As Typhoon season is in full swing in parts of ASEAN, we should all be reminded of the impacts and devastation it can cause, not to mention other natural disaster that may occur within this region.

It is always a benefit to be prepared and know which efforts to take as an individual or as collaboration with partners, which can determine the survival and longevity of an individual or community during and after a disaster. We share this information through Citizen Emergency Preparedness Guide in the Column’s Insights.

Collaborative efforts are more solid and stronger than an effort of one. In this edition’s News Story on Gema Bhakti and the 7th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, we see the collaborative efforts of multiple partners to strengthen the cooperation and operations for disaster management.

The Column also got up close and personal to one of AHA Centre’s key members, Ms. Agustina Trunay (Rina), Preparedness and Response Officer of the AHA Centre, who shared more than a decade worth of experience and her genuine passion to help others.

As the spirit of ‘One ASEAN’, One Response continues its momentum to prioritise a joint effort in disaster management, we provide an update on the latest One ASEAN, One Response Roadshow in Thailand in our News Highlight.

If you wish to share some stories/ articles/ blog/ 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
NEWS STORY
East Asia Summit (EAS) Rapid Disaster Response: Search and Rescue (SAR) Lessons Learned Seminar

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), represented by Mr. Yos Maloel, AHA Centre’s Preparedness and Response Officer, recently attended this year’s East Asia Summit (EAS) aptly titled Rapid Disaster Response: Search and Rescue (SAR) Lessons Learned Seminar between 21 to 23 September in Sydney, Australia.

The seminar, which was opened by His Excellency Mr. Chirschai Punksarin, Ambassador of Thailand to Australia, was co-chaired by Australia and Thailand, and was presented by the Regional Civil Military Centres (RCMC) of the EAS Participating Countries took part in the three-day seminar along with other relevant agencies.

This year’s seminar, which aimed to promote regional networking and learning on SAR within the EAS participating countries, consisted of three parts. The first part focused on discussion about international standards, protocols and mechanisms, and regional mechanisms for search and rescue and disaster management, followed by relevant case study presentations, including one on the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. On the second day of the seminar, participants took part in small group discussions on six different focus areas, namely:
1. Regional SAR Coordination
2. Regional Civil Coordination
3. International Civil Military Coordination and Cooperation
4. Preparing for SAR: Building Capacity and Resilience
5. Managing Media and Communications
6. Learning Lessons

Finally, on the last day of the seminar, the participants took part in plenary discussion of recommendations that arose from the small group discussions.

AHA Centre’s participation in the seminar showcases the organisation’s effort and commitment to further strengthen its knowledge on disaster management. "Our participation in the event is further underlines the importance of Search and Rescue, and the possible role of the AHA Centre," said Mr. Yos Maloel.

NEWS STORY
The 7th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

Since its establishment in 2012, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) has played a pivotal role in providing substantial support to the ASEAN Member States. The Project Steering Committee members which consist of Malaysia and Singapore as the Co-Chairs and also the Chairs of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Working Group on Preparedness and Response, representative from Japan Mission to ASEAN, Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAF) and the ASEAN Secretariat, held the 7th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 21 September 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Members of the project management team from the AHA Centre essentially presented the progress updates from each line of field, namely, the AHA Centre Executive Programme (ACE Programme), Communications and Public Relations Unit, Knowledge and Change Management, Logistics, Finance and the development of the DELSA 2 which led by Mr. Sanj Sinapi – the newly appointed DELSA Programme Coordinator who was officially introduced to the members of the Project Steering Committee Meeting by the AHA Centre Head of Delegations – Mr. Arpel Capit.

The meeting noted several takeaway points from the ACE Programme updates delivered by Ms. Rhin Haryoto as the Officer of the ACE Programme, the improvements that were implemented on the second batch of the ACE Programme by adding team building activities, inviting more leaders to the Leader Talk sessions and providing necessary preparatory English course for Disaster Management Professionals for their participants. The members of the PSC Meeting also gave insights in regards to the continuation of the ACE Programme next year for the third batch.

AHA Centre’s Communications Unit during the meeting presented the working draft of the new AHA Centre corporate identity profile including the new primary logo, by Mr. Andri Surya – the Communications Officer of the AHA Centre, while also updating the members present on the public outreach activities conducted by the AHA Centre from period April – September 2015.

The meeting also informed about the current status and updates on the deployment of the emergency stockpiles from Subang to Myanmar during the recent flood in early August, presented by Mr. Yoram Lukas – DELSA Logistics Officer. Furthermore, the meeting noted the Financial Status presentation given by the Finance Officer, Ms. Melliani Susanto, who presented the summary of the project financial status up to 31 August 2015. Lastly, Mr. Sanj presented the updates and development of the DELSA 2.
Having a household plan is essential in the case of major disasters. The whole family should contribute to the creation of the plan as it makes it easier for all family members to remember when an emergency occurs. The plan should be sufficient for the family to survive for at least three days, and should essentially include the following:

PLACE TO MEET
In the event that a family member is not at home, the household should agree where everyone can meet when a sudden emergency occurs.

