



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.64 | AUGUST 2020



HIGHLIGHT

Discussing the
Future Direction of
the AHA Centre

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster
Review and Outlook for
August 2020

THE OTHER SIDE

Andreane
Tampubolon

THE COLUMN 64

THIS ISSUE:
DISCUSSING THE FUTURE DIRECTION
OF THE AHA CENTRE



02 | HIGHLIGHT

Held two times each year, this instalment of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre was originally slated to be held during April 2020. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 12th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre was re-scheduled into August 2020, and engaged the 10 National Disaster Management Organisations from ASEAN Member States to meet in an online environment.



05 | MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

08 | INSIGHT

10 | PARTNERSHIP

12 | AHA CENTRE DIARY

14 | THE OTHER SIDE



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ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Hi Readers,

Volume 64 of the AHA Centre's Column takes in a range of interesting pieces this month, as our organisation and the disaster management sector continue to function under the unique pandemic context around the world. Completed in an online environment for the first time ever, the recent 12th Meeting of the AHA Centre Governing Board is covered in the Highlight article. Similarly held under online conditions, the AHA Centre Diary takes a look at the recent World Humanitarian Day webinar on the topic of humanitarian assistance in Southeast Asia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volume 64's Insight article takes an interesting angle looking at tsunami mitigation efforts under pandemic contexts and limitations, while the Partnership article highlights the AHA Centre's long-standing partnership with the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Finally, the Other Side gives us a great look into the challenges and experiences of Andreane Tampubolon from the Indonesian Red Cross' Restoring Family Links team.

Good luck and take care until the next volume of the Column from the AHA Centre team.

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12TH GB MEETING: DISCUSSING THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE AHA CENTRE

Held two times each year, this instalment of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre was originally slated to be held during April 2020. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 12th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre was re-scheduled into August 2020, and engaged the 10 National Disaster Management Organisations from ASEAN Member States to meet in an online environment.



THE AHA CENTRE USED THIS MOMENTUM TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON RETHINKING THE VISION AND MISSION OF THE AHA CENTRE FOR THE COMING FIVE YEARS AND BEYOND.

With the situation meaning that the Philippines hosting a physical face-to-face meeting was no longer possible, the Governing Board agreed to implement it in an online fashion, making this the first time this key event has been undertaken online. The meeting was held back-to-back along with the 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and the 13th Meeting of the Joint Task Force (JTF) to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Bodies on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). These events all took place from the 11 – 12 August 2020, with the 12th Meeting of the Governing Board taking place in the afternoon of August 12.

Similar to regular meetings of the Governing Board, the AHA Centre usually uses the forum to update the Governing Board of its activities spanning the period from the last such meeting, which in this case took place in October 2019. This year's meeting was quite unique, not only because of the pandemic context, but also as 2020 forms the end of the AHA Centre's 5-year work plan. The AHA Centre used this momentum to continue discussions on rethinking the vision and mission of the AHA Centre for the coming five years and beyond. The timing of the meeting was also in-sync with the Governing Board members (in their role as the ACDM) developing a new cycle of the AADMER Work Programme for 2021-2025.

Written by: Dipo Summa | Photo Credit: AHA Centre



In addition to discussions on rethinking the AHA Centre's vision and mission, the meeting was also utilised to launch three key AHA Centre publications. The first was the AHA Centre Annual Report 2019, that focused on the theme of 'Unfolding Future', with the report highlighting the focus of the AHA Centre in 2019 towards continuing its expansion and development for the future. The second publication was the After-Action Review of the AHA Centre emergency response operations in 2018 – a year in which the AHA Centre responded to 7 back-to-back disaster events. Finally, the AHA Centre launched the second edition of the ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR), that focuses on the theme of Climate Emergencies. Named "Time is Running Out: Why ASEAN Must Act Now against Climate Emergencies", the journal uses both historical data and the most up-to-date information, trends, and risk profiles of the ASEAN countries with regards to climate change and disasters.

The 12th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre was officially closed by Undersecretary Ricardo B. Jalad, the Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense of the Philippines, who was serving as the Chairperson of the Governing Board. The 13th Meeting of the Governing is scheduled to be held at the end of November 2020, and will be most likely be once again held in an online environment.

