



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.48 | MARCH 2019



## HIGHLIGHT

Tackling Typhoons –  
Preparedness and Safety Tips

## MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook  
for February 2019

## THE OTHER SIDE

Prof. Dr. Kuntoro  
Mangkusubroto





02 | HIGHLIGHT

The Pacific typhoon season poses an annual threat to the ASEAN region, with Member States such as Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, and in particular the Philippines often experiencing the brunt of large typhoons and tropical storms

05 | MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

08 | AHA CENTRE DIARY

12 | PARTNERSHIP

14 | THE OTHER SIDE



**AHA CENTRE**

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management



GO

PAPERLESS

visit

[thecolumn.ahacentre.org](http://thecolumn.ahacentre.org)



**EDITOR'S NOTE**



**HI READERS,**

Volume 48 of the AHA Centre's Column brings us a range of fresh and new insights into disaster management from the ASEAN region and abroad taking place during the last month.

We have recently held a range of key strategic meetings on disaster management elements taking place across ASEAN, with the AHA Centre Diary covering the DELSA Project Steering Committee and the AHA Centre's engagement in the Third ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Advisory Group Meeting. To add to this, we also hear the story of an intense participation in RedR's Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) in Australia.

This Volume's Highlight provides some valuable tips for preparing and facing the onset of a typhoon – a disaster all too common for many communities across ASEAN, while we learn more about strategic leadership from one of Indonesia's renowned disaster recovery and rehabilitation figures Prof. Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto.

Gathering further understanding on the importance of coherence and efficiency efforts in disaster risk management is highlighted through a run-down on the AHA Centre's partnership with the German-funded Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) project, and our monthly disaster outlook keeps us up-to-date with the key data and forecasts for disaster in the ASEAN region.

We hope you are prepared and aware wherever you may be across this diverse ASEAN region, and can take the time to enjoy the stories brought to you on a monthly basis by the AHA Centre team.

**The Editor**



**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Adelina Kamal

**THE EDITORIAL TEAM**

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Shintya Kurniawan

**JOURNALIST**  
Caroline Widagdo, Lawrence Anthony Dimailig,  
Melya Wardhani

**EDITOR**  
William Shea

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
Yohan Andreas

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Denis Indra Permana

**PUBLISHED BY**  
The AHA Centre



# TACKLING TYPHOONS

## PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY TIPS

### WHEN A TYPHOON IS NEAR

Understanding and preparedness can play a significant role in minimising damage and loss of life when large storms are bearing down. Strong planning and coordination between governments, communities and disaster management bodies such as the AHA Centre can go a long way towards ensuring the people of ASEAN and their livelihoods remain stable even in the face of super typhoon and tropical storm events. Organisations such as the AHA Centre and national governments have the technology and knowledge to track the progress of impending typhoon and storm cells, therefore information sharing and awareness is imperative for preparedness.



#### 1 MONITOR INFORMATION

Identify your local news outlet and information channels from your local government and disaster management authorities, and follow the information and any directions (particularly orders to evacuate) during the days leading-up to the storm's landfall.

#### 2 PREPARE YOUR HOME

Your home is a place of refuge during a storm, as well as something to return to if you are ordered to evacuate. Boarding up windows and removing overhanging trees can go a long way to minimising damage to your place of residence.

#### 3 PREPARE TO WAIT IT OUT

Once an impending typhoon is near, staying in your home is the only option, therefore a safe place on the ground floor away from windows and doors should be identified. It is best to organise food, water and medical supplies in advance, as it may be some time before the storm clears and emergency teams can access your local area to provide further support.

#### 4 PREPARE A GRAB-BAG

Having a Grab-Bag is imperative should you be ordered to evacuate at short notice. It should contain water, nutritional food/snacks, spare warm clothes, a torch, a communication device, and important medication.

#### 5 HARVEST AND SECURE

For farmers or fishers, it is recommended to harvest available crops in the days leading-up to a typhoon's landfall, fishing boats and other important farming equipment should be secured and tied-down in a safe place, to ensure increased ability to return to economic activities once the worst has passed.

