outlook is assessed for the region in general. For specific updates on the national scale, the relevant National Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as Geological Services should be consulted.

## 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. For each recorded-significant disaster, description and details of data and information are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>.



## TYPES OF NATURAL DISASTER

# GEOPHYSICAL (VOLCANO)

Situated on the Ring of Fire, the ASEAN region faces one of the greatest threats of natural disaster due to geophysical activity along this unstable belt of tectonic plates. One of the key disaster threats categorised into the geophysical type are volcanoes, as well as a range of related disasters that can occur as the result of volcanic activity. During 2018 ASEAN has experienced a range of geophysical events that have triggered disasters. Therefore, understanding the varieties and impacts of such occurrences is highly important for disaster management across the region.

The AHA Centre closely monitors the ongoing dynamic conditions of 150 volcanoes in the ASEAN region that are active and have a recent historical record of eruptions. 127 of these volcanoes are located in Indonesia, with 23 in the Philippines, while volcanoes found in other areas of the region are currently dormant. Volcanoes in other ASEAN countries are in dormant condition, such as those in Viet Nam with its last eruptions dated back in the early Holocene era or underwater volcanoes in Andaman Sea between Thailand and Myanmar. Most recently in late 2017 to early 2018, monitoring, preparedness, and pre-emptive evacuations were undertaken by respective local and national agencies due to increased activities on Mount Agung (Bali, Indonesia) and Mount Mayon (Albay, the Philippines). However no lives were lost due to this increased activity. As of September 2018, only Mount Sinabung (North Sumatra, Indonesia) remains at Alert Level IV (out of the maximum 4 alert levels) – which means it may experience major eruptions at any point – with the level IV status ongoing throughout the past five years. Mount Agung remains at Alert Level III, while all other volcanoes in Indonesia and the Philippines are currently at Alert Level II (localised activity with no serious eruption risk).