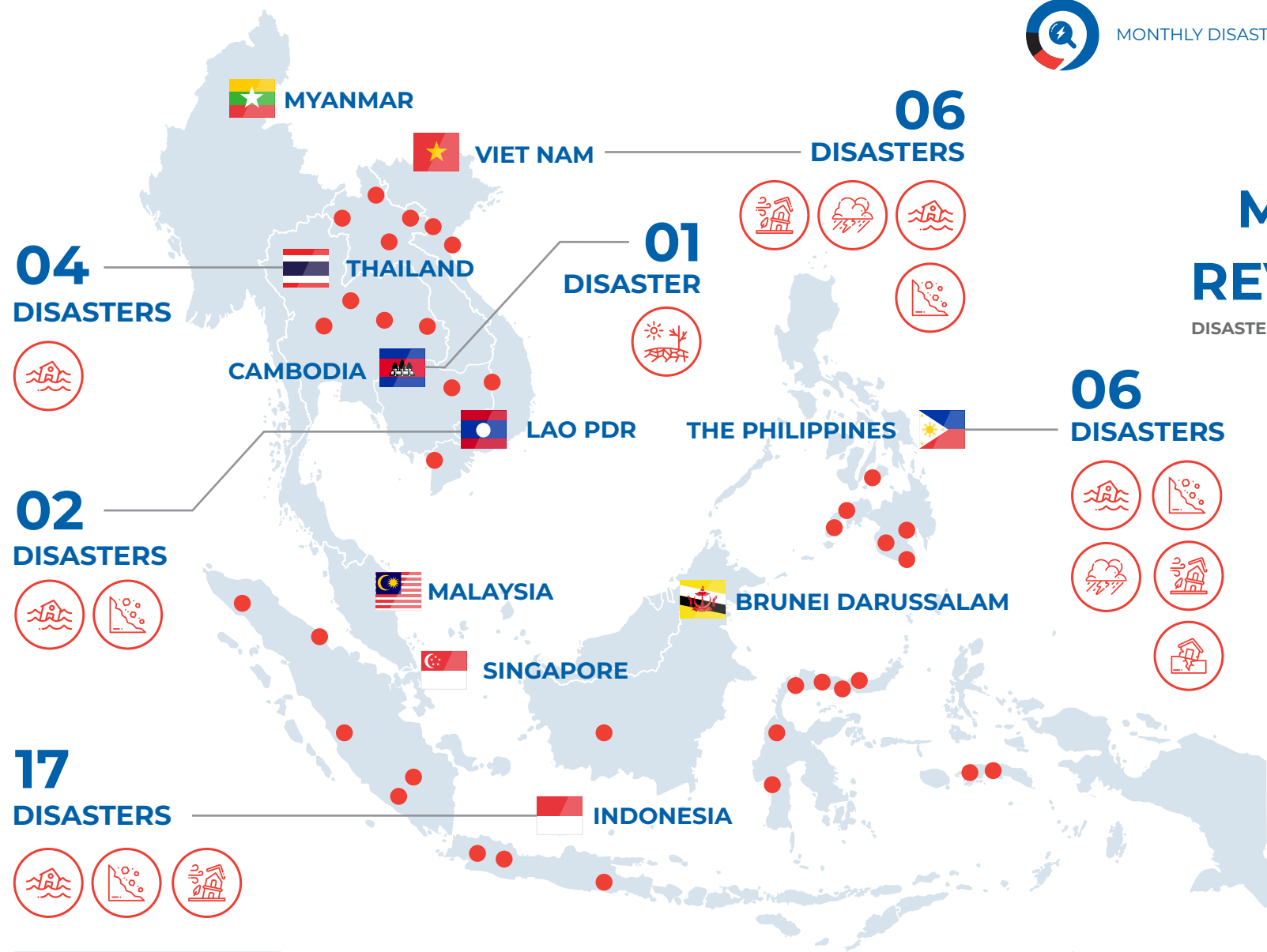
To better support the Governing Board meeting, AHA Centre's staff, including the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, came together at one meeting point to be connected remotely with the Governing Board.