The Pacific typhoon season poses an annual threat to the ASEAN region, with Member States such as Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, and in particular the Philippines often experiencing the brunt of large typhoons and tropical storms – usually between the months of May to October. Numerous typhoons and tropical storms also form in the Northern Pacific (Bay of Bengal) region, often striking Myanmar and other nearby nations from the west of ASEAN. 2018 displayed the potential impact of such events, with Typhoon Mangkhut and Tropical Storm Son Tinh affecting ASEAN communities, not only through the initial impact of the storms, but also the resulting disasters such as flood and landslides caused by the heavy rain and winds. Through its activities during the advance of Typhoon Mangkhut, the Philippines evidenced the benefit of preparedness measures in the typhoon season, providing inspiration for the following tips on typhoon preparedness and safety measures.



### DURING AND AFTER A TYPHOON

Whether you are in your home or forced to evacuate, your decisions can determine your safety during the event of disaster.

#### 1 IN THE HOME

If in your home, confine yourself to the determined safe space away from windows on the ground floor, with all doors and windows closed and covered. Turn off gas and electricity sources, and wait calmly until the worst has passed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull in the storm, as it may be the storm's eye or a moment of respite. Once conditions have calmed for a number of hours, it is then safe to say that you have survived the worst. Remember, however, to be aware of secondary disasters such as flood and landslide that may threaten your immediate surrounds.

#### 2 EVACUATION

In the days leading-up to the typhoon's landfall you may be requested to evacuate to a nearby safe location appointed by your local government or disaster management body. It is recommended to follow all orders and requests completely, as such decisions are made based on the most relevant and technical information available, and with the best interests of community safety in mind. Pack your important belongings and your Grab-Bag, and follow all orders from authorities calmly and in an orderly fashion.

**NUMEROUS TYPHOONS AND TROPICAL STORMS ALSO FORM IN THE NORTHERN PACIFIC (BAY OF BENGAL) REGION, OFTEN STRIKING MYANMAR AND OTHER NEARBY NATIONS FROM THE WEST OF ASEAN.**

THE PACIFIC TYPHOON SEASON POSES AN ANNUAL THREAT TO THE ASEAN REGION, WITH MEMBER STATES SUCH AS



LAO PDR



PHILIPPINES

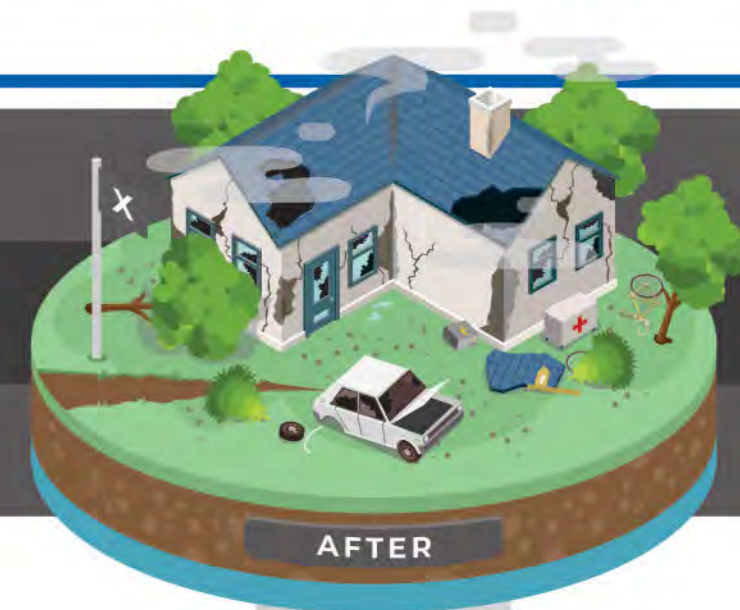


THAILAND



VIET NAM

OFTEN EXPERIENCING THE BRUNT OF LARGE TYPHOONS AND TROPICAL STORMS – USUALLY BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF MAY TO OCTOBER.



### AFTER THE STORM

If planning to return from evacuation shelters, only do so when given the all-clear by the relevant authorities. When arriving home, monitor your property from the outside, check for damage to the structure of your house, and also to cables or pipes for electricity and gas. For those waiting-out the storm at home, the same applies as for evacuees. Check your home's structure and potential leaks or breaks in utility supplies, wait for contact from emergency services, and at all times remain aware of potential secondary disasters.



