



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.52 | JULY 2019



DELSA



ASEAN Leaders soft launched the DELSA satellite warehouse in Chaiyathai

HIGHLIGHT

Soft Launch of
DELSA Satellite Warehouse
in Thailand

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook
for June 2019

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EDITOR'S NOTE



HI READERS,

Welcome to Volume 52 of the AHA Centre's Column, which will provide us insight into the numerous disaster management-related events and stories taking place across the ASEAN region.

Disaster preparedness and resilience is continuously being strengthened and promoted across the region, with many articles in this volume centred on the all-important topic. Our Insight section takes a look at the plans and activities for National Disaster Resilience Month in the Philippines, as the ASEAN Member State continues to provide a great example on implementing resilience measures. We also get an insight into the first soft launching of the long-awaited DELSA Satellite Warehouse project, with the Highlight article covering the launch of Thailand's innovative facility.

Logistics are also a key element of preparedness, and the recent formalisation of the AHA Centre's partnership with Deutsche Post DHL forms the centrepiece of the Partnership section. In our Other Side article we have the chance to sit down and

chat with Ms. Anthea Webb from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for Asia and the Pacific, and learn about her insights and experience in disaster management across more than two decades. Our AHA Centre Diary rounds out this volume with some snippets from training events being implemented by the AHA Centre, as we strive continuously to develop and prepare professionals to support a more responsive and resilient ASEAN region.

Please enjoy the content on offer throughout Volume 52, and we hope it continues to inspire you to promote and implement preparedness and resilience with your family, friends and surrounding community.

The Editor



EDITOR IN CHIEF
Adelina Kamal

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

MANAGING EDITOR
Dipo Summa

JOURNALIST
Lawrence Anthony, Shahasrakiranna,
Shintya Kurniawan, William Shea

EDITOR
William Shea

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Yohan Andreas

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Fauzi Primassalam

PUBLISHED BY
The AHA Centre

SOFT LAUNCH OF DELSA SATELLITE WAREHOUSE IN THAILAND



TWO DELSA SATELLITE WAREHOUSES ARE LOCATED IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES, THEY WILL OPERATE IN SYNC WITH THE PRIMARY DELSA REGIONAL STOCKPILE IN SUBANG, MALAYSIA.

A key aim for the AHA Centre – under the *One ASEAN, One Response* vision – is to increase the speed and scale of disaster response across the ASEAN region. Supporting and innovating current ASEAN disaster management processes forms a key element in such efforts, and significant attention has been afforded to increasing and expanding the region's relief preparedness, with a focus to ASEAN's stockpile of relief items, housed and coordinated through the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) warehouse in Subang, Malaysia. Throughout the last two years, the AHA Centre has implemented plans to develop DELSA satellite warehouses in two other parts of the region, and in June 2019, the AHA Centre achieved its first satellite warehouse opening with the soft launch of a new facility in Chainat, Thailand.

The two DELSA satellite warehouses are located in Thailand and the Philippines, with both forming accessible, efficient and innovative options for the region to deliver much-needed relief items to communities affected by disaster anywhere in the region. They will operate in sync with the primary DELSA regional stockpile in Subang, Malaysia, balancing and coordinating supplies based on operational capacity and the needs of the surrounding region's populations. The two satellite warehouses will be jointly managed between the host country's National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO) and the AHA Centre, and will utilise processes and procedures developed by the AHA Centre and NDMOs throughout the lead-up and development of the facilities.

Written by: William Shea | Photo: AHA Centre

The first of the DELSA Satellite Warehouses was launched in Chainat, Thailand on 23 June, 2019, with the launching ceremony forming part of the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, attended by all ASEAN Leaders. Made possible through the support of the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), Thailand's warehouse will be co-managed by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand and the AHA Centre, and is located at the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Regional Centre (DPMRC) Region 16, Chainat. As part of the soft launch, ASEAN Leaders were invited on-stage to officiate the event, as part of the overall opening ceremony of the Summit.