3 KEY AHA CENTRE'S LAUNCHED PUBLICATIONS

- 1 AHA CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2019
- 2 AFTER ACTION REVIEW OF 2018 RESPONSES
- 3 2ND EDITION OF ARMOR



1-3 The 12th Governing Board meeting was the first virtual meeting with our Governing Board from 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.



REGIONAL TALLY		
	AUGUST 2020	AUGUST IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE
• Number of recorded significant disasters	36	15
• Number of affected people	228,022	1,562,505
• Number of internally displaced people	5,950	106,876
• Number of damaged houses	34,193	3,556
• Number of casualties	16	33
• Number of injured people	3	18
• Number of missing people	1	12

(covering the period of Weeks 32 -35 in 2020 and 2015-2019 average)

MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT , AHA CENTRE

AUGUST 2020

GENERAL REVIEW OF AUGUST 2020

A total of 36 disaster events were recorded for the month of August 2020, which is the same number recorded for the previous month, and similar to the amount recorded for August of 2019. This number was more than twice as high as the August five-year average, however, the figures of affected people, internally displaced, casualties, injuries, and missing persons for August 2020 were all significantly lower than their respective five-year averages. In contrast, the number of damaged houses for August 2020 was 10 times higher than the five-year average. A little over half of the total recorded disasters for the month were flooding events, which struck regions throughout Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, as well as significant numbers from Indonesia. This may be attributed to a 200mm increase in precipitation amounts for August 2020 compared to the five-year average, with especially large amounts of rainfall in Indonesia's Sulawesi, Maluku, and Western Kalimantan, according to the Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data (CHIRPS). CHIRPS assimilates satellite imagery with in-situ data to create better approximations and more reliable precipitation distribution datasets. This data also showed precipitation deficits of at most -200 mm from the five-year average over Cambodia, Lao PDR, the coasts of Myanmar, northern Philippines and northern and central Viet Nam.

Notably, the effect of Tropical Storm (TS) SINLAKU was largely felt in the Northern and Northeastern regions of Thailand. TS SINLAKU's impact on Thailand (during week 32) affected 111,190 persons, which was almost 50% of the total number of people affected for the region throughout the whole of August.

There were a total of 32 significant earthquakes ($M \geq 5.0$) reported in the region for August 2020, and there was heightened volcanic activity reported for Mt. Sinabung in Indonesia that exposed approximately 15,000 people to adverse impacts. Volcanic activity was also reported for Kerinci, Semeru, Ibu, and Dukono mountains in Indonesia, however the activity caused minimal damage for the surrounding areas. Meanwhile, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in Masbate, Philippines resulted in some casualties on August 19.

36

REPORTED DISASTERS**THROUGHOUT THE ASEAN REGION IN AUGUST 2020**

DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

WHITE BAR | AUGUST 2020

RED BAR | AUGUST IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

Drought	1	2	Indonesia	17	4
Earthquake	1	-	Myanmar	-	3
Flood	20	8	The Philippines	6	4
Landslide	6	1	Thailand	4	1
Storm	3	3	Viet Nam	6	3
Wind	5	1	Lao PDR	2	-
Total	36	15	Cambodia	1	-
			Total	36	15

(covering the period of Weeks 32 - 35 in 2020 and 2015-2019 average)

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

The Southwest Monsoon conditions that have been in effect since late May are expected to continue into September 2020. However, there will be a gradual transition to inter-monsoon conditions (between monsoon seasons) during the latter part of October. This inter-monsoon period is characterised by increased shower activities, so a heightened frequency of hydrological and meteorological disasters can be expected.

The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) predicts above-average rainfall over most parts of the southern ASEAN region, as well as the coastal regions of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, serving as an early warning for those Member States. ASMC's climate models predict La Niña conditions from September 2020, which is typically associated with wetter-than-normal conditions over the Southeast Asia region.

While above-normal rainfall is predicted in the southern ASEAN region, occasional periods of dry weather could lead to escalated hotspot activities especially in vulnerable areas in Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia. This could lead to increased risk of land and forest fires and transboundary haze in the southern ASEAN region. In the northern ASEAN region, however, it is expected to be largely subdued due to the prevalence of rainy conditions.