TYPHOONS ARE CLASSIFIED BASED ON THE SUSTAINED SPEED OF ITS WINDS. THE SPEED RANGES FROM 119 TO OVER 252 KM PER HOUR





01  
DISASTER

THE ASEAN SPECIALISED METEOROLOGICAL CENTRE REPORTED THAT THE PREVAILING NORTHEASTERN MONSOON SEASON IS EXPECTED TO TRANSITION INTO THE INTER-MONSOON PERIOD BY THE END OF MARCH 2019.

04  
DISASTERS

REGIONAL TALLY	February 2019	February Average (Previous 5 years)
• Number of recorded significant disasters	5	22
• Number of affected people	25,609	427,066
• Number of internally displaced people	416	37,103
• Number of damaged houses	4,113	766
• Number of casualties	-	15
• Number of injured people	221	330
• Number of missing people	-	3

(covering the period of Weeks 6-9 in 2019 and 2014-2018 average)

# MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE  
FEBRUARY 2019

## GENERAL REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 2019

February 2019 was characterised by an unusually low number of recorded disaster events, registering less than a quarter of the five-year average of occurrences for the month. Although the region experienced scattered rain showers in the south, and generally dry and hazy conditions in the north, the record-breaking low number of impact on communities (only 6% and 1% of the five-year average number for affected and displaced people respectively) could reflect the improving effectiveness of disaster management practices among ASEAN Member States. On the other hand, the recorded number of damaged houses was more than five times the five-year average. An overwhelming majority of the damage was caused by hailstorms and strong winds in Northeastern Viet Nam. Fortunately, about 84% (or 3,436) houses incurred only minor damage. In general, February 2019 was a more settled month for disaster managers across the region.

In addition to Indonesia's South Solok Regency earthquake that resulted to minor damages, there were 30 other earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 and above in Indonesia and the Philippines during February. While still a high number, it forms only 48% compared to last month's seismic activities of the same strength. There was also intensified dynamicity in volcanic activities in the region, most notably in Indonesia. Fortunately, only Mt. Karangetang (on Siau Island) experienced damage, which was also considered minor. This result is influenced by the increasing awareness of both authorities and communities to volcano-related risks, and their improved cooperation to mitigate and prevent impacts and damages.

**THERE WERE 30 OTHER EARTHQUAKES OF MAGNITUDE 5.0**

and above in Indonesia and the Philippines during February 2019.

### 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>.

## DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

■ FEBRUARY 2019 ■ FEBRUARY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

Earthquake	1	-	Indonesia	4	20
Flood	1	16	Malaysia	-	1
Landslide	-	3	The Philippines	-	1
Storm	1	-	Viet Nam	1	-
Volcano	1	-	Total	5	22
Wind	1	3			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>			

## SEASONAL OUTLOOK

The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre reported that the prevailing Northeastern Monsoon season is expected to transition into the inter-monsoon period by the end of March 2019. During the inter-monsoon period, the region is expected to experience an increase in rain activity. This is good news for the Mekong sub-region, as it will help ease transboundary smoke haze in the area. However, this could also mean flooding, rain-induced landslides, and other hydrological hazards in the equatorial and southern parts of the ASEAN region – particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia. There remains a likelihood that the hotspots and smoke haze conditions in the Mekong sub-region could persist, however, it is expected that the prevailing dry season in northern ASEAN will gradually come to an end by April 2019.

Written by: Eviana Rosida, Lawrence Anthony Dimailig

With the expected increase in hydro-meteorological activities within the region, the AHA Centre is preparing by strengthening efforts to share early-warning information, and monitoring data and information between the Centre and National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs). This is being undertaken through conducting an ASEAN Workshop on Disaster Reporting and Big Data for Disaster Management, and the development of the proposed AHA Centre Information Management Technical Working Group (AIM-TWG). The workshop aims to build regional and national capacity in utilising current and new information and communication technologies, while AIM-TWG is envisioned to be a platform for cooperation and collaboration between and among AHA Centre and NDMOs for strengthening regional and national disaster information management capacities, capabilities, and practices.



The AHA Centre is preparing by strengthening efforts to share early-warning information, and monitoring data and information between the Centre and National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs).

Data Sources: ASEAN Disaster Information Network, ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre



## PREPARING FOR LAUNCH :

# THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE DELSA PHASE 2 PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Singapore was the location for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Project Steering Committee for the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) Phase II project, which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019. With the development of two satellite warehouses for DELSA stockpile currently in final stages of development, this meeting would form the primary driving factor to prepare the warehouses for their launching date.



