



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

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Aerial view of the flooded area in Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province, Lao PDR.

## HIGHLIGHT

Response to  
Tropical Storm 11

## INSIGHT

Types of recorded disasters  
in ASEAN Member States

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By the end of July, the AHA Centre was engaged in two disaster responses to flooding in both Lao PDR and Myanmar – which stands as the first time the AHA Centre provided support to two different ASEAN nations in unison.



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**EDITOR'S NOTE**



Hi Readers,

July has been one of the AHA Centre's busiest to date, and this month's Column will give you an overview of all that has been happening across the region in the disaster management field. Disasters have struck numerous nations across ASEAN, with this edition's Highlight section taking a closer look at the AHA Centre's first ever engagement in two responses within two nations in unison – namely in Myanmar and Lao PDR – caused by the onset of Tropical Storm 11.

Unfortunately, due to the range of monsoons, floods and earthquakes taking place across our region, Volume 41 is unable to bring you our Monthly Disaster Outlook, as our team is working day and night providing valuable information related to all current disasters. However, our Insight section takes a look back at the variety of disaster types that have been registered by the AHA Centre since its establishment almost seven years ago.

Our Other Side article gives us a great insight into the engagement of Mr. Kenneth Mak – a member of ASEAN-ERAT from the Singapore Civil Defence Force – while we will also learn more about the important partnership between the AHA Centre and RedR Australia. Finally, the AHA Centre Diary focuses towards the implementation of final preparations for the upcoming ARDEX training in Indonesia, as well as the AHA Centre's engagement in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDDR) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

We hope you enjoy Volume 41 of the Column, and all our readers stay safe and well during the range of disaster events taking place across our region.

Sincerely yours,

**The Column Editorial Team.**



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# RESPONSE TO TROPICAL STORM 11



The flooded agricultural area and villages in Sanamxay district



Xe Pien and Xe Nam Noy Dams, Lao PDR



The formation of Tropical Storm 11 (TS 11 – also known as Son Tinh, or Henry in the Philippines) had been closely monitored by the AHA Centre since early July 2018, as the team worked alongside the National Disaster Management Organisations of ASEAN Member States to prepare for the potential disaster impacts that may materialise should the storm continue to gain strength. Towards the end of July, TS 11 intensified, with torrential rains and strong winds buffeting a number of nations, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, resulting in widespread flooding through many districts within these nations. By the end of July, the AHA Centre was engaged in two disaster responses to flooding in both Lao PDR and Myanmar – which stands as the first time the AHA Centre provided support to two different ASEAN nations in unison.

Floods were being reported across numerous ASEAN countries in the aftermath of TS 11. However, in the evening of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the walls of Xe Pien and Xe Nam Noy dams in Lao PDR burst, with flash floods impacting thousands of households downstream from the large water catchments. Within 24 hours, the AHA Centre's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Jakarta activated its emergency response operations, and an In-Country Liaison Team (ICLT) was deployed and arrived in Vientiane. For this response, the AHA Centre provided four key aspects of assistance to the Government of Lao PDR and its people, including logistical management and coordination, information management and mapping, advisory support for operations planning, and finally mobilisation of relief items.

During the handover, the AHA Centre's Executive Director, Ms. Adelina Kamal, stated that "The spirit of One ASEAN One Response is well-demonstrated in times of crisis, such as today. The swift coordination is enabled through continuous partnerships between NDMOs of all ASEAN Member States and our partners, built over the years under ASEAN cooperation on disaster management".

ASEAN's relief items were delivered by the AHA Centre on both the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The first batch included 1 aluminium rescue boat, 150 family tents, 2616 hygiene kits, alongside a mobile storage unit for use as a temporary warehouse for all incoming relief items. In addition, the National Disaster Management Agency of Malaysia (NADMA) also added to the assistance by providing an extra aluminium rescue boat. Whereas the first batch of relief items were flown-in to Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, a second batch comprised of 3500 mosquito nets were delivered alongside Australian relief items, directly into Pakse Airport, Attapeu, one of the province's hardest hit by the natural disaster. The mobilised relief items are crucial to the specific needs of Lao PDR's NDMO, as well as the affected population.