With a full launching of both warehouses slated for 2019, this soft launch in Thailand forms the initial step of an exciting time for the ASEAN region's efforts in disaster response. In a press statement released by the Thailand as Chair of ASEAN in 2019 during the 34th ASEAN Summit, "the Satellite Warehouse in Chainat Province will enable ASEAN, and particularly the AHA Centre in Indonesia, to more effectively pursue rapid mobilisation and distribution of relief items to disaster-affected ASEAN Member States in mainland Southeast Asia..... further strengthening ASEAN's collective response to natural disasters under the "One ASEAN, One Response" across ASEAN".



DELSA WAREHOUSE FOR A BETTER DISASTER RESPONSE ACROSS THE ASEAN REGION



The Chainat warehouse will be fully operational within this year to support countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Myanmar



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1-2 ASEAN Leaders soft launched the DELSA satellite warehouse in Chainat during the 34th ASEAN Summit

3 Inside the Chainat warehouse. The rackings are ready. The warehouse will be fully operational once the relief items are pre-positioned in the warehouse by December 2019



MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

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

GENERAL REVIEW OF JUNE 2019

Disaster occurrences in June 2019 amounted to only half of the average for June across the previous five years. Interestingly, while the impact of Southwest Monsoon in the region brings traditionally wet conditions in most ASEAN Member States, during this month the numbers of flooding, storms, and wind-related disturbances recorded were significantly less than those of the previous five years. Meanwhile, reported drought incidents rose significantly when compared with the last five years. These conditions may have been influenced by the borderline El Niño currently being experienced in the region, which resulted to lower-than-normal rainfall and higher-than-normal temperature. On the other hand, it is also important not to discount the possibility that the increase in drought reports may be due to developments in drought monitoring and reporting processes and technology across the region.

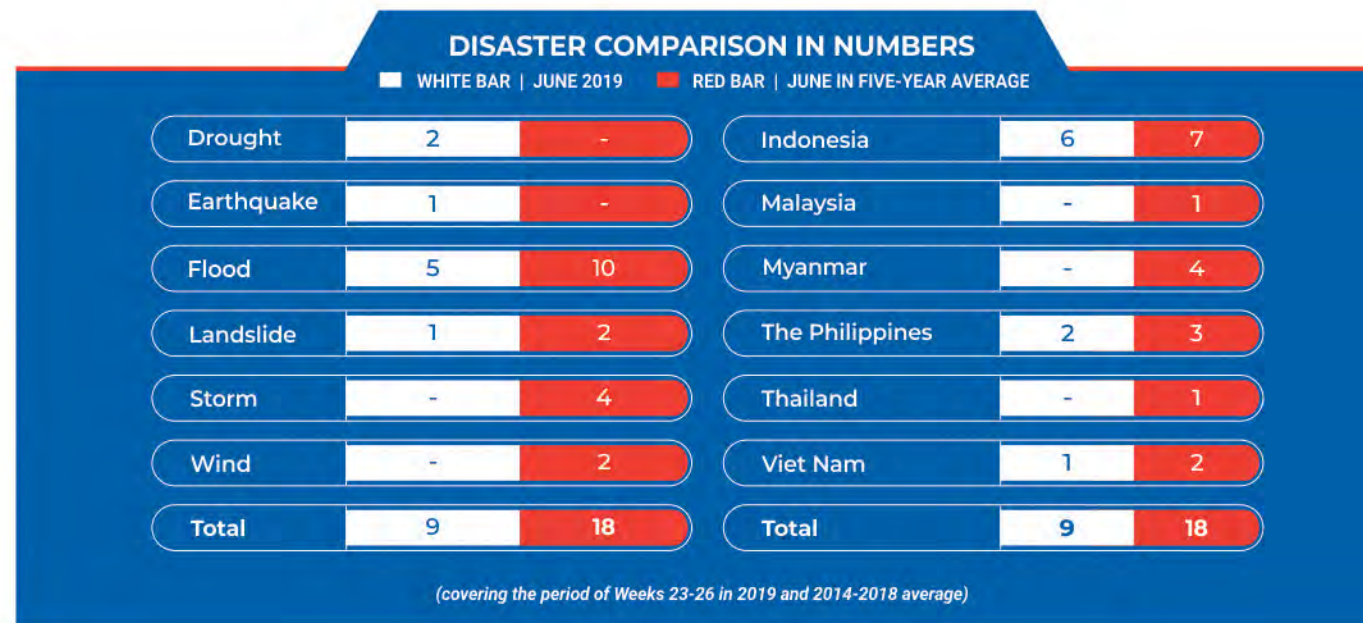
While the number of disaster occurrences are significantly lower than the previous five-year average, the number of reported affected people remained similar at 86%. This suggests that disaster occurrences in June 2019 had a higher impact than many incidents across the past five years. In addition, the reported number of internally displaced people (IDP) is 2.5 times higher than the previous five-year average. The high number of IDPs was driven by the reported sudden change of atmospheric conditions in the southern Philippines, which experienced continuous heavy rains after being devastated by drought for weeks. On the other hand, damaged houses and casualties recorded significantly lower numbers than the previous five-year average, which may be attributable to decreased flooding and rain-induced landslides – key drivers of high numbers of damaged houses and casualties, in addition to earthquakes. June 2019 recorded 32 earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 and above, and while there was one earthquake in Indonesia that affected people and damaged houses, the impact was still considered minor.

