**NEWS HIGHLIGHT**

**Emergency Response: Typhoon Koppu**

Five days after making landfall, flooding is still a critical concern for the Philippines, with huge amounts of water brought by Typhoon Kopu (Lando) to the mountains continued to flow down, with flooding in some villages reaching up to three meters high.

The Typhoon began to form in the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday, 13 October 2015, moving westward and continued to intensify as it moved across open waters. It became a major typhoon on 16 October 2015 and made landfall in Casiguran, Aurora Province, Philippines on 18 October 2015 at 110 AM local time (GR13) with winds up to 175 kph, and gusts up to 210 kph.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported 479 flooding incidents in Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zamboanga, Cagayan, and Isabela. The typhoon is reportedly the deadliest and most destructive typhoon in the Philippines this year.

Based on AHA Centre’s Situation Update no. 6, as of 23 October 2015, the typhoon has claimed 43 lives, with 82 people injured, and 5 people missing. Total families affected by the flooding has reached 295,835, with a total of 1,407,905 people affected in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, National Capital Region (NCR), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

President of the Philippines, H.E. Benigno Aquino III, along with key government officials visited Casiguran, Aurora on Thursday to inspect the damage caused by Typhoon Kopu (Lando) and to oversee the distribution of relief goods to the affected families.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Local Government Units (LGUs) have provided assistance worth approximately US$373,000. Approximately US$211 million has also been provided as standby funds by ADB for Field Offices in Regions I, II, III, IV-B, V, NCR, and I.

The international community has praised Government of Philippines’ preparedness efforts in reducing the impact of the disaster. The Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Margareta Wahlström, said that the Government of Philippines’ experience in disaster risk management can serve as an example and be adopted by other countries in trying to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The AHA Centre has deployed three staffs to Manila, Philippines to liaise and coordinate with the NDRRMC. AHA Centre staffs, along with the in-country AHA Centre Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) are supporting the Government’s efforts in carrying out rapid damage and needs assessment, as well as in rebuilding communications.

One AHA ERAT member was sent to Casiguran, Aurora as part of the emergency telecommunications cluster to bridge communication requirements before the networks restoration works are completed. Furthermore, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ADESA (DELSA) and the AHA Centre have been put on standby as of 23 October 2015, should there be a need to deploy resources to the Philippines. During the time this article is written on 24 October 2015, the emergency response process is still in effect.

As of 10.00 AM on 25 October, Typhoon Kopu was said to be in a low pressure area, and is forecasted to bring light to moderate rains, and isolated thunderstorms over the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Apayao, Batanes and Cagayan, including Calayan and Babuyan islands.

**In Numbers:**

- **5** People Missing
- **46** Reported Deaths
- **82** People Injured
- **479** Flooding incidents and landslides incidents in Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zamboanga, Cagayan, and Isabela.
- **26,124** Houses damaged in Regions I, II, III, and CAR
- **1,407,905** People affected in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, NCR, and CAR
- **US$203 million** Estimated cost of damages

(AAs of 23 October 2015, based on AHA Centre Situation Update no. 6)

**NEWS STORY**

**DELSA 2: Feasibility Studies**

Currently, the project of the “Establishment of a Disaster Emergency Logistic System for the ASEAN Reference Centre” is supported by Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAI) and close to the final stage of Phase 1 and is entering into Phase 2. The preparation for the new phase is now in its full swing.

One of the key elements for DELSA Phase 2 is the establishment of the network of satellite warehouses for ASEAN region. The ultimate objective of DELSA Phase 2 project is to ensure and improve efficient response of the AHA Centre to disasters in the ASEAN region. It is expected that satellite warehouses in disaster-prone and selected countries in ASEAN will supplement the existing regional warehouse in Subang operated during DELSA Phase 1 in ensuring quicker availability of emergency relief items that can be deployed and distributed to the affected areas.


