



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.63 | JULY 2020



Loading of mobile storage unit & hygiene kits from DELSA satellite warehouse in Camp Aguinaldo, to support COVID-19 response in the Philippines

## HIGHLIGHT

Reflection from the AHA Centre  
Mid-Term Review:  
Adjusting to the New Normal

## MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

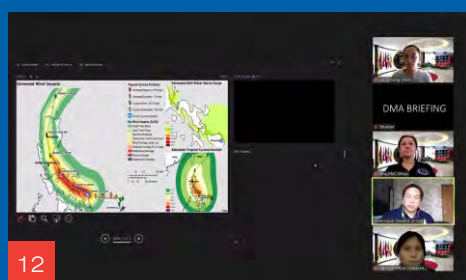
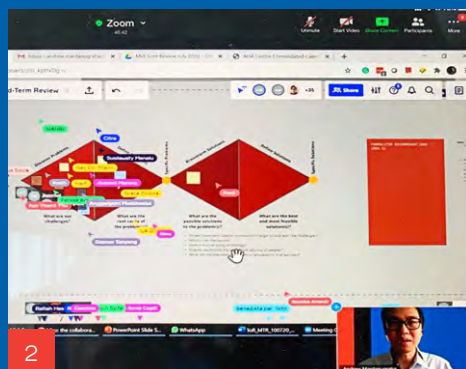
Monthly Disaster  
Review and Outlook for  
July 2020

## THE OTHER SIDE

DELSA Camp Aguinaldo  
Anniversary –  
First Year Success

# THE COLUMN 63

THIS ISSUE:  
REFLECTION FROM THE AHA CENTRE  
MID-TERM REVIEW:  
ADJUSTING TO THE NEW NORMAL



## 02 | HIGHLIGHT

The AHA Centre has been implementing working from home arrangements since March 2020, in order to ensure the safety and well-being of its staff during the global pandemic. Adapting to these new working arrangements has been challenging, especially due to the collaborative nature of the AHA Centre's work.

## 05 | MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

## 08 | INSIGHT

## 10 | PARTNERSHIP

## 12 | AHA CENTRE DIARY

## 14 | THE OTHER SIDE

### AHA CENTRE

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management

GO

# PAPERLESS

visit

[thecolumn.ahacentre.org](http://thecolumn.ahacentre.org)



## EDITOR'S NOTE



Hi Readers,

Welcome to Volume 63 of the AHA Centre's Column, as we bring you updates and news from the ASEAN disaster management sector. The Highlight article for this month covers an interesting reflection on the AHA Centre's Mid-Term Review, that was undertaken completely online due to the current pandemic situation. Keeping the online event theme moving, our AHA Diary article also covers another virtual activity, with staff engaging in an online Emergency Response Operation exercise.

Our Insight article has a closer look at potential coastal hazards in the ASEAN region, while the Partnership section this volume goes inside the operations of Indonesia's Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Centre (MDMC). Finally, the Other Side moves away from individual players in ASEAN disaster management, and provides us with an update on the role of the DELSA satellite warehouse in the Philippines, one year after its initial establishment.

Stay safe and healthy from all of us here at the AHA Centre.

The Editor



EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Adelina Kamal

### THE EDITORIAL TEAM

MANAGING EDITOR  
Ina Rachmawati

JOURNALIST  
Aril Aditjan, Dipo Summa, Ina Rachmawati,  
Keith Paolo Landicho, Lawrence Anthony Dimailig,  
Merry Rismayani, Moch Syifa