The meeting – co-chaired by Malaysia and Singapore in their roles as Co-Chairs of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Working Group on Preparedness and Response

The meeting – co-chaired by Malaysia and Singapore in their roles as Co-Chairs of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Working Group on Preparedness and Response – was attended by Project Steering Committee (PSC) members including representatives from the Mission of Japan to ASEAN, the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) management team, the ASEAN Secretariat, and representatives from the AHA Centre as the DELSA implementing agency. Importantly, representatives from the Philippines and Thailand were also in attendance as the host nations for the two DELSA satellite warehouses.

The central theme for the 3<sup>rd</sup> DELSA PSC Meeting was to update all parties on the five key action points resulting from the PSC's 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in 2018. Among the key action points were:

- Updates on the renovation progress for both the Philippines and Thailand warehouse.
- Development of a stockpile "baseline" to allow interoperability and transfer of relief items between warehouse locations.



The warehouse in Thailand is also moving through the renovation process and is aiming for launch by June 2019 – coinciding with the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

New staff were also introduced during the meeting, with the positions of DELSA Logistics Officer for the AHA Centre and National Logistics Officer for the Philippines recently filled. A comprehensive overview of relief item deployment was also delivered to the meeting by the AHA Centre, with significant numbers of varying relief items utilised during 2018 reflecting the scale of response requirements during 2018, as well as the overall value of the DELSA project for ASEAN communities.

Written by : Caroline Widagdo, William Shea | Photo : AHA Centre



Co-chairs and members of the DELSA Phase II Project Steering Committee discuss the current status of DELSA, as well as its future development

Finally, an extensive session was provided to the current status of the satellite warehouse development in both the Philippines and Thailand, as both locations draw closer to their opening dates. The Philippines reported that all renovations had been completed as of the end of January 2019, and highlighted their gratitude to all parties for ensuring the warehouse reached international standards to serve ASEAN Member States in their time of need. The warehouse in Thailand is also moving through the renovation process and is aiming for launch by June 2019. Plans were also discussed and finalised to procure relief items for each of the warehouses, with procurement finalisation set for the end of May 2019. The launch of these satellite warehouses forms not only a great achievement for all parties involved in the project, but also a significant step forward for the ASEAN region, to increase the speed, scale, and solidarity for One ASEAN One Response.



SCDF hosted the PSC Meeting at its headquarters in Singapore



THE PHILIPPINES REPORTED THAT ALL RENOVATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AS OF THE END OF JANUARY 2019





# HEAT TRAINING

Humanitarian workers in emergency response not only face ongoing dangers due to natural hazards, but also can be vulnerable to lawlessness, political instability and armed conflict in areas with access and infrastructure difficulties. Issues such as harassment, interactions with aggressive armed combatants, day light robbery and traffic accidents are all realistic risks, requiring humanitarian responders to be prepared on how to deal with such challenges should they arise. To increase preparedness for the occurrence of potential conflict situations in the future, members of the AHA Centre team departed to Australia to undertake RedR Australia's 5-day Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) course from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019, in Dookie, Victoria.



The HEAT course includes integrated Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training which combines theory and practical-based emergency medical training. Such TECC skills include commercial and improvised tourniquets and haemorrhage control, airway management of an unconscious casualty and an array of improvised techniques teaching participants how to save and preserve life with limited resources. This was highlighted as a key element of the course relevant to the AHA Centre, with participants also valuing other elements such as 'movement under fire', that would be of benefit should responders find themselves in such situations.



Engaging in risk preparedness trainings such as HEAT supports the capacity of AHA Centre staff to be ready for any situation, regardless of the context and expectations. Participants noted the real-life feel of numerous simulations, explaining that they reflect potential occurrences that may take place during response. The use of practical training with dummies during TECC, and direct engagement scenarios such as kidnapping, ensure the team now hold hands-on practical knowledge of how to react in such undesirable situations. Overall, while such occurrences may be few and far between for the AHA Centre staff, there is now sufficient awareness and skills to counter such risks should they arise during emergency response assignments in all locations.