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EARTHQUAKES
OF MAGNITUDE 5.0 AND ABOVE
RECORDED DURING JUNE 2019

REGIONAL TALLY	JUNE 2019	JUNE IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE
• Number of recorded significant disasters	9	18
• Number of affected people	437,322	508,473
• Number of internally displaced people	52,183	21,103
• Number of damaged houses	1,705	2,536
• Number of casualties	5	45
• Number of injured people	2	9
• Number of missing people	-	17

(covering the period of Weeks 23-26 in 2019 and 2014-2018 average)



The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) predicts the prevailing Southwest Monsoon to continue until October 2019. As a result, general continuity of rainy conditions in the northern ASEAN region and dry conditions in the southern ASEAN region can be expected.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) predicts the prevailing Southwest Monsoon to continue until October 2019. As a result, general continuity of rainy conditions in the northern ASEAN region and dry conditions in the southern ASEAN region can be expected. In addition, above-normal rainfall is forecast in several parts of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, while above-normal temperatures are likely in most

parts of the region except for southern parts of ASEAN. The El Niño Southern Oscillation monitoring system remains in the "Watch" status for the region, which suggests borderline El Niño conditions. Looking forward, overall signs of future El Niño development have weakened, however, model outlooks of international centres still show a wide spread of outcomes ranging from neutral conditions to moderate El Niño.

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



NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE MONTH IN THE PHILIPPINES

Disaster plays a large role across the communities of the Philippines, with the ASEAN Member State constantly affording significant attention and resources to ensuring its citizens and infrastructure are prepared and resilient to disaster occurrences that frequently impact the nation due to its geographic context. For the entire month of July 2019, the Philippines celebrated its National Disaster Resilience Month (NDRM) that involved numerous events and activities across the nation aimed at increasing awareness and resilience for its people in the face of ongoing natural disaster threats.

The theme for 2019's celebration was *Kahandaan sa Sakuna't Peligro Para Sa Tunay na Pagbabago* – which translates to Disaster Risk and Emergency Preparedness for Genuine Development in the English language – with NDRM kicking off on July 1st through a number of opening events. The Philippines' National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO) – the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) – kicked-off the month-long celebration with the launching of its DELSA Satellite Warehouse in Quezon City, an event that will be covered in detail in the next volume of the AHA Centre's Column publication. For the entire month of July, the Government of the Philippines, institutions, businesses and the general public took part in activities related to disaster resilience, particularly covering the four thematic areas of DRRM – Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery.

A variety of engaging and interesting activities were planned for the whole month, with each of the nation's numerous regions implementing its own schedule for celebrations and awareness raising within the community. The Municipality of San Jose de Buenavista, through the Antique Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, undertook a 'caravan' around San Jose de Buenavista to raise community awareness on the importance of readiness within the landslide and flood-prone region. In San Fernando City, the annual Run for Resilience event was organised. The annual event was formed to offer thanks for the support of the many partners who promote disaster resilience in the community. Schools across the nation will participate in activities such as essay writing, song development and poster creation, with the aim to ensure strong resilience in the next generations of the country's youth. In Butuan City, officials aim to highlight their Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Heroes – namely the health care providers in provincial and district hospitals who are at the frontlines providing care during emergencies and disasters.