Written by: Shintya Kurniawan | Photo: AHA Centre

"When we found out that we had a serious disaster, like the dam collapsing, the first thing that came to mind was the AHA Centre. Emergency response is not only about mobilisation of funds, materials and food. We also need to learn about coordination for medical support, military cooperation, and camp management. I would like to take this opportunity to train people and learn how to organise, starting from the village level", said Mr. Prasong Vongkhamchanh, the Director-General of Social Welfare Department of Lao PDR's NDMO, during a briefing with the AHA Centre's ICLT.

Overall, TS 11 and the resulting flooding affected 10 out of 17 provinces across Lao PDR. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, the ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, the Director-General of Social Welfare Dept. Head of NDMO Lao PDR Mr. Prasong Vongkhamchanh, and the Executive Director of AHA Centre Ms. Adelina Kamal visited one of the severely affected provinces, handing over ASEAN's assistance to the Governor of Attapeu and the Mayor of Sanamxay District.

**"Being forced from our homes is not a choice anyone desires for oneself, nor impose on others. The storm may have rendered our lives tragic and difficult, but we shall weather it through the triumph of our spirit"**

said the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, upon his visit to Sanamxay.

### ASEAN RELIEF ITEM'S FOR LAO PDR

**\$ 192,545.03 USD** TOTAL VALUE OF RELIEF ITEMS

- 1** MOBILE STORAGE UNIT
- 2616** HYGIENE KITS
- 2** RESCUE BOATS
- 3500** MOSQUITO NETS
- 150** FAMILY TENTS

Before the mission in Lao PDR was concluded, monsoonal conditions in Myanmar saw the AHA Centre launch its second response on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, to support the Government of Myanmar as nine regions/states were inundated by floodwaters, damaging homes and threatening lives in the central and southern states of the country. As conditions worsened, more and more of the nation's population felt the brunt of the monsoon, with the Government of Myanmar reporting that more than 150,000 people had been internally displaced by floods and landslides across nine regions, with the regions of Bago, Kayin, Mon, and Tanintharyi most heavily impacted. With many of the affected communities living in rural areas, a key issue highlighted was the limited electricity supply. To address this, the AHA Centre provided 12,000 portable solar lanterns, procured locally at a value of approximately USD \$79,883 that were then distributed to communities facing power outages throughout the flooded nation. These items, alongside



the provision of an In-Country Liaison Team to support Myanmar's NDMO, displayed the solidarity of the ASEAN region as it provided disaster relief assistance, through the AHA Centre, to the communities affected by flood in Myanmar. The relief items were received by Mr. Win Shwe, Yangon Director of Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department, in Yangon, Myanmar on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2018. During the handover ceremony, Mr Win Shwe emphasised Myanmar's gratitude by saying, "We would like to convey our deepest appreciation to AHA Centre for its readiness to support Myanmar. By taking this opportunity, we would also like to extend our personal thanks to the Government of Japan for its generous donation to ASEAN, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. This assistance will definitely signify the unity and friendship amongst the ASEAN Member States and would enhance mutual understanding".

**152,541**  
 THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR REPORTING THAT MORE THAN 150,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN INTERNALLY DISPLACED BY FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

The mission in Myanmar was concluded on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, with the overlapping responses forming the first time that the AHA Centre has activated missions to different countries at the same time. Although the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) was not activated for both responses, the AHA Centre managed to obtain the support of a Yangon-based ASEAN-ERAT personnel, who volunteered to help the AHA Centre's ICLT during their mission in Myanmar. With less than 30 personnel, the AHA Centre also managed to gain ad-hoc support from various partners. At the end of its first ever in-unison response, the AHA Centre was already gearing up to support a Government-led emergency response in the earthquake-affected areas in Lombok, Indonesia, of which will be detailed in the next edition of the AHA Centre's Column.

**A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO OUR PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT OUR MULTIPLE RESPONSES**

1. ASEAN Secretariat
2. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3. Digital Globe
4. International Water Management Institute
5. Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund
6. Pacific Disaster Center
7. NADMA Malaysia
8. Royal Malaysian Air Force
9. Sentinel Asia
10. United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot
11. UNOCHA

**AHA CENTRE'S RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING IN LAO PDR**



**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE FLOOD-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN MYANMAR**



# ARDEX

## FINAL PREPARATION MEETINGS

CILEGON, BANTEN, INDONESIA, 11-12 JULY, 2018

2018's ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2018 (ARDEX-18) is planned to be held in Cilegon, Banten, Indonesia, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, engaging all ten ASEAN Member States and a range of other disaster management stakeholders within this all-important disaster simulation exercise. During mid-July, the AHA Centre, alongside the National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia (BNPB) led the final preparations for ARDEX-18, undertaking the Final Exercise Planning Team (EPT) meeting and Final Planning Conference (FPC) for this key biennial regional exercise.