EDITOR  
William Shea

CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
Yohan Andreas

GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Fauzi Primassalam

PUBLISHED BY  
The AHA Centre



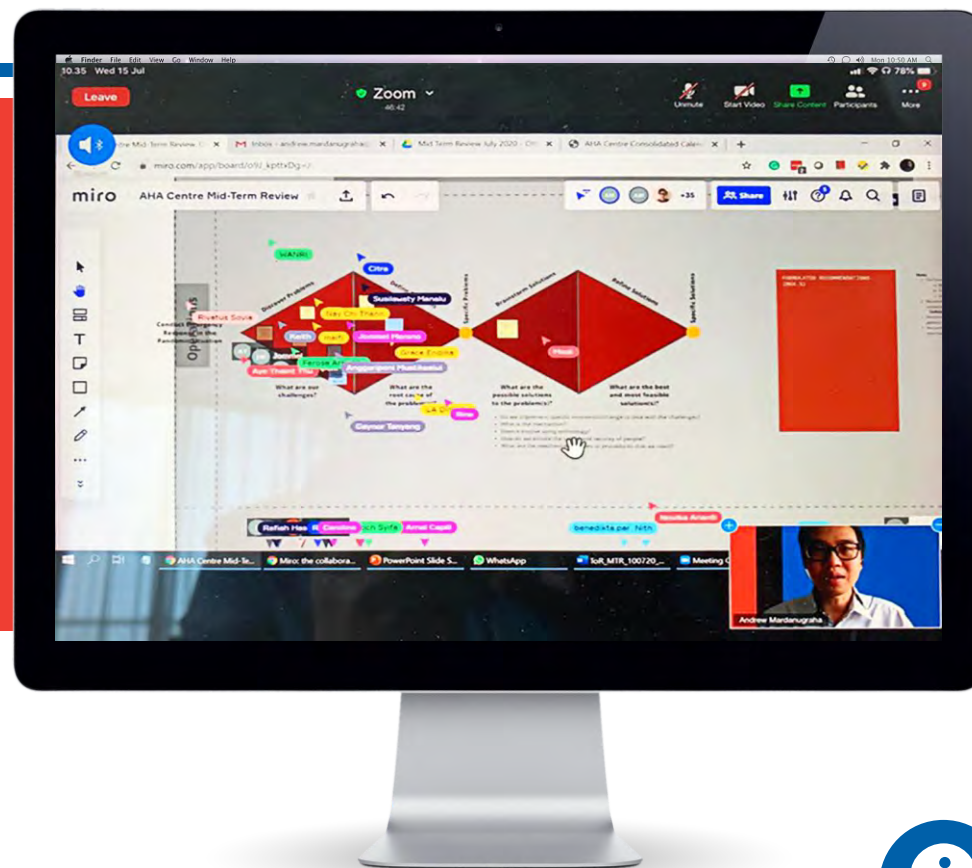
## REFLECTION FROM THE AHA CENTRE MID-TERM REVIEW: ADJUSTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

The AHA Centre has been implementing working from home arrangements since March 2020, in order to ensure the safety and well-being of its staff during the global pandemic. Adapting to these new working arrangements has been challenging, especially due to the collaborative nature of the AHA Centre's work. Facilitating collaboration without having direct physical interaction can be tricky, but the AHA Centre has determined to adapt to this new working environment. As an organisation specialising in disaster management and emergency response, the AHA Centre understands that while contexts such as this bring significant upheaval, they also present opportunities to revise and improve.

During the second week of July 2020 the AHA Centre undertook its Mid-Term Review (MTR) workshop. This is an annual activity in which the AHA Centre seeks to assess the progress made towards achieving planned objectives in comparison to its annual work plan. This year's MTR, however, would be very different from the previous years, as this was the first time that the MTR was conducted fully online.

The event was delivered to 42 participants through numerous sessions across five days. It included briefings on the organisation's work, group sessions to review the work plan for the upcoming term, as well as sessions to provide strategy and direction for programme continuity within the pandemic and 'new normal' contexts. There was no shortage of challenges in implementing this year's MTR, including the logistical challenge to identify the right platform to support collaboration among all AHA Centre staff. In order to facilitate this collaboration, the AHA Centre made use of a number of online collaborative tools including MIRO and Wooclap.

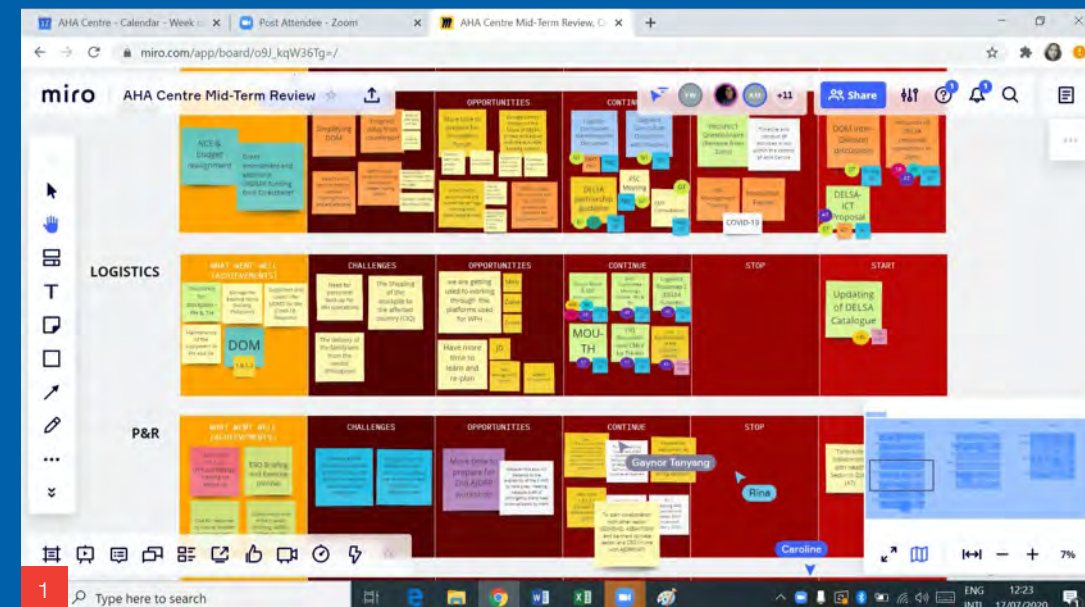
Written by: Merry Rismayani & Dipo Summa | Photo Credit: AHA Centre



As in any other meetings conducted during the pandemic, the AHA Centre made use of numerous platforms to facilitate interaction between staff.

