ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

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) Programme is an initiative by the ASEAN Member States (AMS) to enhance the quality of disaster management professionals in the region.

It has two main components: the ASCEND Competency Standards and the ASCEND Certification.

ASCEND Competency Standards

Sets of common competency standards for various professions in the disaster management sector, which are recognised in all ASEAN Member States. It serves as a point of reference for ASCEND Certification and for AMS in establishing national qualification standards for disaster management.

ASCEND Certification

The process of obtaining official recognition of an individual's qualification and competence to perform a specific occupation in the disaster management sector in accordance with the established competency standards.

The certification entails an assessment conducted by the ASCEND Competency Assessors coming from the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs), academe, and various humanitarian organisations across ASEAN.

ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS OF AN ASCEND CERTIFICATION

For ASEAN

The ASCEND certification enables ASEAN Member States to effectively manage emergencies and disasters by fostering a regional network of qualified professionals. It equips ASEAN countries with a system to recognise the expertise of incoming assisting teams if needed. Simultaneously, it streamlines resource mobilisation for assisting countries while upholding the ASEAN Standards.

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For the AHA Centre

Given ASEAN's rapid development and vulnerability to natural hazards, there is a pressing need for a skilled workforce of disaster management professionals. The ASCEND certification can bridge the existing knowledge and skills gaps, promoting stronger cooperation and interoperability among disaster managers in the region.

For disaster management professionals

The ASCEND certification serves as a valuable credential for disaster management professionals, demonstrating their expertise and qualifications. It also helps organisations to assess the capabilities of humanitarian workers in carrying out critical job functions of specific occupations in the disaster management sector.

WHY SHOULD I BE ASCEND CERTIFIED?

- The AMS NDMOs, the AHA Centre, and a growing number of humanitarian organisations and academia **acknowledge my competencies** in disaster management.
- My name will be listed in the **ASCEND expert pool** and potentially be part of ASEAN Standby Arrangement.
- The AMS NDMOs, the AHA Centre, and a growing number of humanitarian organisations and academia **recognise me as a potential person** to support ASEAN emergency response and other disaster management activities.
- I have strong evidence to identify myself as **a competent disaster management professional** in my country and regionally to support my career path.

CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ASCEND CANDIDATES

General Requirements:

01

Physically and mentally healthy to undergo the assessment process

02

Comprehension of working-level English

The assessment process, including all documents, tests, and interviews, will be conducted fully in English. Thus, candidates are expected to be proficient in working-level reading, writing, and speaking English.

03

Must have emergency response deployment experience performing a specific role in accordance with the selected occupation

Target Audiences

The ASCEND programme targets disaster management professionals working in:

Government Institutions

Non-Government and Civil Society Organisations

Private Sector

Universities and Think-Tank Organisations

Specific Requirements:

PROFESSION	OCCUPATION	WORK EXPERIENCE (MINIMUM)	DEPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE (MINIMUM)
Rapid Assessment	Coordinator	3 years	2 times
	Officer	2 years	1 time
Humanitarian Logistics	Manager	5 years	3 times
	Coordinator	3 years	2 times
	Officer	2 years	1 time
Information Management	Manager	5 years	3 times
	Coordinator	3 years	2 times
	Officer	2 years	1 time
Humanitarian Shelter & Settlements	Manager	5 years	3 times
	Coordinator	3 years	2 times
	Officer	2 years	1 time
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	Manager	5 years	3 times
	Coordinator	3 years	2 times
	Promoter	2 years	1 time
	Engineer	2 years	1 time

ASCEND website
ascend.ahacentre.org

Implemented by: AHA CENTRE ASEAN — ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

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