

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**

Natural disaster reports are regularly recorded in the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADInet) [www.adinet.ahacentre.org](http://www.adinet.ahacentre.org). Only significant disasters that satisfy the following criteria are recorded in ADInet:

- More than 100 people affected
- Involving more than 1 subdistricts

The number of disaster incidents this month has doubled compared to the last 3 months. With 13 natural disasters including flood, storm, landslide and volcanic eruption, at least 520,000 people were affected, and 186,000 more were displaced and forced to evacuate. These disasters have claimed the lives of at least 77 people.

Factors that may have contributed to the increase in natural disaster occurrences are the monsoon and the El-Nino system. The monsoon has brought more rains in some parts of the region. This triggered flooding and landslides in Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and Philippines. The flood has affected at least 70,000 people in Myanmar, and at least 100,000 people in the Philippines. The monsoon also marked the beginning of the wet season in Myanmar from June to October, in Viet Nam, the Quang Ninh Province was flooded as a consequence of torrential downpour. The precipitation was 600 mm, the highest record over the last 40 years.

Indonesia has experienced a long drought caused by the El-Nino. The government predicts that the condition may remain until November, although shorter than the 1997/1998's drought period. Furthermore, dry and extreme cold weather have also affected three districts in Papua, frosting the crops that have caused risks of starvation. Moreover, three volcanoes, Raung, Sinabung and Gamalama, have also erupted causing hundreds of flight cancellation and forcing people to move to evacuation areas.

This month, the region has not only been experiencing disasters caused by hydrometeorology, but also volcanology. The impact of the volcano eruption have resulted in significant economic loss that paralysed air transportation for days, but this does not illustrate the immense impact the monsoon and El-Nino have had on human lives.

**DISCLAIMER:** The use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown are not warranted to be error free or implying official endorsement from ASEAN Member State.

**SOURCE:** Basemap is from global administrative area. Information is generated from many sources including NDMO, International Organization and news agencies.

**SUPPORTED BY:** Australian AID

**INSIGHTS**

**Phases of Logistics Preparedness and Emergency Logistics Response**

The unpredictability and uncertainty that comes along with any given disaster situation can make the process of delivering goods to beneficiaries a difficult task. Speaking to Ms. Deanna Maree Beaumont, Logistics Training and Capacity Development Officer for World Food Programme's Regional Bureau for Asia, below are the phases of logistics preparedness and emergency logistics response.

**PHASE 1 Preparedness** The phase is focused on preparing for possible disaster situations in any given area before it occurs.

- Logistics capacity assessment** Under the preparedness phase, humanitarian logistics officer need to conduct an assessment of the current existing logistics capacity before a disaster occurs. This includes understanding the different modes of transport available in a particular area, assessing the infrastructure, resource capacity of not only the area concerned but also the government's capacity and other civil society organisations that may be involved.
- Plan of action** Based on the logistics capacity assessment, the logistics officer need to develop a plan of action for a particular scenario, or even a series of scenarios if a disaster were to occur.

**PHASE 2 Relief** The relief phase begins when a disaster situation occurs. Therefore, the focus is on saving lives. Logistics officer need to be able to transport goods effectively and quickly.

- Review existing logistics capacity assessmt** When a disaster event occurs, logistics officer need to review their existing logistics capacity assessment to determine what damage has been caused to the roads, seaports, airports, airfields, bridges, warehousing, as well as telecommunications.
- Concept of operation** Based on the review and the assessment, the logistics officer can begin to design the operation plan – otherwise known as a concept of operation. This includes determining how to deliver the goods, where the houses will be located, where the transportations can be located.
- Transporting emergency relief supplies** As the focus is to save lives, logistics officers will initially focus on transporting emergency relief supplies such as high energy biscuits, shelter supplies, medical equipments, and other items that disaster affected individuals need in the first few hours/days of a disaster.
- Supporting search and rescue teams** Logistics officers also will also be involved in supporting the search and rescue team with the movement of equipment and personnels during the relief phase. This includes helping to operate or decongesting airports, and setting up temporary warehouses.