DISCLAIMER

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



TSUNAMI MITIGATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

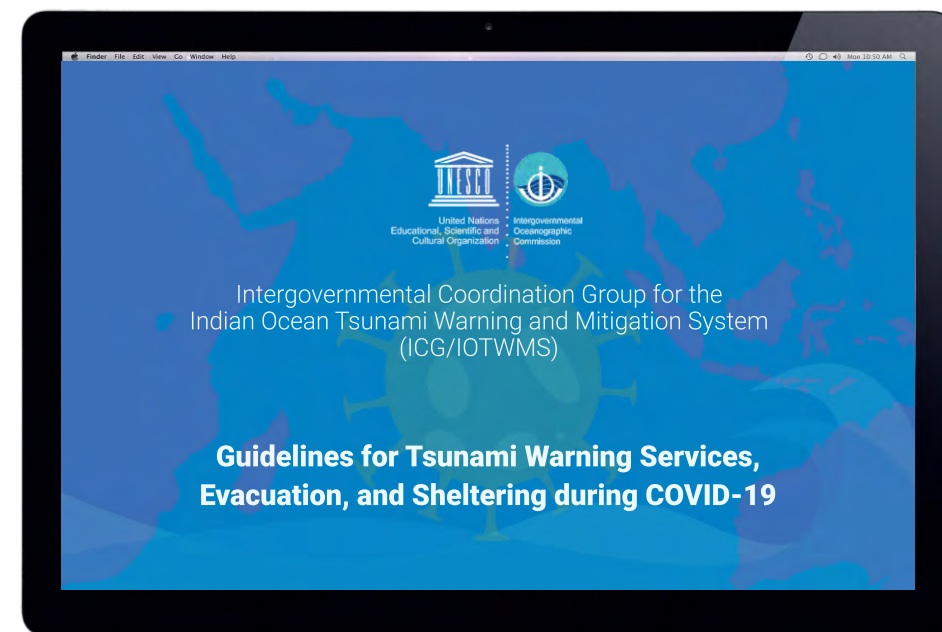


The current pandemic leaves disaster managers with new and unique challenges in preparing for – and responding to – natural disasters that may take place. With restrictions on human interaction and movement due to significant health challenges, the occurrence of a natural disaster could force large numbers of people into close proximity, with the potential to add to the disaster impact through spread of the highly contagious virus. To overcome this, planning and guidelines are required to be developed in short turnaround, and risks such as tsunami disasters require specific consideration.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), in consultation and collaboration with expert working groups within Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs), has released regional guidelines for tsunami warning services, evacuation and sheltering during the COVID-19 pandemic. The four regional guidelines (for the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, and the North-eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean) include details of regional tsunami services, that can be used by national authorities responsible for the organisation of tsunami warning and emergency response to develop their own nationally-coordinated guidelines.

These guidelines are also supported by a special national version for Indonesia, particularly due to the nation's recent history of large tsunami events. For some Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines and Viet Nam, the Pacific Ocean regional guidelines will provide relevant information. Meanwhile, Thailand and Myanmar can refer to the Indian Ocean regional guidelines. Additionally, these guidelines can also be applied to other coastal hazards such as storm surges and flash flooding.

Source : Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission



When the National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and/or a National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO) issues a tsunami warning, the desired action for the public is to follow the advice of the authorities, including evacuation from identified at-risk locations as required. It is important to highlight that human life is the priority when tsunami evacuations are required, regardless of COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and physical distancing protocol. Of course, in a state of evacuation such protocols may not be practical. Regardless, handling any resultant COVID-19 infections must be done immediately following an evacuation, to minimise the risk or large-scale infection. Communities must also be aware of COVID-19 safety protocols and any requirement for physical distancing when sheltering at an evacuation site. In addition, a personal or family emergency backpack should be augmented with disposable tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes, and possibly face masks, in consideration of the heightened sanitation and hygiene requirements due to the COVID-19 virus.