The team will take into consideration various important factors while conducting the feasibility study. Some of the key factors are the locations including facilities and infrastructure nearby, the warehouse condition and capacities, the current stock and storage management, and the internal management and political will of the offering ASEAN Member States. Once the study is completed, the team will conduct the Validation Workshop in UNHRD Subang, Malaysia, where DELSA stock in Phase 1 is pre-positioned, on 13 November 2015. The result from the workshop will be put forward as recommendation to the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Meeting in Cambodia in December 2015. Up to date, the Joint Assessment Team has conducted the feasibility study meetings in 3 ASEAN Member States, namely Lao PDR, Thailand and Myanmar.
**NEWS STORY**

**Communications workshop at the AHA Centre**

The second and first communications workshops, ‘Spokespeople’, were delivered by Mr. Melanie Admiraal, Managing Director of Ogilvy Public Relations Jakarta and Head of Corporate Communications and Business Development for The Ogilvy Group. The workshops equipped participants with the skills and knowledge on how to influence and tell a story in a way that appeals to the public.

Mr. Vinatah Mahmud, Ogilvy Public Relations Jakarta’s managing Director and Corporate Communications Specialist added that AHA Centre staff members learned 10 key principles of ‘BrandShield’.

1. Planning
2. Speed
3. Perceptions
4. Centrality of information
5. Dedicated teams
6. Support the leader
7. Tonic is crucial
8. Leverage at all levels
9. Know media’s needs
10. Leverage relations

**NEWs STORY**

**ASEAN Day for Disaster Management 2015: ‘ASEAN Resilient as One’**

Organised by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ASEDM) was recently held in Cambodia between 9-10 October 2015 in joint commemoration with the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP). The award was presented by His Excellency Ross Sovann, Deputy Secretary General of National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and Chair of ASED Committee on Disaster Management, and Mrs. Arrom Khambakk, Head of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Branch at the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Republic of Cambodia. Mr. Jaspjeet Khera, Secretary of the National Disaster Management Committee, was also a keynote speaker at the event.

With a sub-theme of Working Together as One in Making Children’s Schools and Community Resilient to Disasters, both the theme and sub-theme aimed to:

1. Raise the ASEAN Community’s awareness in regards to the One Community Resilient to Disaster and Climate Change through promoting comprehensive Safe School Framework.
2. Promote the implementation of Institutionising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and People to Disasters and Climate Change.
3. Promote the One ASEAN One Response vision among the ASEAN Community.

At the discussion on Disaster Resilience, One ASEAN One Response, and Disaster Line as a Foundation for Resilient Development in the ASEAN Region, Mr. stall Paral, Executive Director of the AHA Centre was a keynote speaker alongside H.E. Ross Sovann, Mrs. Adelina Kamal, H.E. Dr. Uly Sama Ali of the Cambodia Red Cross, the Cambodian media leaders from Cambodia, Mrs. Lok Montramuy of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IFRC) in Cambodia, and Mrs. Lucia Cipodia of Regional IFRC.

Organised by ACDM annually since 2005, ADEM and IODR 2015 covered a number of activities including:

1. Drawing competition on ‘School resilience in disaster and climate change’ theme for AHA Centre’s spirit and aspirations as ‘One’ for children under 16 years old.
2. Thematic discussion on school safety initiatives, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and relevant ASEAN frameworks.
3. Panel discussion hosted by NCDM aimed to raise awareness on disaster resilience, ASEAN school safety initiatives, and the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision.
4. Parade involving thousands of participants in various age categories to reinforce the inclusively ASEAN as One Resilient Community.
5. Exhibition on DRR involving stakeholders including the United Nations (UN), the private sector, and relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who provided their ideas and efforts to promote initiatives related to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

The ADEM is one of the few annual public outreach activities under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme. This year’s event took on the theme of ‘ASEAN is Resilient as One’, with respect to the ASEAN Community to address the interlinkages of natural disasters and climate change. It is expected that this event will help the ASEAN region to achieve its ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision.
One AHA Centre's main roles is to continuously monitor impending disasters in the ASEAN region. Reporting to Mr. Andy Muscatta, Director of Analysis and Director of Analysis at the AHA Centre, The Column learned about the organisation's roles in disaster and risk monitoring.