**PHASE 3 Recovery** The focus of the recovery phase is transition, and in helping disaster affected individuals to rebuild lives. Therefore, logistics officer need to look for efficiency.

- Transporting longer-term relief supplies** Whereas the relief phase is aimed at giving immediate relief supplies such as plastic sheeting and ropes for makeshift shelters, the recovery phase is more focused on transporting longer-term relief supplies such as timber, tools and iron sheeting for shelter. In this phase, it is important to note that the type or mode of transportation will change. Where the relief phase is focused on using transportation that is quick but possibly expensive such as air transports, the recovery phase can look for cheaper mode of transport despite it taking longer, such as shipping.

**INSIGHTS** is a special column for guest contributors, and does not necessarily reflect or represent AHA Centre's point of view.

**THE OTHER SIDE**

**Mr. Marc Saito**  
Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management

**THE OTHER SIDE** is a special column where we interview professional players in disaster management. Crafted with light discussion in a casual manner, THE OTHER SIDE captures the human side, up close and personal.

Working within the humanitarian and disaster management field is a continuous learning process. Speaking to The Column, Marc Saito of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) shared how he first became involved in the field and what he learned through his experience.

**What inspired you to become involved in the humanitarian and disaster management field?**

Having worked for ten years in Japan's ODA sector immediately after the completion of the undergraduate program in international politics, I pursued a Masters degree in international affairs with concentration in Economic and Political Development, by applying a more people-centred approach – my interest was shifted to the grassroots level. I then embarked on a new career in a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for people in post-conflict situations, and disaster-affected population became another passage I explored in my mid-thirties.

**What was the first disaster event you responded to?**

The December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami was the first disaster event I responded to. Although I was not deployed on the ground, the Japanese NGO, Peace Winds Japan, where I worked since July 2002 until today (I have been seconded to A-PAD from PWJ since April 2014), deployed the emergency response team to Meulaboh, the devastated area on the Western coast of Sumatra Island. There, I served as a hub at the headquarters to conduct the provision of relief items by transporting on the trucks from Medan to the evacuation centers on the other side of the track.

**Are there any interesting or memorable moments while you were on a mission that you can share with us?**

During the wrap-up session after distributing relief packs to the affected families in Typhoon Haiyan response in Samar Island, a local volunteer was wondering how they could continue the distribution of these essential items. I was in a way relieved to complete the distribution of the thousands of relief packs that we transported from Quizon City in Luzon Island, connected with ferry transit to Samar Island, all the way from the port to the Southern tip of the island, the City of Guiuan. However, for the population who lost everything in the disaster, a one-time delivery of relief packs is barely a solution. I realised that we had to think twice about the best way of helping people on the ground, taking into account their coping and adaptive strategies.

**What would be your advice for people who are interested in working in the humanitarian and disaster management field?**

Both AHA Centre and A-PAD are working for disaster preparedness / disaster risk reduction, and to enable joint response to emergencies through local, national and regional cooperation. We believe that the private sector in each country can play more substantive roles in disaster risk reduction and response. If they work together to further enhance the CSO / private sector involvement in the regional humanitarian system, we can prevent mass casualties from major natural disaster by utilising their expertise and assets.

We wish to further collaborate with AHA Centre, not only for the ACE Programme but also in establishing a unified platform where governments, CSOs and private corporates can all contribute to disaster preparedness as well as to immediate coordinated response to major disasters. To make this happen, those who are interested in working in the disaster management field should be able to analyse disaster management events from a variety of different perspectives.

**One ASEAN One Response**

**Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Training**  
ACE CORNER INSIGHTS | Road to Graduation | Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Training  
Phases of Logistics Preparedness and Emergency Logistics Response

**THE COLUMN**  
AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN  
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**AHA CENTRE**  
ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management

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**One ASEAN One Response**

**NEWS HIGHLIGHT**  
**Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Training**

The humanitarian community in the ASEAN region has learned the importance of coordination and collaboration in responding to disasters among Member States, in hopes of building a safer community. Due to its regional vulnerabilities towards the forces of nature and extreme natural hazards, ASEAN strives to strengthen its network of Officers that are leaders in disaster management.