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Written by: William Shea | Photo: The Philippines Office of Civil Defense Facebook Page

Disaster response trainings in schools and government offices and in disaster prone areas were held across different locations, that formed the practical aspect of the NDRM in strengthening disaster resilience for people of the Philippines. Other events aimed to strengthen internal and external partnerships on disaster management, through events such as: ceremonial turnover of tents from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the launch and implementation of the 2019 Nationwide Simultaneous Hands-Only CPR Campaign; Basic Life Support Training for the DOH Security Personnel, and; a ceremonial signing of the memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

- 1 The Ride for Resilience
- 2 A resilience caravan in the City of Puerto Princesa
- 3 Students taking part in Poster Making competitions




NDRM
TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE OF ONGOING NATURAL DISASTER THREATS



DEUTSCHE POST DHL

Logistics – in particular the handling of relief items at times of emergency – form an integral part of any disaster response, and therefore a key aspect of the AHA Centre's role as the primary regional coordinating body for disaster management in the ASEAN region. Having worked together during the large-scale response following the Central Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami event in 2018, the AHA Centre and Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) quickly realised the shared value that a formalised partnership between the two entities could have. The AHA Centre formalised this partnership by signing a Memorandum of Intent to work together with DHL – one of the world's leading logistics services providers – effective on the 1st of July, 2019 in Manila, the Philippines.



The AHA Centre and DPDHL's first major experience in a working partnership took place after 2018's major disaster event in Central Sulawesi, with the significant amount of relief pouring into Indonesia requiring extra support to receive and deliver items to the affected region. DPDHL provided significant support on the ground, handling international items at the established receiving centre in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, as well as at Palu Airport – the entry-point to the affected area. It was this formative working experience that increased the interest of both parties to strengthen their partnership – with both directly witnessing the mutual benefit that such a partnership holds. Aside from this response effort, representative from DPDHL has also participated in the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) training programme, further promoting the engagement of public-private engagement in logistic management.

“We are excited to partner with AHA Centre in their growing role as a regional coordinating hub for the mobilisation of resources to disaster affected areas in Southeast Asia,” said Carl Schelfhaut, GoHelp Manager from the Asia Pacific DPDHL Group. “DPDHL Group has been closely following the One ASEAN One Response approach that the region has championed over the years and we fully support its implementation,” he continued.



DHL DRT, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and AHA Centre pose for a group photo

Written by: William Shea | Photo: Deutsche Post DHL

The partnership – formalised through July's MOI – will see DPDHL further engaging with the AHA Centre in future responses, with its Disaster Response Team (DRT) working on the ground alongside the AHA Centre to facilitate the movement of international relief items. Potential activities include unloading cargo planes, supporting professional warehousing and inventory management, and loading relief goods for onward transportation. DPDHL will also offer its expertise in logistics to support for the AHA Centre's ASEAN-ERAT and ASEAN Humanitarian Logistics courses and activities. The AHA Centre's Executive Director, Adelina Kamal highlighted the importance of the Centre's further engagement in public-private partnerships such as this when she noted “public-private partnerships with industry experts like DPDHL Group are critical in scaling up the One ASEAN, One Response vision. As our partnership with DHL's DRT team at Sulawesi last year demonstrated, their expertise in facilitating the flow of relief goods and supporting civil military relations is invaluable”.



Volunteers were trained to load and unload a unit load device (ULD), which holds large volumes of relief goods on an aircraft



Dipo Summa of the AHA Centre delivered a presentation to the DHL Disaster Response Team (DRT)

SEMINAR ON MANAGEMENT OF THE DEAD



VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

IT'S CRUCIAL THAT THE FIRST RESPONDERS ARE EQUIPPED WITH SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN VICTIM IDENTIFICATION DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF SEARCH AND RESCUE.