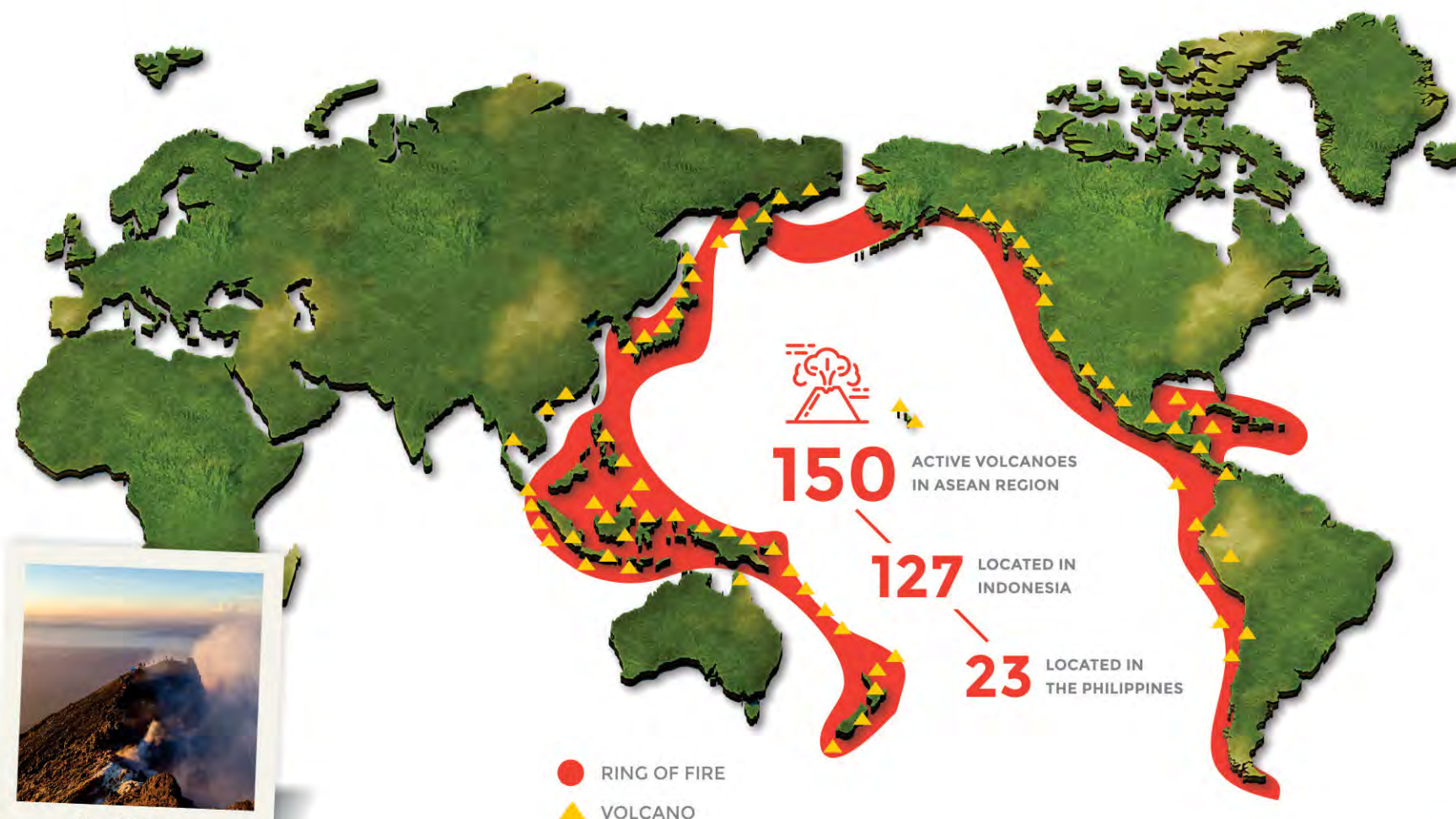
## ABOUT VOLCANOES

A volcano is an opening in the Earth's crust that allows molten rock, gases and debris to escape to the surface, often exploding through the surface with severe strength and impact on nearby geography. Volcano eruptions are categorised into geophysical hazards that occur when magma (molten rock) is released from a volcanic vent, with eruptions classified into a range of different types including phreatic, phreatomagmatic, surtseyan and effusive (lava-bearing) eruptions.

Written by: William Shea



Merapi Volcano,  
Central Java, Indonesia



## RELATED HAZARDS

Most hazards, phenomena and disasters associated with volcanic eruptions affect areas close to the volcano itself. Of high importance is the realisation that volcanic activity may also trigger other natural disaster events, including tsunamis, landscape deformation, floods, and tremor-provoked landslides.

## LINK TO EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes and volcanoes are intrinsically linked, as they result from tectonic plate processes that constantly reshape the earth's surface. Earthquakes form a key clue that a volcano is preparing to erupt, as the movement of magma exerts significant force on the earth above it as it pushes through the crust. This pressure from the rising magma causes many of the earthquakes that occur in volcanically active areas. However, such earthquakes also rarely exceed magnitude 5, and are barely noticeable outside the vicinity of the volcano itself. Such earthquakes do help volcanologists to map and track underground lava flows, with different types of earthquakes often resulting based on the signature of tremors, then used to determine if the volcano is heading towards an eruption. Seismic information such as this is valuable for volcanologists who are monitoring eruption events such as explosions or lahars.





## AHA CENTRE COMMENCES

# ACE PROGRAMME 5<sup>TH</sup> BATCH

The fifth batch of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme formally commenced on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia, with 17 disaster management professionals from the National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States to participate in the four-month course. Upon finishing the course, this new batch of ASEAN disaster management professionals will join the other 62 graduates of the programme, who have been prepared by the AHA Centre and its partners since the course first began in 2014.