Hands-on logistics training

Over a period of 6-months the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, through cooperation with the Government of Japan, joined a total of 16 Officers participated from 8 ASEAN Member States including, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, to enhance their capacity, strengthen their knowledge, experience and insights about disaster management.

As the ACE Programme will soon come to a close, ACE Programme Officers successfully gained key takeaways through the Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management training, learning aspects of managing a logistics system of ASEAN through DELSA, underlined in News Highlight.

Just as ACE Programme Officers have learned from various leaders, trainers, and activities to further strengthen their capability, we also showcased the experience of Marc Saito of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) On "The Other Side", where he shared how he first became involved in the field and what he learned through his experience.

It is with high optimism that these ACE Programme Officers will continue to be the leaders in ASEAN for disaster management and will serve as an example of the strong network of ASEAN's skilled disaster management officials who will work towards a 'One ASEAN, One Response' vision.

In short, we hope this edition inspires collaboration, knowledge sharing, and drives those to aspire to become stronger leaders in the disaster management field.

If you wish to share some stories / articles / blogs / comments with us to improve the bulletin, please drop us a message at comm@ahacentre.org, and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,  
The Column Editor

The Column is a monthly news bulletin from the AHA Centre – capturing the latest activities from the organisation.

An important function and aspect of Logistics Cluster is the sharing and management of information among humanitarian partners and actors. Sharing information allows these humanitarian actors and organisations to:

- 1. Develop a common situational awareness
- 2. Ensure better use of resources
- 3. Build relations amongst each other
- 4. Develop on future cooperation
- 5. Create a culture of exchange
- 6. Sustain communication

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), Humanitarian logistics involves the planning, implementing and controlling the efficient, cost-effective flow of and storage of goods and materials as well as related information, from the point of origin to the point of consumption, for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of vulnerable people. This is closely related to supply chain management that mainly focuses on relationships among the actors that make such movement possible.

When disaster occurs, there needs to be an efficient and effective logistics response to deliver the necessary goods and supplies to the affected people and area. As part of AHA Centre's commitment to support the ASEAN Member States on capacity-building in disaster management, AHA Centre, supported by the WFP and United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, Subang hub delivered a 3-week training programme on emergency logistics with 16 ACE Programme officers which took place in Jakarta, Indonesia and Subang, Malaysia.

In this capacity, key information on emergency operations such as flight schedules and list of available local transporters can be made available to relevant partners – thus, enabling these actors to efficiently respond to emergencies.

Several challenges associated to exchange information may come about, such as:

- 1. Technical issues
- 2. Political issues
- 3. Timeliness of data collection and release
- 4. Unclear priorities
- 5. Confidentiality concerns
- 6. Culture of guarding information



Field exercises and desktop simulation right in the heart of WFP/UNHRD Subang hub

With the logistics training being the last formal in-class training session participants will receive as the ACE Programme draws to close, participants were both pensive and excited. Speaking about the ACE Programme, Ms. Deanna Beaumont said, "I believe that this is an excellent program that gives participants a breadth of knowledge in the disaster management field. It is a great way of bringing ASEAN Member States together and form a solid community amongst themselves."