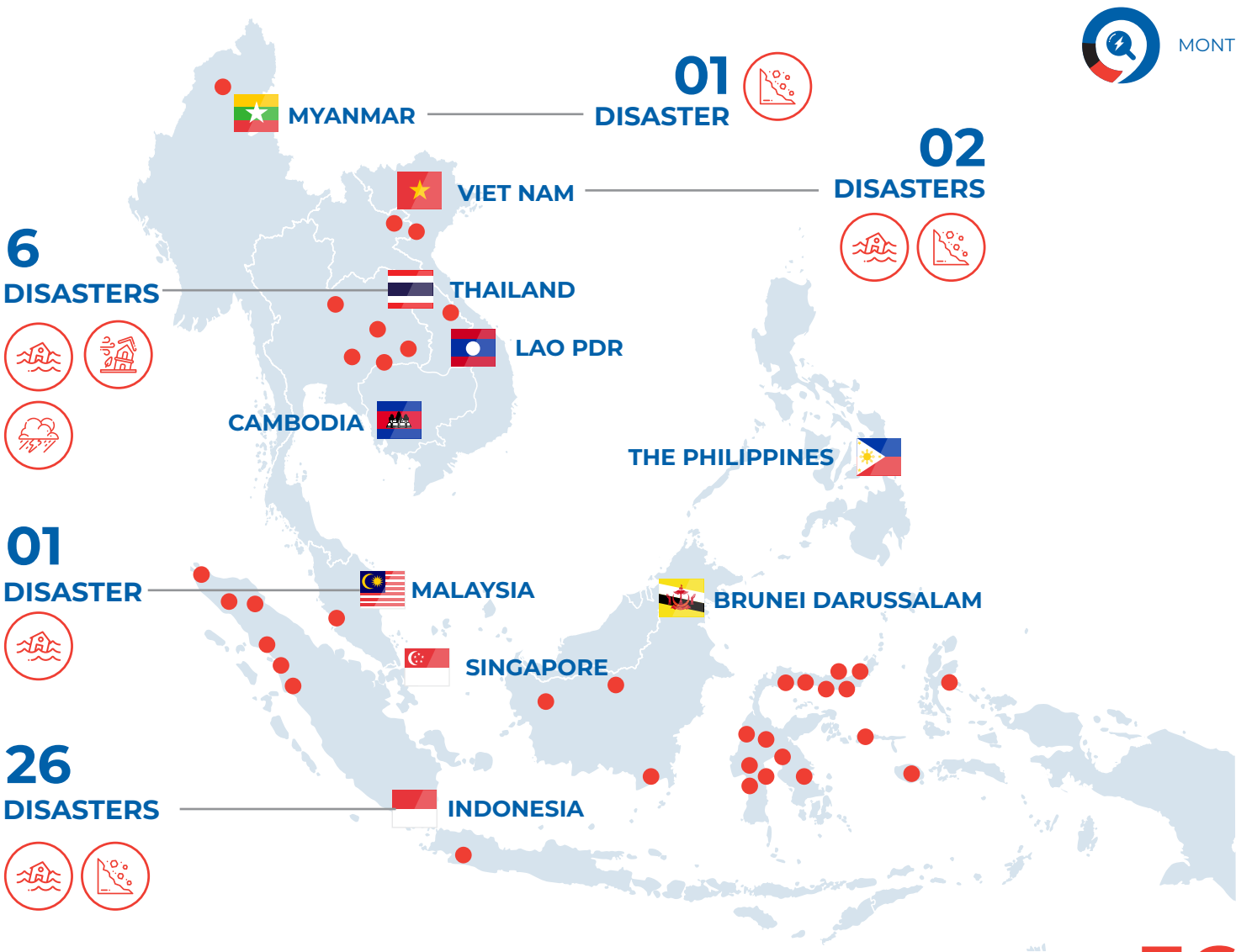
Another key challenge was maintaining staff enthusiasm and spirit for the entire duration of the workshop. The online environment has a number of limitations, in particular limitations on communicating and exchanging ideas and information freely. A lack of non-verbal communication can be tiring, and when people are tired enthusiasm can decline. Therefore, in order to maintain staff energy levels to achieve all workshop objectives, the AHA Centre spread out the event across five days instead of the usual three. The team also explored a number of energising and ice-breaking activities suitable for the online environment, and they proved successful in maintain staff engagement and interest.

By the end of the week the AHA Centre successfully achieved all of the MTR workshop objectives. Beyond this, the activity also gave the team an opportunity to continue adapting to the new normal.



- 1 Miro board application, one of the online collaborative tools used during the MTR to facilitate the break-out sessions.
- 2 The Mid-Term Review workshop is mandatory to all staff of the AHA Centre, because it is the only opportunity where staff can reflect on their work and make necessary adjustment to their work plan.