ARDEX-18 will form the 7<sup>th</sup> ARDEX simulation exercise for the ASEAN region, which has provided a substantial range of benefits to ASEAN nations as well as for a vast range of stakeholders within the international sector. Alongside this, it has formed an opportunity for the ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures (SASOP) to be practiced, evaluated, and reviewed as the key mechanisms for disaster response within the region. The finalisation of preparations included determining contributions of each actor engaged in the exercise, the roles that will be undertaken by each participant, as well as ensuring the exercise will be implemented in a smooth and efficient manner.



"Conducting exercises will help gather valuable and proper assessments to address gaps in real emergency situations. In addition, doing simulations will help clearly identify roles, types of communications and resources needed," explained Mr. Dicky Fabrian S.H., LL.M., from the Bureau of Law and Cooperation of the BNPB.

Cilegon has been chosen to host ARDEX-18 due to its identification by the Indonesian Government as one of the most disaster-prone areas, and based on scientific risk analysis undertaken on the location. Cilegon is in close proximity to the Sunda thrust and Krakatau volcano, thus prone to earthquake, tsunami, and volcanic hazards. Furthermore, as an industrial area, Cilegon faces an additional risk of hazardous materials due to the presence of various factories within the city. Due to this factor, ARDEX-18 will be the first simulation exercise that includes training materials related to chemical hazards within the scenario.



The Executive Director of AHA Centre shares her remarks during ARDEX final preparation meeting in Cilegon

"First, ARDEX serves as a key disaster response preparation tool. Next, it serves as a strong platform for the participants to learn from each other. The lessons learned and gathered will be significant for improving the preparations in the future. Third, ARDEX builds a bridge in linking and strengthening the emotional bonding of sisterhood and brotherhood of ASEAN, which is important factor in strengthening the context of ASEAN unity," said Adelina Kamal, the Executive Director of AHA Centre.

Participants for the upcoming ARDEX-18 are comprised of emergency response teams from all ASEAN Member States, United Nations representatives, private sector, academia, and international partners who wish to contribute to the implementation of One ASEAN One Response.



### CILEGON

HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO HOST ARDEX-18 DUE TO ITS IDENTIFICATION BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AS ONE OF THE MOST DISASTER-PRONE AREAS, AND BASED ON OF SCIENTIFIC RISK ANALYSIS UNDERTAKEN ON THE LOCATION.

## ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (AMCDRR), ULAANBAATAR,

MONGOLIA, JULY 3RD - 6TH 2018.

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) brings together a diverse range of Asian stakeholders and policy makers to discuss latest developments in disaster risk reduction (DRR), of which forms a key element of disaster management efforts across the globe. The biennial meeting was this year held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2018, with representatives from the AHA Centre in attendance. This meeting forms a key activity in the Asian region's efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 – with global and regional risk reduction platforms central to its overall implementation success.



Written by: Dipo Summa / Photo: AHA Centre

While DRR is not a specific focus of the AHA Centre's direct work, the meeting retains high importance and relevance, as it provides the AHA Centre the opportunity to engage with its partners, share knowledge, and gain relevant insight into actions that may benefit the AHA Centre's work – particularly related to disaster monitoring, preparedness and capacity development. 2018's AMCDRR covered a range of important and strategic topics, including technical sessions on issues such as understanding risk, thematic sessions including private sector interventions, and public events raising topics such as World Tsunami Awareness Day. The meeting also resulted in the formulation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration – a declaration from all engaged nations that recognises current disaster issues, calls on government and other stakeholders to increase and continue their disaster risk reduction efforts, and resolves to implement all outcomes and efforts stated within the declaration.



### 2018 AMCDRR

COVERED A RANGE OF IMPORTANT AND STRATEGIC TOPICS.