ACE Programme Officers engaging in field exercises



Mr. Jeff Cuche sharing his knowledge in logistics to ACE Programme Officers



Humanitarian logistics training facilitated by World Food Programme

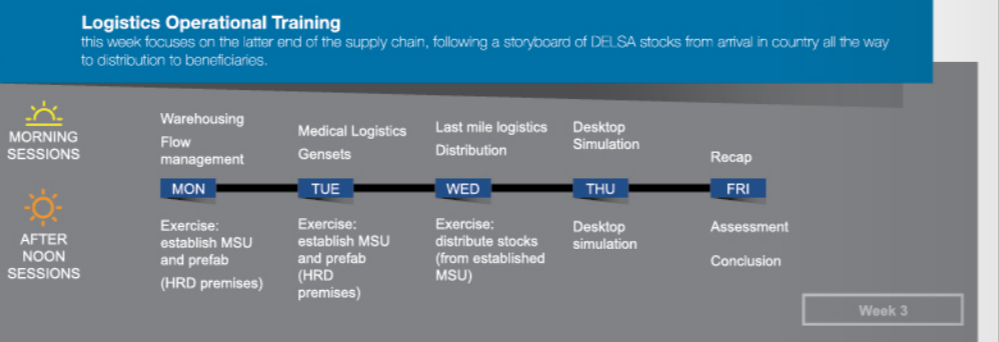
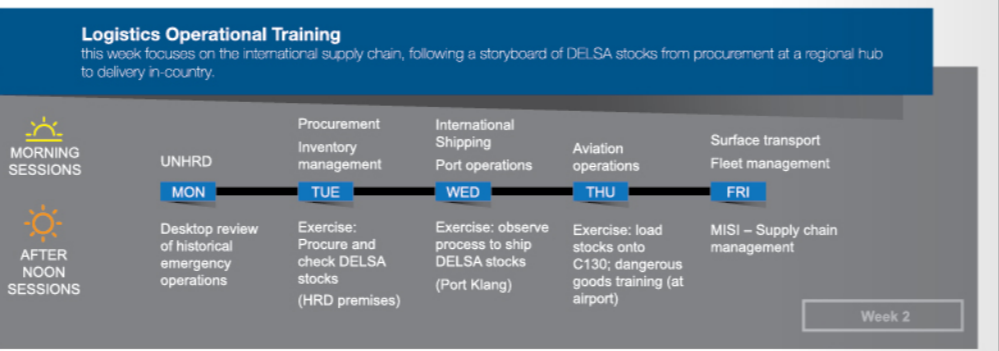
The second week of the programme are focused on Operational Emergency Logistics, which increased participants' awareness on the role of the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) stockpile in the regional disaster response framework. The last week of the logistics training component allowed participants to engage in field exercises and desktop simulation right in the heart of WFP/UNHRD Subang hub.

The training has also exposed the participants to the humanitarian supply chain concepts and their components including sourcing to beneficiary who further helped the participants, identifying factors that would influence and constrain the set-up of the supply chain, as well as explain how different programmes of assistance require different operational set-ups. On top of that, it increased all participants' awareness on the role of DELSA stockpile in the regional disaster response framework. To ensure that the soft skills of the participants increased, the training also required them to lead the team during the training and establish teamwork during the group assignment.

ACE Programme has been able to gain support from WFP with trainers Ms. Deanna Beaumont, Mr. Bernard Chomelie, Ms. Anna

Young, and Mr. Jeff Cuche for the overall training programme. One of the key areas of the training was to enable the participants to improve their competencies in managing logistic systems of ASEAN through DELSA that is located in Subang, Malaysia. United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Subang Hub also provided its support by providing technical experts on warehousing and setting up relief facilities. UNHRD provided trainings on the establishment of Mobile Storage Units and Office Prefabs, and facilitated the Family Kit observation and simulation.

As the ACE Programme draws to a close, ACE Programme Officers successfully gained key takeaways through this Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management training for managing a logistics system of ASEAN through DELSA, and having hands-on experience on assessment and planning, procurement, warehouse and inventory management, transport operation, customs clearance, distribution, monitoring, and evaluation. All of which are important in preparing the Officers in becoming future leaders of disaster management.



Mr. Bernard Chomelie, Senior Logistics Training and Capacity Development Officer.



Ms. Deanna Maree Beaumont, Logistics Training and Capacity Development Officer for WFP's Regional Bureau for Asia.

**ACE CORNER**  
**ROAD TO GRADUATION**

**INTERVIEW SESSIONS**

As this year's ACE Programme draws to a close, The Column spoke with some of the trainers and speakers that ACE participants have crossed paths with.



Mr. Taro Otsuka, Chairman of Otsuka Warehouse Co., Ltd. (Photo courtesy of A-PAD)

**Mr. Taro Otsuka**

The second batch of ACE Programme participants had the opportunity to travel to Japan for a field visit and a memorable Leaders' Talk Session with Mr. Taro Otsuka, Chairman of Otsuka Warehouse Co., Ltd. Through this trip, The Column took the opportunity to talk to the gentleman about his vast experience and knowledge as leader.