REGIONAL TALLY		
	JULY 2020	JULY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE
• Number of recorded significant disasters	36	20
• Number of affected people	353,134	1,816,234
• Number of internally displaced people	40,294	246,267
• Number of damaged houses	48,976	8,804
• Number of casualties	48	80
• Number of injured people	110	134
• Number of missing people	67	28

(covering the period of Weeks 23-27 in 2020 and 2015-2019 average)

# MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT , AHA CENTRE JULY 2020

## GENERAL REVIEW OF JULY 2020

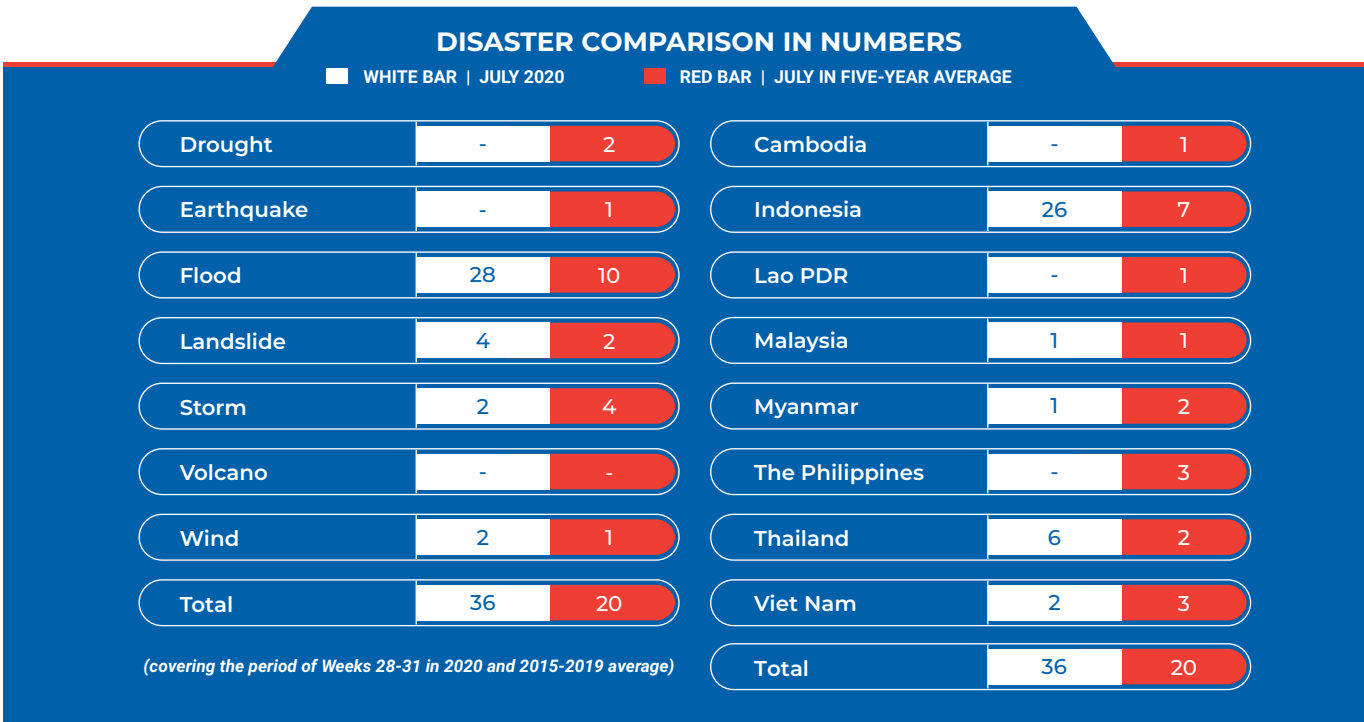
There were 36 recorded disaster events during the month of July 2020, representing almost double the amount averaged across the previous five years. However, the number of affected people was 353,144 persons, significantly lower than the five-year average. The monthly disaster statistics also indicated lower figures in terms of internally displaced people, casualties, and injuries, which could be attributed to increased capacity in disaster management within the ASEAN Member States.

The month of July was characterised by multiple flooding events happening in Viet Nam, Myanmar, and Indonesia. The recorded flooding events were almost triple the amount of the last five years for July. Viet Nam's Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) reported flooding and landslides in Ha Giang and Cao Bang Provinces. On 21 July, Ha Giang City recorded 378mm of rain in 24 hours, while Dao Duc recorded 395mm and Cao Bo (both in Ha Giang Province) 401mm – while usually 180mm or more of rainfall per day is considered heavy. Meanwhile, Myanmar experienced widespread seasonal flooding due to increased rainfall in the upstream region of the Ayeyarwady river during the latter parts of the month. In Indonesia, South Sulawesi experienced multiple flooding events, with the highest impact felt in the region of North Luwu, where flash flooding took place due to heavy rainfall on 12 July. The North Luwu flooding was triggered by high-intensity rain that occurred across the two previous days, causing Masamba River, Rongkang River and Rada River to burst their banks. The North Luwu floods resulted in 38 fatalities and 14,483 displaced people, that contributed to 79% of the all ASEAN disaster casualties for the month of July.