For the AHA Centre itself, particular value was gained through engagement in sessions regarding early warning and alert systems, which was a central topic during the 2018 meeting. The implementation and improvement of early warning and alert systems would serve to support increased speed and early engagement within the AHA Centre's disaster response efforts. As a result, such improvements could lead to stronger instances of early recovery. The AHA Centre was also interested to learn further from civil society organisations about their initiative to develop CSO-led surge capacity, in which CSOs can also mobilise their own assets and capacities during disaster response. Integrating such ideas within the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), for example, could increase the capacity and coordination within disaster responses across the ASEAN region through the use already-existing assets. Strategies such as this also provide strong evidence for the importance of the ongoing development of the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) project – increasing its strategic relevance to foster a united and strong ASEAN region under the implementation of the One ASEAN, One Response vision.

Written by: Valerie Bayhon / Photo: AHA Centre

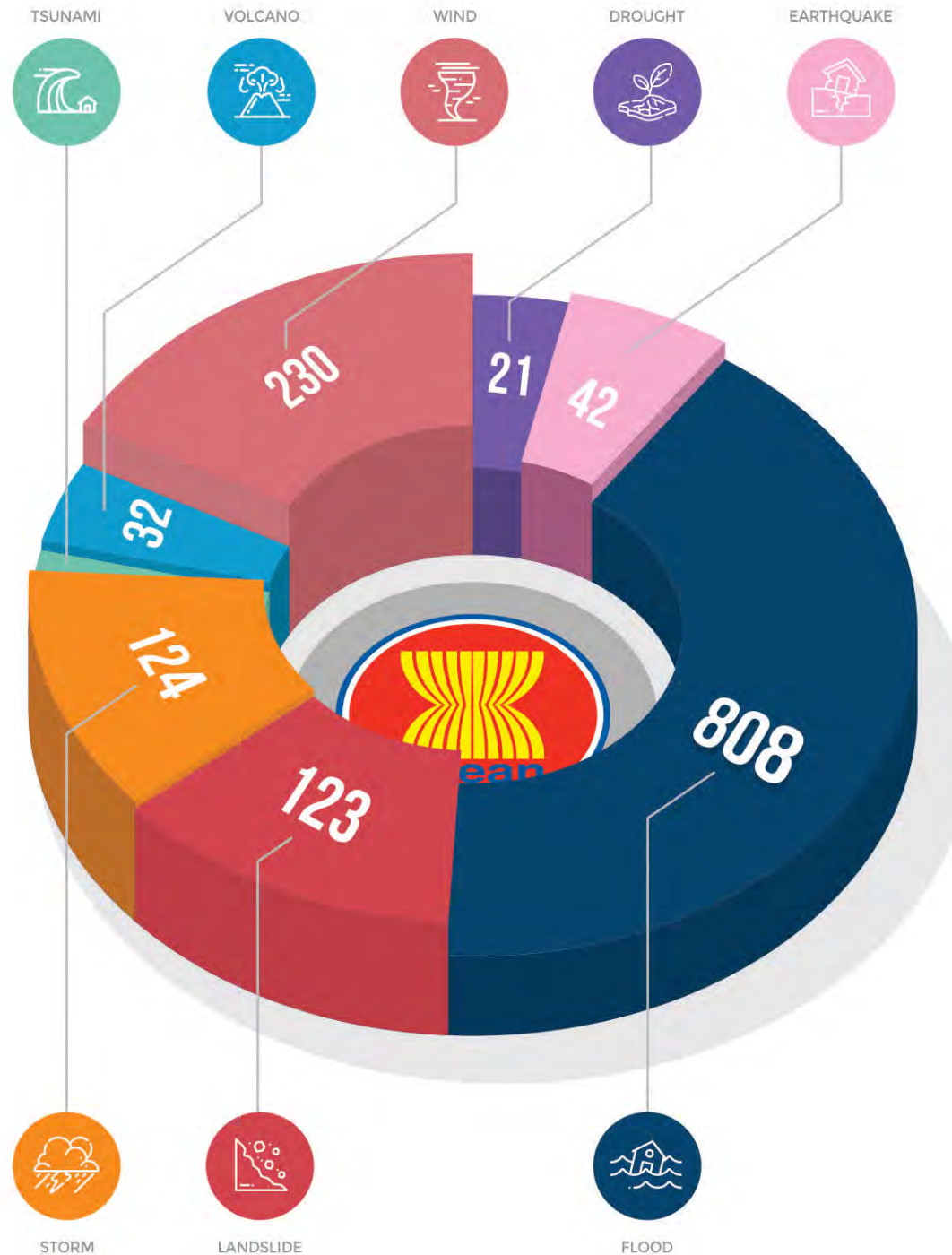
# TYPES OF RECORDED DISASTERS IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES

Since its foundation, the AHA Centre has actively monitored seven types of natural disasters that have occurred on a frequent basis across the Southeast Asian region. The natural disasters types that have registered on the AHA Centre's radar include drought, earthquake, flood, wind, storm, volcano, and landslides.