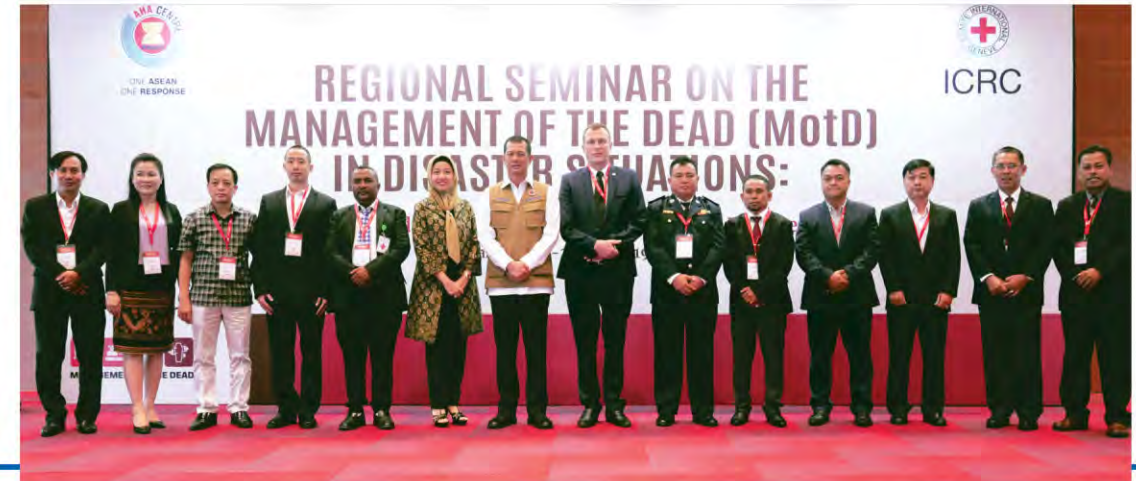
While death is a topic that we all don't enjoy, the reality of disaster management is that it is also a common theme we all face during and after disasters occur. Therefore, an integral part of the role for a disaster manager is to understand victim identification, and also the proper and dignified ways to manage deceased people as a result of disaster situations. During June 2019, the AHA Centre co-organised a seminar on dignified management of the dead, in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and supported by the Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB).

Taking place from 20-21 of June, the seminar was attended by over 80 representatives of agencies involved in emergency and disaster response from ASEAN Member States, alongside representatives from local government agencies in Indonesia, other partner agencies and the nation of Timor Leste. A key outcome was the agreement that proper training of first responders was key to improving management of the dead, especially drawing on lessons learned from the earthquake, tsunami and liquefaction disaster in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

"Dignified management of the dead remains a relevant theme for the ASEAN Member States given that the region is geographically prone to natural disasters. It's crucial that the first responders are equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills in victim identification during the early stages of search and rescue. Proper and dignified management of the dead can also help minimise the distress caused to families who lose their loved ones by helping provide answers and giving them closure", said the head of ICRC's regional delegation for Indonesia and Timor-Leste, Alexandre Faite.

As part of the seminar, the ICRC also took the opportunity to introduce official guidelines – Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: A Field Manual for First Responders – as well as promote a regional proposal to develop a practical tool from available global knowledge in the field of dignified management of the dead, to be adapted to the South East Asian context.

Written by : William Shea | Photo : AHA Centre



The Head of the Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), Lieutenant General Doni Monardo, attended the opening ceremony



Hands-on experience on the management of the dead with the use of artificial body parts to simulate the handling of bodies during disaster situation



The Head of the ICRC Regional Delegation to Indonesia and Timor Leste, Mr. Alexander Faite, and the Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal, facilitated an open exchange between participants to discuss ways forward to improve management of the dead during disaster situation

The Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal, highlighted the importance of such developments within a seminar such as this.

