



ASCEND

The ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management

What is the ASCEND Programme?

The ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) is an initiative by the ASEAN Member States to enhance the quality of human resources in disaster management by establishing a common set of standard skills and competencies, along with its validation process.

The ASCEND programme consists of two main components:



The ASEAN Standards

The development of common competency standards for different professions in the disaster management sector that are recognised in all ASEAN countries.



The ASEAN Certification

The process of securing official ASEAN recognition that an individual possesses the necessary qualification and competence to perform a specific profession in the disaster management sector.

What are the benefits of ASCEND?



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

ASCEND can lead to the improvement of the standards, knowledge, and skills of ASEAN's human resources in disaster management to help make the ASEAN a disaster-ready community.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The regional standards and certification system will help ASEAN countries at risk from major disasters in determining the skills and expertise of incoming assisting teams if needed. On the other hand, the assisting countries can mobilise the required resources faster, while ensuring that the quality is meeting the ASEAN standards.



REGIONAL REFERENCE FOR INSTITUTION AND INDIVIDUAL

Disaster management institutions/organisations can use ASCEND competency standards as a credible reference to guide the development of their training programme. As for the individuals, the certification will help in continuous learning and career progression in the disaster management sector.

What are the types of professions for certification under ASCEND?



The ASCEND programme will start with piloting the five key professions for certification, i.e:

- ▶ RAPID ASSESSMENT
- ▶ HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS
- ▶ INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
- ▶ WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROMOTION (WASH)
- ▶ SHELTER MANAGEMENT

The pilot implementation of the first five professions is crucial to providing feedback for learning and iterative improvements before the AHA Centre implements the ASCEND programme at scale.

Who are the target audiences of ASCEND?



The ASCEND programme targets disaster management professionals in the region that are working in:

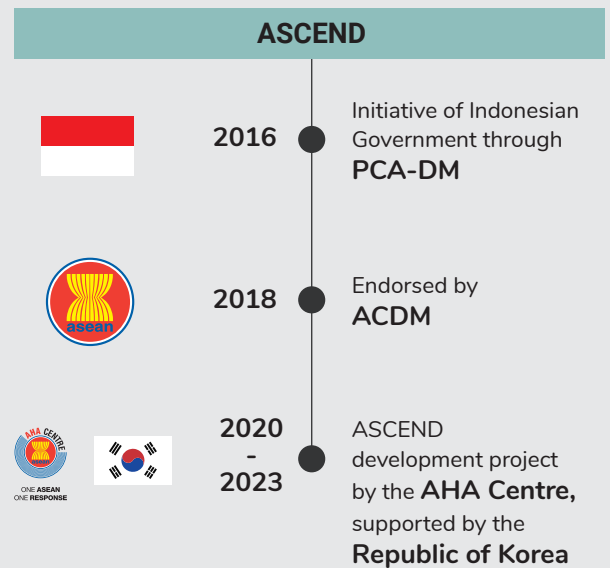


As the programme becomes more solid and getting more recognition, the certification will also be open for audiences coming from outside the ASEAN region.

How does the ASCEND Programme evolve?

The initiative was initiated by the National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia through its Professional Certification Agency on Disaster Management (PCA-DM) and the AHA Centre, with the endorsement from the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). PCA-DM led the 1st phase of ASCEND development from 2016-2020.

In 2020, the Republic of Korea confirmed its generous support to the AHA Centre for the 2nd phase of ASCEND development in the next three years. Through this support, the AHA Centre will pilot and further institutionalise the ASCEND programme within the region. At the same time, the AHA Centre will strengthen itself to become the secretariat of the ASCEND programme.



What is the ASCEND Programme implementation strategy?

Under the guidance of the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management (KIM), the AHA Centre will implement the pilot ASCEND programme with two main activities:



INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The institutional set-up covers the communication and advocacy activities with the intention to promote and sustain the ASCEND programme across the ASEAN Member States. Gradually, the ASCEND programme will involve more national institutions in various Member States to serve as the certifying bodies and assessment providers.

TECHNICAL SET-UP

The technical set-up covers all preparation activities leading up to the first regional assessment for certification. The technical set-up consists of the finalisation of competency standards, preparation of assessment toolboxes, capacity development, and the creation of database and registration system.

The project "Operationalising the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND)" is part of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, and will contribute to the realisation of ASEAN's goal to become a global leader in disaster management by 2025, as articulated in the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

The AHA Centre implements the ASCEND development project in collaboration with the Korean National Fire Agency (KNFA), and with support from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Implemented by:



Supported by:



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