23 significant earthquakes (M≥5.0) were recorded in the region by Indonesia's Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi, dan Geofisika (BMKG) and the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). Two volcanoes in Indonesia (Karangetang and Sinabung) are registered at Alert Level III according to Pusat Vulkanologi dan Mitigasi Bencana Geologi (PVMBG), and are under close monitoring. Lastly, Ibu, Semeru and Dukono mountains in Indonesia remain on Alert Level II, despite recent volcanic activity registered by the PVMBG.

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 detail of data and information are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>.

Data Sources : ASEAN Disaster Information Network, ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre



## SEASONAL OUTLOOK

According to seasonal outlooks from the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), during July 2020 most of the equatorial region experienced above-average rainfall. The largest positive anomalies (wetter conditions) were recorded in the coastal equatorial regions based on satellite-derived rainfall estimates datasets. For the mainland Southeast Asia, below-average rainfall was observed over northern Viet Nam and coastal Myanmar. The prevailing Southwest Monsoon conditions are expected to continue into August and September 2020, and gradually weaken in October 2020 as the inter-monsoon period sets in. Climatologically, the Southwest Monsoon season is characterised by rainy conditions in the northern ASEAN region, and dry weather in southern ASEAN. During the August-October 2020 period, the prevailing winds in the ASEAN region are forecast to blow from the southeast or southwest.

For the August-October 2020 period there is an increased chance of above-average rainfall over much of the maritime continent and southern coastal regions of the Mekong sub-region. The equatorial Pacific Ocean are currently at neutral (neither El Niño nor La Niña) conditions, and observed

indicators and models predict La Niña-like conditions to develop within the next three months. La Niña conditions are typically associated with wetter-than-normal conditions across the Southeast Asia region.

The warmer-than-average temperature is expected to continue over the ASEAN region for the next three months. However, near-normal temperatures can be expected over some parts of Borneo, northern parts of Lao PDR, and Viet Nam.

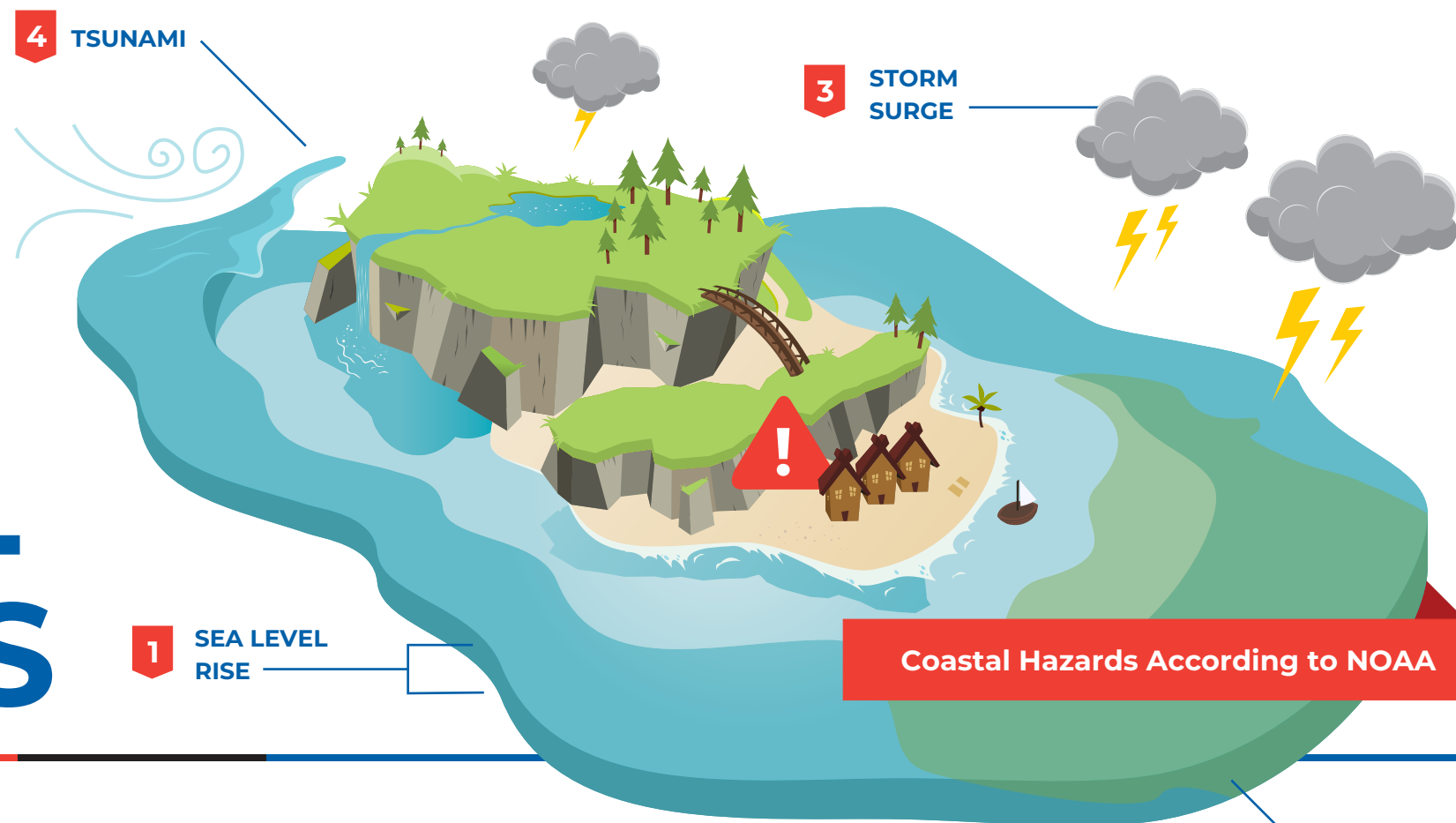
In the southern ASEAN region, while wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast over the equatorial region for the August-October period, dry conditions can still be expected over some parts of Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia. This could increase the risk of land and forest fires in the region, and the occurrence of transboundary haze from such fires in the region cannot be ruled out. In the northern ASEAN region, hotspot activities are expected to remain generally subdued due to rainy weather.