Written by : Shahasrakranna

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

The University of Canterbury and the AHA Centre have held a long and close relationship since the AHA Centre's early years after establishment, with the university continuously sharing disaster response knowledge with ASEAN nations, particularly through its engagement with the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme since 2014.

The University of Canterbury (UC) has catered to the demand for university level emergency management professional development and education since 2013. ACE Programme participants have benefited from UC's dynamic disaster management faculty, who have been delivering short courses and qualifications, driven by their internal team's international experience in the field of disaster management.

As part of the ACE Programme curriculum, the University of Canterbury has delivered the Critical Incident Leadership (CIL) course since the programme began in 2014. The course introduced participants to various hazards, and engaged them on the essentials of critical incident leadership competencies. In Jakarta, participants learnt about a range of hazards in New Zealand, as well as the institutional structures and policies that govern New Zealand's disaster risk management processes.

The second phase of the CIL course is a 150-hour component delivered in various locations across New Zealand. This phase concentrates on the development of strategic thinking, proactive planning, decision-making, situational awareness, communication, coordination, and collaboration. Through field visits, the ACE Programme participants also interacted with emergency management practitioners, and experience first-hand exposure to various stakeholders – both experts and community – on how they understand their risks, prepare for, respond, and recover from disasters.

Written by : Ina Rachmawati, Ferosa Arsadita | Photo : AHA Centre



Participants handing over the token of appreciation for the keynote speakers.

Left to Right: Ms. Mary Ann Sarah Ulat of OCD Philippines; Ms. Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury; Ms Gaynor Tanyang of AHA Centre; Ms Lianne Dalziel, Mayor of Christchurch City; Ms Palida Puapun of DDPM Thailand; Mr Sam Broughton, Mayor of Selwyn District; Mr Darryn Russell, Assistant Vice Chancellor Maori of the University of Canterbury; Mr Phosavanh Thammavongxay of the Ministry of Social Welfare Lao PDR.



Leaders Talk from Ms Lianne Dalziel Mayor of Christchurch City, she provided insights on how Christchurch City able to build back the city better after the devastating earthquake in 2011.



Opening CIL Course in the University Canterbury and Leaders Talk Session.

Participants were also immersed in the multicultural nature of New Zealand's population, and see how the nation's disaster management strategies take advantage of this diversity to strengthen their disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation efforts. The delivery of the Critical Incident Leadership Course in Jakarta and New Zealand is supported by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



RSIS-AHA CENTRE

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY WEBINAR:

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING COVID-19

In commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2020, the AHA Centre collaborated with the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) of the Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) to implement a webinar on Humanitarian Assistance in Southeast Asia during COVID-19.

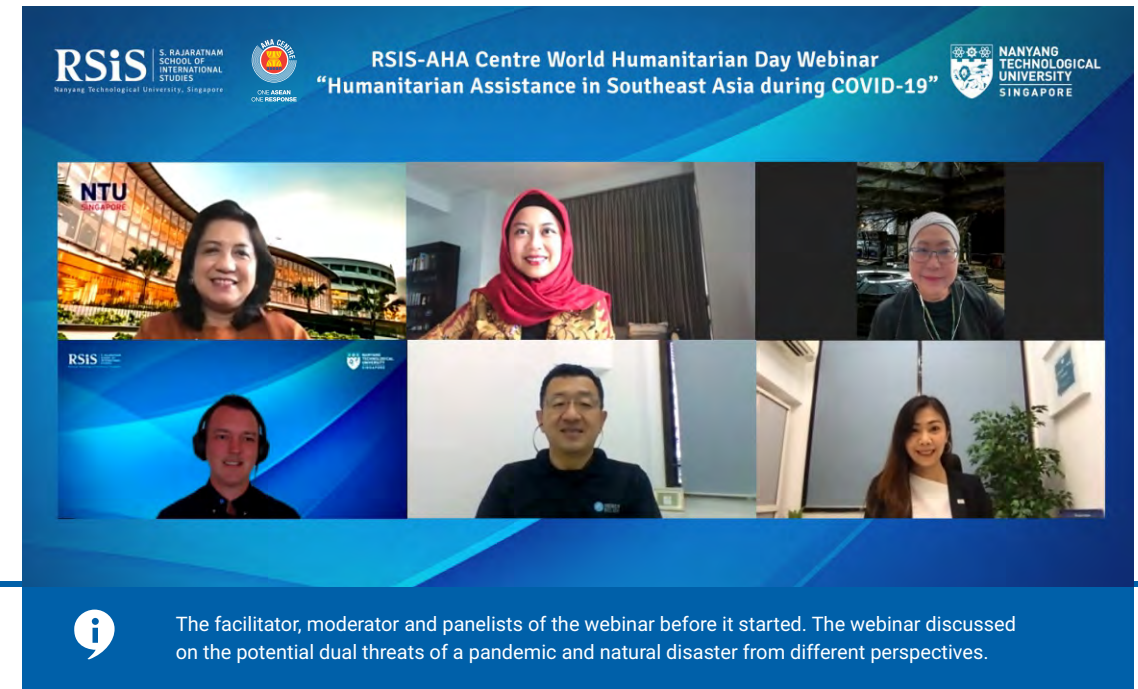
The discussion focused on the potential dual threats of a pandemic and natural disaster. Speakers shared ideas and insights on the particular challenges faced by the humanitarian sector during the pandemic, as well as potential solutions to the challenges, and how to strengthen partnerships between relevant stakeholders.