"ASEAN countries have a wealth of experience in responding to disasters over the past decades. We also have rich local wisdom as well as cultural and religious diversities. The workshop intends to promote cross-fertilisation of knowledge and experience of the ASEAN countries to enrich the field guide. At the same time, the AHA Centre will also use the accumulated experience and knowledge to enhance our regional preparedness for One ASEAN One Response"



MS. ANTHEA WEBB

This month, The Column sat down with Ms. Anthea Webb, the Bangkok-based Deputy Regional Director of World Food Programme (WFP) for Asia and the Pacific, to learn about her experience in disaster management. Having built her career as a humanitarian for over 20 years, Anthea has been involved in numerous emergency responses across the world, such as in Kosovo, China, and Indonesia. Throughout her professional journey, she has witnessed the evolution of technology – and while this has significantly increased support emergency responses – she still maintains that the "natural alarm" forms our best warning system.



Anthea's interest in humanitarian work developed from her university days in Australia, where she was involved in fundraising campaign to support the Cambodian refugees in early 1990s. From there she chose to "park" her journalism degree and volunteer in a social project supporting Vietnamese asylum seekers in Hong Kong. She then moved to work in the Vatican City, Rome, and then joined the World Food Programme in 1998. Anthea believes the initial challenges she experienced in the humanitarian field were overcome due to her natural passion for learning.

“Among the people I've been pleased to work with, there is a real drive to keep doing things better. Every emergency is different but often, some of the patterns are the same. Each time we intervene, we want to go faster, make the outcomes for the affected people better, do it at a lower cost in a way that leaves the organisation and the community stronger to face the next emergencies.”



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO RESPOND AND A CHALLENGE TO KEEP DOING THINGS BETTER

Anthea also acknowledges the presence of natural hazards as a part of life. She states that while we may not be able to avoid droughts, floods, cyclones, and earthquakes, we can be prepared to respond to the impacts. The single question to reflect on is "How we can do it better?" Reviewing her past experiences, the mother-of-two highlights that a greater challenge than logistics occurs when different agencies do not incorporate their planning for disaster response. Anthea believes that groups like the AHA Centre can help overcome this issue and focus on getting people to work together.

“For me, one of the most interesting outcomes from the Sulawesi response was how much closer it brought us to the other humanitarian Country Team members. Being forced together like that is really important, and it is really important to continue that relationship. Exercises, simulations, joint-projects and missions help us to understand each other's ways of working, motivation and goals,” she said.

Anthea keeps in mind that disasters can strike at any time and highlights the importance of technology in forecasting the impact of disastrous events. One of the innovations that Anthea co-initiated with Pulse Lab Jakarta (PLJ) is VAMPIRE, that stands for Vulnerability Analysis Monitoring Platform for the Impact of Regional Events. VAMPIRE integrates and promotes data innovation through visualisation of traceable drought impact on vulnerable populations.

“The project started in 2015 when the world - particularly Southeast Asia and Indonesia - was facing a very strong El Niño and its significant impacts. When we saw how large the impact might be, we realised we didn't have a fast system for forecasting what a big drought would mean for rice and food production in Indonesia, as well as impact on farmers' income. With PLJ, we developed a system that automatically catches available data, and automatically updates it, allowing us to spend our time on the analysis, and not waiting for the information itself. We were also able to integrate other related data, to support identification of areas most in need of government intervention.”

Following its successful adoption and use in Indonesia, similar forecasting methods as part of an early warning system are being piloted in other countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. While technology brings a lot of positives to emergency response, Anthea doesn't forget her first deployment with WFP in Kosovo, when open-source online map and GPS were not widely available nor accessible. Relying on printed maps pinned all over the walls and floors - in the absence of desks - her team had to identify the correct sites to deliver relief items. She still admits that even the most sophisticated technology can fail us at times, and reminds us never to underestimate the value of original and hand-on techniques.

“In the context of a tsunami, the earthquake is the warning. That is the initial siren telling us to move to higher ground”, Anthea reminds us. “When they sense danger, most people will act to protect themselves and family. Thus, it is important to get the message through to the people at risk”.

ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



THE AHA CENTRE OFFICE

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



www.ahacentre.org



comm@ahacentre.org



AHA Centre



[@ahacentre](https://twitter.com/ahacentre)



[@ahacentre](https://www.instagram.com/ahacentre)

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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