Written by : Keith Paolo Landicho, Lawrence Anthony Dimallig, Aril Aditian



# POTENTIAL COASTAL HAZARDS

## IN THE REGION



According to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), many of the world's populations live in coastal regions. While idealistic for many, these regions still have a downside, which is that they are prone to an array of natural hazards.

Closer to home, Southeast Asia is one of the world's most at-risk regions to the impacts and dangers caused by coastal hazards. Many areas of the Southeast Asia region are archipelagos, located between two large bodies of the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. Therefore, these nations are among those most vulnerable to coastal hazards, including rising sea levels, tsunamis, erosion and tidal flooding. Additionally, coastal hazards are closely linked to the impacts of climate change – particularly the issue of rising sea levels – that increasingly endanger human populations, cities, and ports across the region. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand are examples of ASEAN countries who are vulnerable to coastal hazards, and are all home to large cities located in close proximity to the coastline.

Written by : Moch Syifa | Source: oceanservice.noaa.gov

There are four major coastal hazards as identified by NOAA, namely: rising sea levels, harmful algae blooms, storm surges and tsunamis. Rising sea levels are the largest potential hazard faced by coastal communities, overly due to the onset of climate change. Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) occur when colonies of algae grow out of control, having toxic or harmful effects on people, fish, marine mammals, and birds. Storm surges take place through abnormal rises in sea levels during a large storm, that are measured at the height of water above the normal predicted astronomical tide. The last primary hazard are tsunamis, as most ASEAN nations lie in the Ring of Fire, that is home to constant earthquakes that cause the large tsunami waves.

Based on these interrelated and challenging contexts, it is therefore critical to develop resilient communities who are prepared for these threats, as well as enhance the ability of those communities to absorb impacts and bounce back should disaster strike. With strong preparation – supported by clear response mechanisms – ASEAN communities will continue to overcome and manage risks related to coastal hazards across the region.





# MUHAMMADIYAH DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE (MDMC)

The Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Centre (MDMC) was established in response to the series of large disasters in Indonesia leading up to the significant 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake. It initially formed as an ad-hoc team to support the response and recovery after the big earthquake and other disasters. After the 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake, the team then worked with other groups in the Muhammadiyah network to engage in disaster responses after other natural disasters. The Muhammadiyah organisation then affirmed the team to become an official body under the Muhammadiyah Central Board, and finally to be recognised as the Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Centre (MDMC) in 2010.



Inspired by the wide network of Muhammadiyah (Islamic organisation) members across Indonesia, as well as in response to Indonesia's extensive disaster vulnerabilities, the MDMC was formed to overcome disaster impacts, educate communities, and prevent future damage from natural disaster in the country. The MDMC is also committed to developing disaster countermeasure and mitigation programmes that are based on responsive and professional activities under the regulations of Muhammadiyah itself. The MDMC is committed to working beyond the exclusive boundaries of region, religion, race, ethnicity and community group.

Ms Rahmawati Husein, Deputy Chairperson of the MDMC, explained that the MDMC has recently begun to broaden its networks internationally. Although MDMC has never jointly worked together with the AHA Centre, she stated that MDMC has been involved in humanitarian actions and disaster management at the regional level. "The MDMC has been involved in several disaster responses across the region, such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, and the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar during 2016-2017" she said.

Written by : Moch Syifa | Photo : MDMC



The MDMC is one of the few Indonesia-based Non-Governmental Organisations who are able to provide humanitarian assistance outside Indonesia.