H.E. Kazuo Sunaga, the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN presents his welcoming speech

**17** **DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT  
PROFESSIONALS**

from the National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States participate in the four-month course

By joining ACE Programme, participants are provided with the chance to acquire meaningful experience and knowledge on dealing with disaster situations, with such learnings supported by the programme's wide array of diverse courses and trainings. In addition, the participants will also have the chance to undertake comparative studies by visiting disaster-affected areas in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and New Zealand.

"We are all aware of how vulnerable our region is to natural disasters, ranging from cyclone, typhoon, earthquake, landslide, and drought. Knowing this, the ACE Programme is very useful for preparing our future leaders in the field of disaster management, and in promoting a culture of resilience and care for the environment", said H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, the ASEAN Secretary-General.

The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, the Secretary-General of ASEAN; H.E. Kazuo Sunaga, the Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN; H.E. Pam Dunn, the Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN; H.E. Jane Duke, the Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN; Mr. Dicky Fabrian of National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia (BNPB); other partners of the AHA Centre and representatives of ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

The ACE Programme is an intensive course that is specifically designed to address the needs for a comprehensive and collaborative disaster

Written by: Valerie Baynon / Photo: AHA Centre



17 participants from 9 ASEAN Member States pose together with the high level officials during the ceremony

management strategy in Southeast Asia. The live-in concept of the course enables participants to build strong operational ties and emotional bonds, which can be useful for coordination amongst NDMOs of ASEAN Member States at a later time. The programme will also strengthen the operationalisation of One ASEAN One Response commitment through building capacities of the participants in the area of disaster management and humanitarian assistance operations.



**"When a disaster strikes, we know that we can always rely on the ACE Programme graduates when we need them, and they can always rely on us when they need us"**

said Adelina Kamal, the Executive Director of the AHA Centre. "Many of the ACE Programme graduates have now represented their countries in ASEAN meetings; some even have confidently given their views and their directions to the AHA Centre in those meetings" she continued.



The Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi greets H.E. Jane Duke, the Ambassador of Australia to ASEAN



H.E. Kazuo Sunaga and the Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal, congratulate the participant from Lao PDR for joining the ACE Programme





# ASEAN-ERAT ADVANCED COURSE ON INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

VIENTIANE, 6-10 AUGUST 2018

As part of the transformation plan for the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), during August, the AHA Centre facilitated the first-ever ASEAN-ERAT Advance Course, which aims to prepare a group of information management specialists for disaster responses in the region. The five-day course was conducted in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in partnership with MapAction, engaging ten ASEAN-ERAT personnel from seven Member States as the first batch of graduates from this new course.



Practice makes perfect. The participants filter and visualise various datasets during the course.

During the course implementation, Lao PDR – the host of the event – remained in the middle of an emergency response, following Tropical Storm 11 and the resulting dam collapse in Attapeu Province. Therefore, during the opening ceremony, Mr. Prasong Vongkhamchanh, the Director-General of Social Welfare Department and Head of Lao PDR's National Disaster Management Organisation, encouraged all participants to utilise real data and create outputs that may be useful for the actual emergency operations taking place in the country. Meanwhile, Ms. Adelina Kamal, the Executive Director of AHA Centre, emphasised that alongside physical relief items, information also forms a key support mechanism at times of emergency.

Written by: Shinyakurianiwan | Photo: AHA Centre

In order to qualify as participants, active ERAT members were encouraged to send a motivation letter, registration form, and follow a recruitment procedure which includes a one-on-one interview with the selection committee. The course combines both theoretical components and practical exercises to sharpen the participants' skills in disaster mapping, data analysis, and data visualisation. At the end of the course, the final products were presented to the facilitators, with a chosen product to be published and disseminated by the AHA Centre as an official situation update on the Myanmar flooding.