The webinar featured a number of distinguished speakers and guests. Primarily there was Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, who previously served as the Under Secretary General for Partnerships at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and currently is the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia on Public Health. Next were Mr. Masahiro Ishizeki, the Head of International Programmes of Mercy Relief, and Ms. Carol Lee, Executive Director of Mercy Relief. Dr Alistair D. B. Cook is Coordinator of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme and Senior Fellow at the NTS Centre, RSIS. Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre, RSIS, opened the one-hour webinar, and Ms. Adelina Kamal, the Executive Director of the AHA Centre, served as the moderator of the discussion.

All speakers raised many important points during the course of the discussion. Dr. Mahmood said that the pandemic should not be an excuse for the region to 'take their eyes off' the many issues facing the region, including the ongoing threat of natural disasters, climate change, refugees and irregular migration. She also highlighted the potential solutions offered by technology in mitigating the impact of the pandemic, such as one example applied in Malaysia named the "Kita Match" application.

Mr. Ishizeki shared the activities implemented by Mercy Relief in several countries in the region to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, as well as some of the learnings from the response. Key points included on ensuring accountability, as well as the logistics of managing operations spanning several countries at the same time.

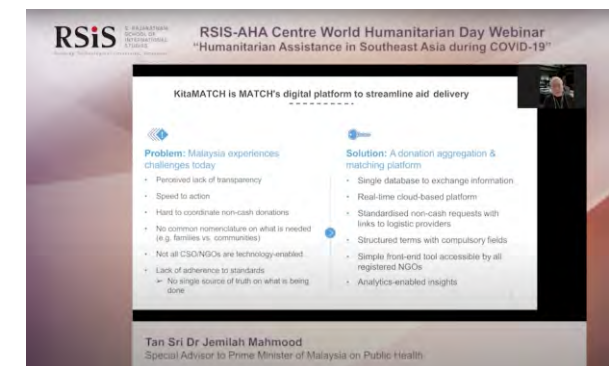
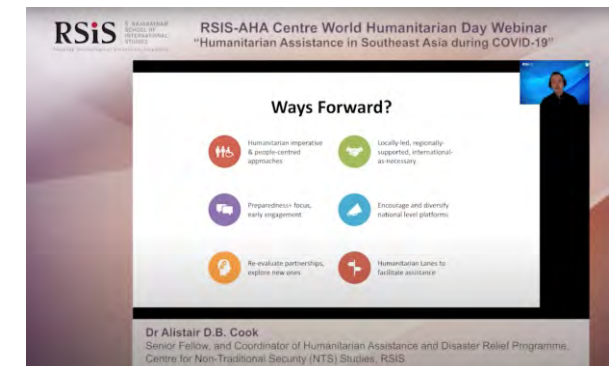
Written by : Dipo Summa | Photo : AHA Centre



Finally, Dr. Cook noted several humanitarian trends happening right now, many of which actually preceded the pandemic, but became more pronounced due to COVID-19. Examples included how the needs of the most vulnerable population often become secondary to the political security considerations, and the challenge to global cooperation as more countries turn to regional collaboration. Dr. Cook also proposed for humanitarian lane to facilitate quick transfer and distribution of humanitarian assistance during emergencies, as well as a national one stop shop in order to enhance government's relations with local and national partners, including the private sector.