Response has become the strength of the MDMC, as it utilises Muhammadiyah's wide networks across Indonesia and some Southeast Asian countries, allowing MDMC to respond quickly to provide assistance. Additionally, Muhammadiyah is also known for its excellent health facilities and experts who are very valuable within disaster response. "During our mission to Myanmar in 2017, for example, we deployed 54 medical team members to provide health services to the affected communities," Rahmawati highlighted.

In addition to international collaboration, MDMC was also invited to be one of the speakers in ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management "Building ASEAN's Resiliency to Disaster" during August 2019 in Singapore. During this event, Rahmawati, as the representative of the MDMC, shared best practices and experiences from MDMC in strengthening local networks in Indonesia, particularly in regards to disaster management and response.



Its vast network throughout Indonesia enables the MDMC to provide strong operational ground support to any emergency response operations of the Government of Indonesia.

# AHA CENTRE CONDUCT SUCCESSFUL ON-LINE ERO EXERCISE

Written by : Ina Rachmawati | Photo : AHA Centre

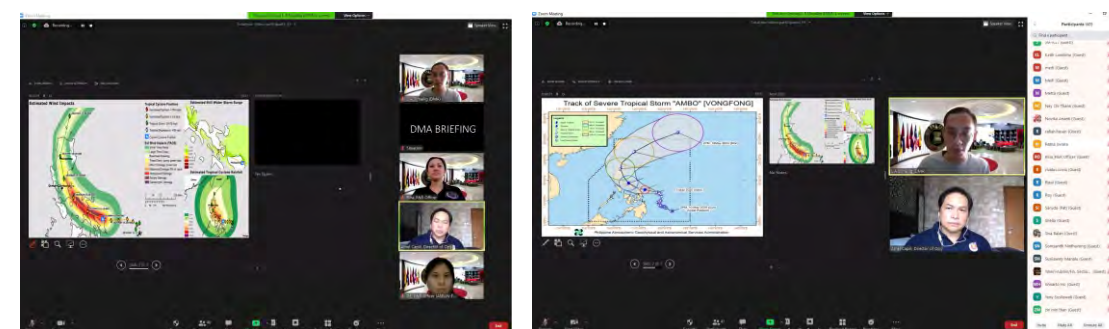
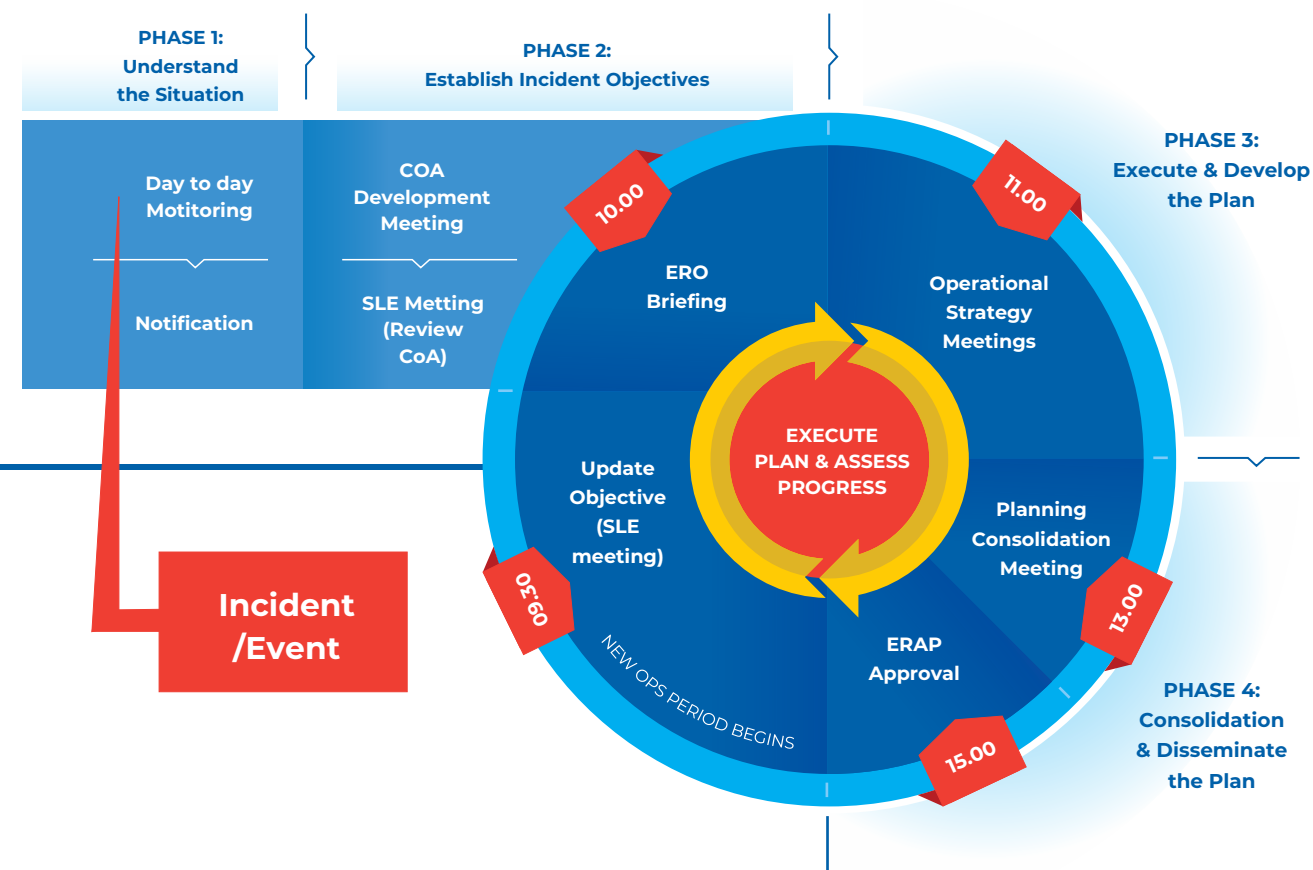
Amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AHA Centre has aimed to maintain consistency and capacity to coordinate emergency responses by conducting an online Emergency Response Operation (ERO) exercise.