Based on your knowledge and experience, what kind of qualities and characteristics do you think a leader should have to become an advocate for a certain cause such as natural disasters?

I think that it is difficult to predict what kinds of disasters might occur at any given moment. Therefore, the most important thing is to always prepare for potential disasters. In Japan, we constantly propose to make emergency countermeasures towards the corporations and organisations that deal with pharmaceutical products, beverages, food, and logistics in advance. By doing this, you can take necessary measures much faster than requesting support from the manufacturer you meet for the first time after the disaster.

What do you think entails a leader to achieve high levels of influence and increase awareness for certain causes?

For me, personally, I build connection and try to gain as much ideas as possible by talking to many people, and having lunch or dinner with different people every day. By meeting many different people, you will gain more knowledge.

How would you suggest future leaders set tone and example for others to follow?

I think they should show the importance of just meeting and talking to as many different people as possible. Also show the importance of conceiving your own ideas and making them happen.

In general, what do you think are the main responsibilities of a leader?

Firstly, I believe leaders should take responsibility and take charge when a crisis occurs. Secondly, I also find it important to understand any particular strengths and weaknesses each co-worker have, and assign people to do the appropriate work according to their strengths.

What kinds of experiences outside of work do you think helped you become the person you are today?

I have always worked hard for my business. Outside of work, I have had experience climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, I have explored the South Pole, and I have took part in bullfighting in Spain. I believe all these different experiences outside of work have made me grow and become the person I am today.

You have met with some of the ACE Programme participants. Can you share with us your experience meeting these ACE participants?

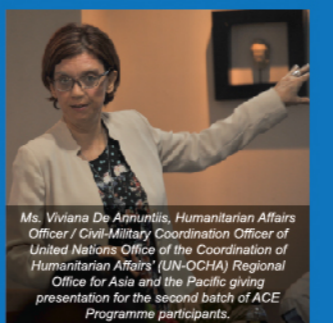
We showed the ACE participants around our drink factory and had a Leaders' Talk Session. I believe the session went very well, I was

pleased to hear so many different questions. I was very happy and impressed to see that all the participants engaging and trying to apply what they learned in Japan to each of their respective countries.

Do you have any word of advice for these future leaders in disaster management?

My motto has always been to 'Work Hard and Play Hard'. Of course, despite this, we should always take our business seriously, but we also need to take the time to do other things in life and broaden our perspective.

**Ms. Viviana De Annuntis**



Ms. Viviana De Annuntis, Humanitarian Affairs Officer / Civil-Military Coordination Officer of United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific giving presentation for the second batch of ACE Programme participants.

Ms. Viviana De Annuntis was involved in last year's ACE Programme. This year, having met a group of new individuals, the Humanitarian Affairs Officer / Civil-Military Coordination Officer of United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific shared her impressions about the Second Batch of the ACE Programme participants and her advice for them as they approach graduation.

Leading up to the final days of this year's ACE Programme, can you share with us your overall impression about the Programme?

I think it is a very well-structured programme. They look at many different aspects of what these future leaders in disaster management will be involved in. They look at rapid needs assessment, communications, logistics, and I think in the end they will be exposed to a really diversified training programme that will give them the skills and competencies they need when they are deployed.

How do you think the participants benefit from a programme such as this?

I think the programme provides them with wide variety of knowledge relevant to the field of work they are in. In addition, I also think that the programme allows them to build solid relationship amongst each other, which is especially important given that they come from the same region.

The participants have engaged in a lot of different trainings in the past few months of the Programme. How do you think these participants can take what they learned and apply it to their own respective contexts?

I think these trainings provide them with the essential tools. It is up to them to see how they can tailor it to their contexts through analysis. They can ask themselves, "What kinds of natural disasters does my country face?" or "How can I apply what I learned to the specific context?" At the same time, we must also acknowledge that some of the things that they have learned in the past six months are valid across the board. Of course there are different types of natural disasters every country face, but some of the regional tools in responding to these disasters are common. There is a degree of uniformity among these different contexts and therefore valid across borders.