Throughout the previous six years, a total of 1380 disasters have been recorded by the AHA Centre's team. While floods, winds, storms, and landslides top the list for frequency, slower-onset disasters, such as drought, still pose significant risk, primarily for ASEAN's agricultural-based communities.

The most recent recorded disasters have been the floods in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, that occurred due to the accumulated impact of the monsoon season and Tropical Storm 11 (Son-Tinh/ Henry). Between end of July and early August, the AHA Centre activated three emergency responses, responding to severe flooding in Southern Lao PDR and 4 states/regions of Myanmar, as well as powerful earthquakes in Lombok, Indonesia. The following chart may support further development of mitigation plans for disaster managers, as part of wider disaster-preparedness strategies.

Written by : Shinya Kurihara



## TYPES OF DISASTERS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

	DROUGHT	21
	EARTHQUAKE	42
	FLOOD	808
	LANDSLIDE	123
	STORM	124
	TSUNAMI	0
	VOLCANO	32
	WIND	230

## TOTAL REPORTED DISASTERS:

# 1380

JULY 2012 - JUNE 2018

### DISCLAIMER

The presented information above is consolidated from the ASEAN Disaster Information Net (ADINet) and the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT). Presented numbers may not reflect the actual risks due to lack of data availability in some ASEAN countries.



# MR. KENNETH MAK

A 15-year veteran with the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Mr. Kenneth Mak became an ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) member after participating in the 6th training in 2016. His current work with the SCDF's HazMat (Hazardous Materials) department has strengthened the capacity of ASEAN-ERAT to undertake their work, particularly in response to the dumpsite fires in Myanmar earlier this year. In an interview with The Column, Kenneth offered some unique insights regarding the Myanmar response, the ASEAN-ERAT programme, and similarities between the SCDF and other ASEAN bodies regarding disaster management.



The Myanmar dumpsite fires of late April/early May, 2018 were Kenneth's first deployment with ASEAN-ERAT, as the region called upon his specialised background related to hazardous materials in response to the disaster. With the

impact of the ongoing fires beginning to have a significant impact on nearby communities, Kenneth deployed with other ASEAN-ERAT members to provide expertise on controlling and extinguishing the fires, as well as provide support related to health effects that were increasing during the disaster. "The main request from Yangon city was that they were looking for a firefighting and hazard specialist to give recommendations on the operations. This is basically what I do – firefighting and hazardous material operations – so I was quite comfortable" remembers Kenneth. The context of this being a human-induced disaster is not lost on him either, as he states "Myanmar dumpsite fire was unique compared with other responses, because it was not only a natural disaster, but a fire incident – a first for the AHA Centre and also a first for ERAT deployment".

Joining the ASEAN-ERAT programme has been an interesting experience for Kenneth, as it has allowed him to engage further with disaster response across the region. While the Myanmar dumpsite response stands as his maiden engagement thus far, Kenneth highlights the importance and relevance of the training undertaken upon joining the ASEAN-ERAT programme. The overall authenticity of the field exercise that forms a significant part of the programme training is a key highlight for Kenneth, preparing participants for deployment within a context that is as 'real' as possible. "Sometimes we thought that during the training the scenario that was given to us was actually real. It is a true reflection of what was going to happen. The training actually geared us up very well before the deployment" Kenneth remembers.

Similarities between his work with the SCDF and now as an ASEAN-ERAT member are particularly notable for Kenneth. He notes the reality that often there is a link between industrial or human-influenced disasters and natural disasters. "We have to realise that many environmental emergencies may be



Kenneth's experience and expertise as a fire fighter enriches the diversity of ASEAN-ERAT members.