To ensure ongoing capacity and efficiency in fulfilling its role to support affected ASEAN Member States during times of disaster, the AHA Centre undertakes routine emergency response operation exercises that involves all staff. Such exercises are conducted regularly to test and maintain emergency procedures, and to ensure processes are up-to-date and still relevant with current contexts.

For AHA Centre personnel, the exercise also ensures that everyone holds the information and knowledge to confidently perform their role within an ERO without hesitation. As when an emergency strikes there is limited time to execute each responsibility, so undertaking such an exercise trains the members of the organisation to work seamlessly as a team.

This year was the first time such an ERO exercise has been undertaken in an online environment, as all 42 of the AHA Centre's staff participated in the activity that utilised a critical typhoon scenario occurring in the region. The exercise tested the chain of command, the interoperability between sections, and how overall coordination took place.

This ERO exercise is not only a refresher for the all AHA Centre staff, but it is also a way to introduce new staff to AHA Centre operations during critical events. Despite the current obstacles and limitations due to the pandemic, the AHA Centre was able to adapt and engage to undertake their role. With all staff are working from home, the ability to adapt and perform has become increasingly important, and these skills and experiences may later be transferred into situations and events in future contexts.



The ERO exercise simulates real emergency using imagined disaster scenarios in order to introduce staff with essential concept in the ERO



## DELSA CAMP AGUINALDO ANNIVERSARY

# FIRST YEAR SUCCESS

Moving away from the usual Other Side focus of ASEAN disaster management individuals, this Volume takes a look into one of the region's most influential disaster management projects – the DELSA satellite warehouse in the Philippines – as it celebrates its first anniversary since opening in 2019.

The Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) is an integral part of the AHA Centre's operations, and is central to the Centre's efforts to implement disaster management under the "One ASEAN, One Response" vision. July 2019 saw the launching of the second satellite warehouse in Camp Aguinaldo, the Philippines, which coincided with the beginning of disaster awareness month in the nation. The development of the facility, and the satellite warehouse system, aims to serve as a network of emergency stockpiles located across the ASEAN region.

Since its launch, the warehouse has stood to support increased speed and scale of disaster response efforts through the use of various innovations, with the stockpile warehouse system ensuring relief items are now closer to disaster-prone countries. This allows for increased predictability of ASEAN's response efforts, which forms a primary element for an overall improvement in the credibility of ASEAN disaster response implementation.

The development and operation of the satellite warehouse has been strongly supported by the Government of the Philippines, including the initial allocation of the dedicated location inside the Armed Forces of the Philippines Logistics Command Premises, Camp General Emilio, in Quezon City. The government has also worked to co-manage the warehouse stockpile with the AHA Centre, specifically through the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD).



To build the ASEAN satellite warehouse, the AHA Centre and the NDRRMC of the Philippines renovated an old warehouse inside the military complex of Camp Aguinaldo.



Written by : Ina Rachmawati | Photo : AHA Centre



The warehouse was fully operational exactly a year ago and it houses ASEAN stockpile of relief items to support affected communities, such as family kits, hygiene kits, and tents, as well as items to support the operations of the NDMOs, such as generators, multi-storage units.

Within one year of its launch, the DELSA satellite warehouse in Camp Aguinaldo has served its purpose by mobilising USD 90,000 worth of relief items to disaster situations. These relief items include a Mobile Storage Unit and 5,000 Personal Hygiene Kits, that were distributed as part of the nation's COVID-19 response during March–April 2020.

The DELSA programme is continuously supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), with the warehouse development across both the Philippines and Thailand evidencing the ongoing strength in partnerships and collaboration that has been developed by the AHA Centre throughout its years of operations in the ASEAN region.



# ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



## THE AHA CENTRE OFFICE

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



[www.ahacentre.org](http://www.ahacentre.org)



[comm@ahacentre.org](mailto: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