COMMUNICATION PLAN
Other than ensuring that knowing all the contact details of all family members, it is important to have an emergency contact person who lives out-of-town to share information.

Family members should talk about the plan and review what was agreed on at least once a year to refresh the memory. Practicing the plan should include knowing what to do and what is expected in the case of major events, such as heading to higher grounds when a tsunami alarm occurs especially if you are on the coast.

Assembling a disaster supply kit is important, and should include:

- Water and basic food supplies enough for all family members to last at least three days.
- Medication
- Important documents such as financial documents.
- Wet-weather clothing, in case family members need to leave home during bad weather.

It is good practice to take part in information sessions or other training opportunities provided by the local area, such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Programme in Singapore.

It is important to stay informed and follow instructions from local officials. One of the best ways to stay informed, when mobile phone networks are difficult to find is to use cheap wind-up radios, which will help families keep in contact with the outside world.

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**The Other Side**

“When you start to work in this field, there is a certain kind of adrenaline rush and you develop a certain mind-set in how you view the world. There is priceless value in what you do.”

- Rina

_Agastya Trinuy (Rina), Preparedness and Response Officer of the AHA Centre_

After serving 12.5 years in the World Food Programme (WFP) as a Logistics Officer, Ms. Agastya Trinuy (Rina) joined the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre) as a Preparedness and Response Officer in 2014. Speaking to The Column, Rina shared more than a decade worth of experience, her genuine passion to help others, as well as her aspirations for the AHA Centre in the coming years.

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**Can you share us your journey into becoming a humanitarian worker?**

I used to work in the private sector in Indonesia, but when the 1998 financial crisis hit the country, unfortunately the company had to close. In 1999 many United Nations agencies were recruiting more resources in response to the social and political predicaments that occur in East Timor at the time. I have applied to the WFP Kupang, West Timor, and was offered a position as a Logistcian Assistant by the end of 1999. At first, I was responsible for arranging WFP Charter Flights for repatriation of refugees and returnees from East Timor to Jakarta.

I became more and more interested in learning logistics and I think my industrial engineering background complemented my logistic role, since it involved a lot of calculations and forecasting.

**What were your expectations by delving into the humanitarian field?**

And it was different to what you have imagined.

I initially thought that I can arrange transportation and storage of relief items from my desk, but then I found out that as a logistician in the humanitarian field, it goes beyond this. Many factors involved in the supply chain, from upstream to downstream. Most of the time we have to get down and get dirty on the field, handing over relief items to those who need and to ensure that we have delivered them at the right place, to the right person, with the right quantity and quality as well as on the right cost. I was also surprised and moved by the situation that the people needs to endure in times of disasters.

**Can you share one of your most notable moments from being deployed to the field?**

One of the most notable moments was during the emergency operations for Indian Ocean Tsunami in Aceh in 2005. When I deployed to Aceh, the devastation was nothing like I have witnessed before.

The entire towns were destroyed and more than hundreds of thousands of lives were lost.

At the time, the most challenging aspect was the accessibility to Banda Aceh by air due to the limitation of airport facilities. A huge aid effort was on the way to Aceh but logistics bottlenecks delayed the process of delivery. I had to liaise and negotiate with many actors from government, military and private sector from Indonesia, USA, Australia, UK and others to ensure that we can deliver relief items as soon as possible by all means of transportation, i.e. air, sea, land except rail. Lack of coordination was also one of the biggest challenge during that time.

During that period, we all work together, hand in hand to help people in Aceh. We worked 24/7 for more than two months.

There must have been devastating moments too in your 12 years of experience in the humanitarian field.

There were a few moments where I had lost my dear friends who worked in the humanitarian field, in particular in conflict areas, with the intention to help others.

What convinced you stay within the humanitarian field after all these years?

When you start to work in this field, there is a certain kind of adrenaline rush and you develop a certain mindset in how you view the world. There is priceless value in what you do.

Doing what I do in humanitarian field, I learn to see life in a different way. There is a feeling of contentment being able to help those who are most vulnerable. I have found myself in the most devastating situations, where people kill others for survival. These things remind me that there is value in the work I do.

**Do you have any aspirations about the AHA Centre that you can share with us?**

Until now I am still learning to be a good logistician, however, I do hope that I can contribute my knowledge and experience to the AHA Centre’s logistics system, to be the most advanced in the ASEAN region.

I believe one day, the AHA Centre will be the forefront for coordinating emergency logistics in the region, particularly in disaster preparedness and 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 ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of States, 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 multi-hazard and 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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