Kenneth poses with his team during the 6th ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course in 2016

Written by: Valerie Baynon, William Shea | Photo: AHA Centre, Personal archive

indirectly caused by natural disasters, such as earthquake or flood", he states. Kenneth also sees strong similarities between the responses undertaken by companies for industrial disasters, and natural disaster responses implemented by local governments. For industrial disaster responses, it is the companies who most understand their surrounding environment and the situation at hand, and this is mirrored by the role of local governments within a regional natural disaster response.



**"We need to work with the local government so they know the risks they are facing, and if anything happens, support the development of a contingency plan for response", he says. They are similar to a company, as "they are the nearest, they know the premises well, and they know what they are handling".**

Overall, the value of ASEAN-ERAT, and the role of the AHA Centre, is a key highlight for Kenneth. "I think in terms of relevancy of ERAT, I think it is unique. Because you know there are 10 ASEAN countries and we have

enjoyed a close working relationship. We are familiar to ASEAN cultures too", he says. This is where the role of such programmes and institutions are key – "So, when we go to the affected country, they are willing to accept us more readily because we are engaging with each other more frequently". Kenneth finishes by considering the future, and the role of ASEAN-ERAT both regionally and internationally.

**"Over the years, we will build out our expertise, in terms of ERAT response. We will build and can share our own experience that is unique to us".**



# RedR Australia

The ASEAN region, being prone to a range of natural disasters, aims to be a step ahead in delivering response to such disasters when they strike. To achieve this, well-trained and prepared human capital is required, with strong teams developed through relevant and up-to-date seminars and workshops. Through the recent formalisation of a long-standing working partnership between RedR Australia and the AHA Centre, both parties aim to mutually promote, develop, and strengthen their cooperation in disaster management to further improve response for the ASEAN region's communities.



RedR Australia is a non-governmental, international humanitarian agency that provides disaster management training across the world. One of their key objectives is to help rebuild and support communities to recover immediately after disaster strikes, by both delivering and equipping key actors with appropriate and efficient humanitarian skills. Adelina Kamal, the Executive Director of AHA Centre, and Kirsten Sayers, the Chief Executive Officer of RedR Australia, recently signed and formalised a partnership through a Memorandum of Intent, on the side lines of the 8th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2018.

The partnership is channelled through the "Australia Assists – Technical Assistance in Disaster Risk Management" programme, managed and co-designed by RedR Australia and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The programme aims to develop and increase the capacity of deployable civilian resources that meet humanitarian policy and procedure requirements and standards. The formation of collaboration between RedR Australia and AHA Centre will not only strengthen disaster response, but also develop stronger disaster management capacity within the region. The platform of the partnership has been undertaken with the intention of providing the highest quality disaster response and management practices within a constantly changing environment and context, and more importantly, to build resilience and improve the quality of humanitarian action to alleviate suffering and save lives.



1. RedR training with participants of ACE Programme in Jakarta
2. RedR rebuilds livelihoods for conflict and flood-affected families in Myanmar
3. RedR conducts USAR training in the Philippines



1

Written by : Valerie Baynon | Photo : RedR Australia

This MoI stands as a bilateral recognition of the value that both parties' ongoing engagement has created, and to expand on this, the formalised partnership will allow both parties to engage on a wider level. It aims to provide the ASEAN region with access to a deeper pool of deployable expertise, efficient roster management practices, effective monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) processes, appropriate and effective risk management, and more opportunities to develop disaster-related activities with RedR Australia.

Since 2016, RedR Australia's expertise has also been integrated within the AHA Centre's existing training programmes, such as the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, in which they have provided specific training modules on project management elements. Such engagement has been an integral part of the ACE Programme, which focuses specifically towards developing ASEAN leaders from all 10 Member States, who hold the capacity and skills to lead the region in response and operations when a disaster strikes. Alongside the new overall MoI, RedR Australia and the AHA Centre have also agreed to continue and strengthen their partnership through the ACE Programme, developing stronger, more specific training materials and engagements as part of ACE Programme Phase 2, being implemented from 2018-2020.



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REDR AUSTRALIA AND THE AHA CENTRE AIM TO MUTUALLY PROMOTE, DEVELOP, AND STRENGTHEN THEIR COOPERATION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT TO FURTHER IMPROVE RESPONSE FOR THE ASEAN REGION'S COMMUNITIES.





# ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



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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.