The full recording of the webinar is accessible at the following link:

youtube.com/watch?v=GHVXxTCjNDs





ANDREANE TAMPUBOLON

Andreane Tampubolon, or Anne as she is known to her colleagues and friends, works with the Indonesian Red Cross Restoring Family Links (RFL) team. As the head of the RFL team within the Disaster Management Unit, Anne has been engaged in the organisation for more than 10 years, providing her with a rich variety of experiences and engagements across the international disaster management sector. Anne has also contributed as a facilitator in the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, and has been deployed as an ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) member to regional disasters including the 2015 Myanmar floods, the 2016 earthquake in Aceh, Indonesia, and the recent Greater Jakarta floods, also in Indonesia. Anne also holds many deployments directly as part of the Red Cross.



For this article we engaged Anne with questions on a variety of areas related to disaster management, and her responses and ideas were interesting and full of understanding.

What has been your greatest challenge in responding to disaster on a regional level?

Identifying, utilising and sharing information across language barriers is a significant challenge through all my experiences. For example, immediate responders are the ones who often have the greatest knowledge of the situation and how to handle it. However, it can be a challenge to share this knowledge from partners from other countries. In terms of challenge, I often find that we may need to have more field personnel with managerial skill. But, with many knowledge management skills available, it should also enhance the capacity of field personnel. Our field officer partners sometimes has difficulties to share their experience with a wider audience. This can have an effect on the knowledge transfer in the field and back to higher levels, as field responders often hold significant insights and experiences that should be raised with all other parties.

Written by : Ina Rachmawati | Photo : Private Collection



Anne was mobilised as part of the ASEAN-ERAT team that conducted a needs assessment during the flood in Jakarta in early 2020.



What challenges do you see related to disaster coordination in the region?

It can be a challenge to ensure aligned understandings between the support we are providing and the expectations of our recipients. This can be particularly heightened during disaster responses and requires strong communication, mutual understanding and personal approach.

What are some of the cross-cutting challenges you have faced?

Gender balance in teams deployed for fieldwork remains a challenge, I think. For example, I have previously been deployed in a team of 10 individuals and I was the only woman. However, I have previously been deployed in a team of four with three of those team members being women, so there is scope for better balance. This issue needs further attention in our region as it can have an impact on the work – whether we realise it or not.

With so many deployments, you are clearly used to working intensively in the field. What are your self-care tips for handling stress and pressure?

I fully believe it is best to make sure that you are able to take care of yourself before you attempt to take care of others in a disaster situation. This is a significant part of preparation for field deployment, and people have different ways of ensuring they are ready, as well as how they maintain their health in the field. I personally like to ensure I have a little downtime wherever I go and have some light entertainment to enjoy while I rest. In a technological world, having movies to watch or music to listen to is quite easy, and this is what I do to enjoy my down time when I can get some.

As you've been engaged in the ACE Programme, what do you see as the importance and meaning of good leadership?

Being a good leader means knowing the strengths and weakness of people that I work alongside and making sure that I do my best to identify gaps, weaknesses and room for improvement in a team. It is also important to work with people to improve people to lessen their weaknesses and increase their strengths. Being a good leader is also not just telling people what to do but working with them to achieve the goals.

So, what would you like to remind readers about in relation to the humanitarian sector?

I would remind everyone that being a humanitarian worker means you must remember to be a human. We can't just work through systems and by protocols alone, but we must use our empathy and remember that we all are humans, and don't forget to keep in mind to enjoy every process. There might be ups and downs in every operation. Not necessary with the good intention to help the process will then be smooth all the way. Yet manage the expectation and try the best you can to achieve the objectives accordingly.

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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.

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