"The ASEAN-ERAT Pilot Advance Course on Information Management enhanced my capabilities in fulfilling the tasks and responsibilities of an Information Manager during disaster responses", said participant Lawrence Anthony Dimailig from the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines. In addition to the Information Management course, the AHA Centre has also developed curricula for two other advance courses on Rapid Assessment and Humanitarian Logistics. The Rapid Assessment course was undertaken in Bangkok, Thailand, in late August, and the Humanitarian Logistics course is scheduled to take place in Subang, Malaysia in late September 2018. All three courses are supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, and the results will be evaluated to refine the conduct of the future of ASEAN-ERAT advance courses.

THE  
5  
DAY

COURSE WAS  
CONDUCTED  
IN VIENTIANE,  
LAO PDR

# DELSA II PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES,  
24TH AUGUST 2018

Entering its second phase of implementation, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) Phase II project continues to contribute to the implementation of One ASEAN One Response, specifically in the area of stockpile deployment to disaster-affected countries. As the leading mechanism in the Phase II project, the DELSA Phase II Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August in the OCD-NDRRMC Office, Camp Aguinaldo, the Philippines.



Signing ceremony of the MoU between AHA Centre and OCD-NDRRMC Philippines for the establishment of the satellite warehouse

Written by: Caroline Widagdo | Photo: AHA Centre

As reported in the meeting, during 2018 the DELSA Phase II project has contributed to stockpile deployment and local procurement in response to the floods in Lao PDR, floods in Myanmar, and the earthquakes in Indonesia, providing relief items to a total value of USD 426,867. The remaining ASEAN stockpile, which is stored in the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia, consists of 45 types of relief items amounting to the total value of USD 1,777,460.

This meeting also formed an opportunity for the DELSA Project Management Team to report the progress of the establishment of the satellite warehouses in the

Philippines and Thailand. The satellite warehouse in the Philippines utilises a building owned by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo, which after some renovations, will be ready to house the satellite warehouse.

Meanwhile, the satellite warehouse in Thailand is planned to be fully operationalised by the first quarter of 2019, with a scheduled official launching during the ASEAN Summit in April 2019, coinciding with the induction of the Thailand Chairmanship of ASEAN.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the satellite warehouse in the Philippines was also signed during the meeting by Ms. Adelina Kamal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre, and Under Secretary Ricardo B. Jalad, Executive Director of NDRRMC and Administrator of the OCD Philippines. This MoU marks the strengthening of cooperation and commitment between the AHA Centre and OCD Philippines to support the readiness of ASEAN in responding to disasters. The meeting also resulted in other significant guidance and decisions on key resources, criteria and partnerships to support the network of the DELSA warehouses. A key study on stockpile identification was agreed, with results to act as a baseline that will serve as a reference for minimum types and quantity of stockpiles to be stored across all three DELSA warehouses, as well as specific stockpiles unique to each warehouse.

The DELSA Phase II PSC Meeting was attended by the AHA Centre, ASEAN Secretariat, representatives from Singapore and Malaysia as the Co-Chairs of the ACDM Working Group on Preparedness and Response, representatives from the Mission of Japan to ASEAN and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) Management Team as the donor, and representatives from the Philippines and Thailand as the host countries of satellite warehouses.





# MR. HARLAN V. HALE

Mr. Harlan Hale, the Regional Advisor for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction for USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, is one of the world's most experienced and renowned humanitarian logistics and disaster risk reduction experts. Spending over thirty years working on the ground with both natural disasters and human induced conflicts has equipped him with the vast array of knowledge required to advise his many colleagues in the USAID and other U.S. Government Agencies. His working experiences include many natural disasters and conflicts across the world, including the Kosovo conflict in Eastern Europe, Rwandan conflict in Africa and the Padang earthquake in Indonesia just to name a few.



Starting out over thirty years ago as a volunteer with the US Peace Corps, Mr. Hale learned quickly the importance of logistics and transportation for people's livelihoods. He experienced the reality of limited transportation in

Central Africa, resulting in adverse impacts on prices of goods, access to vaccination and health services, and low levels of trade between cities. Through this, he concluded that if he could choose to change one thing to cause a large-scale impact, it would be the enhancement of transportation and logistics in the region.