Do you have any advice for these participants going forward, as they become future leaders in disaster management?

As much as possible they should try to be involved at a practical level. Take the opportunity, if possible, to be deployed when there is a disaster operation as simulation exercises are not like the real thing. Be involved and see how things translate into the operational reality and start to build up and compare what they have learned in class to those on the ground, because it will only reinforce their learning. By doing so, they will also learn where they are good at, for their future developments.

**HUMANITARIAN CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION TRAINING**



Participants engaging in a debate activity regarding the Oslo Guidelines' criteria of 'last resort'



Participants engaging in active group discussions



Trainers Mr. Mindaraga Rahardja (left) and Ms. Viviana De Annuntis (right)

ACE CORNER is a special column dedicated to report the activities of the current ACE Programme.

ACE Programme is a 6-month leadership training in disaster management, held by AHA Centre with participants coming from ASEAN Member States.

The military possesses unique skills, assets and capabilities that can support humanitarian response to disaster emergencies. With humanitarian and military actors operating with different mandates, objectives and working methods, it is important for ACE Programme participants to understand how to promote effective humanitarian-military relationships by way of raising mutual awareness and understanding the roles of military and humanitarian actors in emergency situations. Remembering this, participants engaged in an intensive two-day training programme from the 2nd to the 3rd of July, with the help of facilitators Ms. Viviana De Annuntis, Humanitarian Affairs Officer / Civil-Military Coordination Officer of United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and Mr. Mindaraga Rahardja, Humanitarian Affairs Analyst/Reporting of UN-OCHA.

"Civil-Military Coordination is a framework that can enhance the mutual understanding between the military actors on the ground, the government, and the humanitarian actors," said Ms. Viviana De Annuntis. She further added, "Through this programme we want to facilitate this mutual understanding and show the participants existing guidelines in the context of natural disasters, so that when these future disaster management leaders are deployed and meet military actors on the field, they already know how to establish the appropriate dialogue and understanding." Such coordination is necessary to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid competition, minimise inconsistency, and when appropriate pursue common goals.

Foreign military assets and assistance are normally used when there is no comparable civilian alternative assistance available at the time and location needed and when only the use of its assets can meet a critical humanitarian need. Therefore, they act as a complementary tool to existing relief mechanisms to provide specific support.

Through the training, participants learned main humanitarian principles and other concepts that must be respected when planning or undertaking civil-military coordination, such as:

Any civil-military coordination must serve the prime humanitarian principle of humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

Humanitarian agencies must maintain their ability to obtain access to all vulnerable populations.

Delivery of humanitarian assistance to all populations in need must be neutral and impartial.

Humanitarian assistance must be provided on the basis of needs of those affected without adverse discrimination.

A clear distinction must be maintained between combatants and non-combatants.

Humanitarian actors must retain the lead role in undertaking and directing humanitarian activities.

Decisions to seek military-based security for humanitarian workers should be a last resort option when other staff security mechanisms are unavailable, inadequate or inappropriate.

Considerations on civil-military coordination must be guided by a commitment to 'do no harm'.

Humanitarian and military actors must respect international legal instruments.

Respect must be maintained for the culture and customs of the communities and countries where humanitarian activities are carried out.

The risk of compromising humanitarian operations by cooperating with the military might be reduced if there is consent of parties to the conflict.

Use of military assets, armed escorts, and joint humanitarian-military operations must be the option of last resort.

Humanitarian agencies must avoid becoming dependent on resources or support provided by the military.

Making an impression on the participants, Ms. Viviana De Annuntis said, "I appreciate their enthusiasm. I can see that they value the programme and see the benefits of it." Speaking about the ACE Programme, Mr. Mindaraga Rahardja said, "I am encouraged and impressed by the investments made by the AHA Centre, as well as other donors, partners and all the ASEAN Member States in an effort to support this programme."