**HEAT TRAINING SUPPORTS THE CAPACITY OF AHA CENTRE STAFF TO BE PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION**

# ASEAN-ERAT IN-COUNTRY NETWORK, LAO PDR



Written by : Melya Wardhani | Photo : AHA Centre

Two years ago during May 2017, the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Advisory Group Meeting agreed on the concept of an ASEAN-ERAT In-Country Network. The main objectives of the ASEAN-ERAT In-Country Network include:

- 1 Maintaining communication among ASEAN-ERAT members in their respective countries, as well as enhancing coordination among ASEAN-ERAT members, National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs), and the AHA Centre
- 2 Facilitating information and knowledge sharing, as well as promoting dialogue for improving the ASEAN-ERAT system
- 3 Leveraging the adopted ASEAN-ERAT system to be recognised by the national stakeholders
- 4 Further enhancing rapid deployment of ASEAN-ERAT members in times of emergencies

Following 2018's establishment of the ASEAN-ERAT In-Country Network in Myanmar and Philippines, the AHA Centre facilitated the establishment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> network in Vientiane, Lao PDR, during early 2019. Thus, adding another milestone towards reaching the goal of setting-up similar networks in 6 ASEAN Member States by the end of 2019, as part of the ASEAN-ERAT Transformation Plan. This historic milestone for ASEAN-ERAT took place back-to-back with a 'Familiarisation of ASEAN Disaster Management' workshop, which was held on the 12-13 February 2019. The objective of the workshop was to provide an overview of disaster management mechanisms in ASEAN to ministries and other stakeholders, as well as to provide insight into areas of cooperation to enhance disaster management in Lao PDR and the ASEAN region.

The workshop was organised by the Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR, supported by the AHA Centre, and attended by participants from relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism. A number of partners were also present during the meeting, such as Lao Red Cross, Bank of Lao PDR, and ASEAN-ERAT members who are based in Lao





# GIDRM

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



1



1. GIDRM supported the enhancement of ASEAN's response mechanism and cooperation during the post-ARDEX Review Meeting in early 2017.

2 - 3. GIDRM also channels their commitment to support capacity building efforts in the region by funding some disaster simulation exercises.



**GIDRM WORKS TO LINK A RANGE OF DRM ELEMENTS OF SUCH AGENDAS THROUGH PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING OF DRM REQUIREMENTS.**

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) forms a key element of all international development agendas and its implementation is an important element for all nations. Such importance and presence, however, has been found to lead to a range of cost burdens, overlapping programmes, and working duplications as varying government and non-government agencies undertake their DRM activities. The German-funded Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) project aims to overcome these obstacles, and create efficiency and coherence within national and international DRM efforts.

Based on the realisation of such agendas as the Sendai-Framework, Paris Climate Agreement and Agenda 2030, GIDRM works to link a range of DRM elements of such agendas through planning, implementation and reporting of DRM requirements. Funded through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIDRM has engaged with the AHA Centre and a number of ASEAN nations during the second phase of the project, specifically working with the Philippines who have been designated as one of GIDRM's two key pilot countries (the second being Mexico). Rather than a top-down approach, GIDRM works to support efforts from the bottom-up. Examples of successful coherence and efficiency from national and sub-national levels aim to be highlighted at regional and global level, to promote learning and good practices, and form recommendations for expanded activity implementation.



Written by : William Shea | Photo : AHA Centre

The partnership between GIDRM and the AHA Centre began in 2016, and has resulted in a range of workshops and training exercises, implemented both specifically for the AHA Centre and also engaging a wider range of regional disaster management stakeholders. In 2018, the AHA Centre and GIDRM undertook an earthquake disaster response simulation, allowing the AHA Centre staff to practice their internal preparedness and response mechanisms, which were reviewed and evaluated after the scenario took place. GIDRM also previously supported implementation of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) 2016 in Brunei Darussalam, and worked with the AHA Centre and ASEAN Member States to review ARDEX processes, as well as wider mechanisms including the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP).



**THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GIDRM AND THE AHA CENTRE BEGAN IN 2016, AND HAS RESULTED IN A RANGE OF WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING EXERCISES, IMPLEMENTED BOTH SPECIFICALLY FOR THE AHA CENTRE AND ALSO ENGAGING A WIDER RANGE OF REGIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS.**



2



3





# Prof. Dr. KUNTORO MANGKUSUBROTO

Prof. Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto is one of Indonesia's and ASEAN's leading figures on disaster recovery and reconstruction. With a deep background forged through a variety of governance and private business roles focused towards energy and natural resources, Dr. Mangkusubroto is also the founder of the School of Business and Management of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB). His leadership as the head of the Aceh-Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency from in 2005-2009 – which saw him oversee post-tsunami reconstruction and utilisation of local and international assistance to rebuild the shattered region – elevated Dr. Mangkusubroto to become one of the region's most renowned leaders in disaster management.



Prof. Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto shares his learnings with participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Batch of ACE Programme in late 2018

Dr. Mangkusubroto's success leading post-tsunami reconstruction efforts has seen him become a go-to resource in other ASEAN disaster response and recovery efforts – being invited to engage in disasters across ASEAN Member States including Myanmar and the Philippines, as well as international efforts in Nepal and Japan. During 2018's AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme's Leaders Talk series, participants had the opportunity to learn about the key concepts and integral elements of strong leadership in disaster recovery from Dr. Mangkusubroto himself. Central to Dr. Mangkusubroto's message was the importance of trust and integrity of ASEAN leaders in disaster management and coordination.

To gain this trust, Dr. Mangkusubroto says, leaders must be able to approach key players and parties to ensure efficiency in logistics and other disaster management processes. He emphasises that knowing who to approach and what to say is key to overcoming the variety of obstacles that can arise during a disaster response. It is through these approaches and the conveying of succinct and clear information that shows one's integrity, and with this integrity the trust is then strengthened. Dr. Mangkusubroto also highlights the importance of understanding specific contexts and cultures of communities across the region, and that leaders must be prepared to recognise and, importantly, overcome issues for better results for the people as a whole.



**“As a leader, people will come to you continuously – they may be angry, sad or unstable due to their losses”, he said. “Just let them release, listen to them, and just give them your sympathy, as once you've finished your work, they'll realise you are serious.”**



Written by: William Shea | Photo: AHA Centre

To gain this trust, Dr. Mangkusubroto says that leaders must be able to approach key players and parties to ensure efficiency in logistics and other disaster processes. He emphasises that knowing who to approach and what to say is key to overcoming the variety of obstacles that can arise during a disaster response. It is through these approaches and the conveying of succinct and clear information that shows ones integrity, and with this integrity the trust is then strengthened. Mr. Mangkusubroto also highlights the importance of understanding specific contexts and cultures of communities across the region, and that leaders must be prepared to recognise and, importantly, overcome issues for better results for the people as a whole.

Recalling the experiences from the huge reconstruction efforts after the Indian Ocean Tsunami in Aceh, Dr. Mangkusubroto highlights the importance of remaining calm and focused during the midst of high emotions and traumatised communities. “As a leader, people will come to you continuously – they may be angry, sad or unstable due to their losses”, he said. “Just let them release, listen to them, and just give them your sympathy, as once you've finished your work, they'll realise you are serious”. These are just some of the challenges faced by disaster managers and leaders in the field, and overcoming these calmly and reasonably are a big part of what regional leaders must aim to achieve.

After discussions on a range of contexts and experiences faced by leaders in disaster management, Dr. Mangkusubroto concludes on the key elements of efficient and effective disaster management leaders – particularly when in the field in the period after large disasters strike. He emphasises the importance of coordination and communication, whether with governments, local and international responders, logistics providers and the affected communities themselves. He highlights that all parties are there to help and support in their own way, and it is up to the leaders to ensure all parties come together to achieve the greatest results. Dr. Mangkusubroto insists that regardless of the mix of contexts, cultures or political influences at play, the best outcomes can and must be achieved for an effective and sustainable recovery and reconstruction phase. And this, he reminds us, is the key role of ASEAN leaders on disaster management.



**BEING ONE OF THE REGION'S MOST RENOWNED LEADERS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DR. MANGKUSUBROTO HAS BECOME A GO-TO RESOURCE IN ASEAN DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS**



# ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



## THE AHA CENTRE OFFICE

Graha BNPB, 13th Floor  
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38  
Jakarta - 13120  
INDONESIA



[www.ahacentre.org](http://www.ahacentre.org)



[comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org)



AHA Centre



@ahacentre



@ahacentre

Supported by:



Japan-ASEAN Cooperation



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

## 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.