After some time working in transportation and logistics, Mr. Hale saw the impact that natural disaster was having on his work and the communities around him, and felt some of such disasters and their affects could be avoided or at least mitigated. Considering this, he raises the analogy of a young fire-fighter who "will focus on extinguishing the fire again and again. However, as time goes by, he may start to ask, 'why did the building

catch fire in the first place?" These experiences saw Mr. Hale's work begin transitioning into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Such realisations and experiences, through his long journey of different nations and regions, now sees him working as a Regional Advisor for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction for the USAID office based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr. Hale sees his current role as being aimed at enabling other people to do things. He advises US missions, embassies, USAID in the region, the office in Washington, UN agency partners, implementing NGOs and "practically anybody who asks," he says. When a disaster strikes, Mr. Hale and his team will assess the situation, then advise whether US assistance is required and welcomed. Mr. Hale prioritises practical and technical support, preferring on-the-ground field work in order to support the needs of the affected population. He identifies the importance of finding gaps and determining how such gaps can be filled. Alongside this, Mr. Hale highlights the importance of investigating alternative methods of support such as cash-based assistance, which he



USAID representative is pictured here in Tacloban where emergency supplies are being prepared for distribution to families affected by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.



Children in eastern Yangon, Myanmar, are enjoying purified drinking water - provided by USAID.

feels provides more flexibility and opportunity to help communities to define and fulfil their own specific needs after a disaster strikes. Such ideas and opportunities are an area that he constantly addresses during his consulting work.

His move from Africa to Asia formed a major challenge and transition for Mr. Hale, with one of the largest and influential factors on his new role formed by the enormity of Asia's population. "With this level of population density, no matter what takes place, the scale and impact will be huge" he says. "In Africa, the population was smaller, and there were a lot of open spaces." "In our region things are more complex" Mr. Hale continues. "The people are much more diverse and with different needs."

For Southeast Asia itself, as one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, Mr. Hale sees an increasing awareness towards disaster risk reduction, particularly within the region's governments. He highlights the positives of ASEAN's economic growth, while also remaining wary that such growth increases the threat of having 'more to lose'. "Buildings, facilities, transportation, and many other things can be destroyed in a natural disaster" he reminds us. "People should start investing more in DRR to prevent huge economic losses." DRR activities can help communities become more self-reliant by giving them the tools and training to better withstand the impacts of disasters. Within this Mr. Hale highlights the importance of DRR being undertaken not only at government level, but importantly on an individual level as well.

Teamwork forms one of Mr. Hale's key aspects when identifying impact within disaster response efforts. Strong teamwork, with strong team members, is much more likely to have positive results than individuals 'trying to save the world'. Strong teams can also result in more positive experiences for a team's members, as Mr. Hale has witnessed the support and influence that strong teams can have on decreasing stress and sharing the array of challenges that arise during responses. He also highlights the important role of women within responses across all levels, and the need to continue the drive for more gender balance and women's empowerment within the disaster management field.

Through his time in the ASEAN region, Mr. Hale has also recognised the importance in the cooperation between NDMOs of ASEAN nations and their work through the AHA Centre as a significant step forward for disaster management in the region. The commitment and engagement of each NDMO shows a desire to learn from one another and from outside, which he believes will surely result in increased capacity throughout ASEAN disaster management practices. He also highlighted the importance of unity within ASEAN, especially the idea of support being provided by the region when one of its nations is affected by disaster. He says that ASEAN nations are like neighbours, or even families, and that families always help each other out, with the ASEAN region representing one giant family overall.

Written by: Christella Feni, William Shea | Photo: USAID, AHA Centre



# ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



## THE AHA CENTRE OFFICE

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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.