One ASEAN One Response

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Natural disaster reports are regularly recorded in the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADIN) website, which only includes records of significant disasters that satisfy the following criteria are recorded in ADIN:

1. More than 100 people affected
2. Involving more than 1 subdistrict

At least five (5) significant natural disasters were recorded this month. Typhoon Kammuri claimed 79 lives and caused about 1 million people displaced. The most significant disaster that occurred this month is Typhoon Kammuri that affected 12 provinces in the Philippines.

The El-Nino phenomenon may affect the region in the next two years. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) noted that the region is expected to see a shift in weather patterns, possibly leading to more droughts and floods.

How did your career begin in the humanitarian field?

It was something that happened by chance, a new career path that was unplanned but for a good reason and at the right time. I began my career in the private sector, and at the age of 31 I relocated to Shanghai to help a company, whose headquarters were in Kuala Lumpur, oversee their investment. When I returned to Malaysia, I began working with several young technocrats to establish an information and communication technology (ICT) company, and the company partnered with the United Nations (UN) contributing their products and services to a remote area where their products were needed. When I left, the UN wanted me to join them in their regional office in Beijing. I then observed their Public-Private Partnerships work in ICT in regards to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and sustainable development. From there I worked in the ICT and DRR division.

How did you join the AHA Centre?

I happened to come across AHA Centre and believed it was a good fit, because the vision and mission of this inter-governmental body is close to my heart. As my childhood memory recalls, my family and I lived near a riverbank, in a village where we dealt with a lot of torrential flooding. A public service journey without the AHA Centre would have been a victim of natural disasters. I realise now that there is a career from within, where I come from and contribute to the humanitarian cause, so eventually I become a proud member of AHA Centre.

What is your experience so far in regards to the emergency response in ASEAN Centre?

I would very much like to go to the field, but I have not been able to do that so far I usually play the role of an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) manager and as a Humanitarian Information Chief to support the field team members. The role allows me to see the bigger picture of the entire cycle of operations from planning, to emergency response, coordination, and humanitarian assistance.

What would the scenario be for you in terms of deployment?

I believe if I am deployed, I will be the AHA Centre In-Country Coordination Team Leader, where I am expected to work closely with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in times of emergency response. I want the opportunity to speak to the victims of the disasters as I know their suffering from experience. Other than this, I also want to test my knowledge and practice my skills as a certified ASEAN/Emergency Response & Assessment Team (ERAT) member.

Can you share with us some of your proudest achievements and accomplishments as part of the ASEAN Centre member?

In November, the AHA Centre will be celebrating its 4th year anniversary. Without the strategic guidance from the Governing Board Members of the AHA Centre, and the unwavering support from the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division of the AHA Centre Secretariat, we may not have achieved what we have today. We have successfully raised the profile of AHA Centre as one of the most preferred choice of partners in disaster management in the ASEAN region. This can be seen from the stream of coordination and support arrangements proposed by ASEAN Dialogue Partners like Australia, China, European Union, Japan, New Zealand and USA. Our clients are also multi-faceted with different professional backgrounds. As the Chief Administrative Officer, I always make sure the human resources are well as financial rules and regulations are in compliance with international best practices.

What is the biggest challenge you face when working within the humanitarian field?

At the moment, among my biggest challenges is to leave my family behind and relocate to Indonesia as my job also expects frequent travels. It is not an easy decision but my family has been supporting me, they have faith in me because they know that I am playing a role in advancing the course of humanitarian assistance of ASEAN. It is a privilege to do that.

What would you like people to know the most about working within the humanitarian field?

Do not be afraid of choosing the right career path, even if it’s humanitarian assistance. A good undergraduate working in Economics or Accountancy may be hindered in working with a civil society organisation or as a humanitarian, not because they don’t want to but because they are not aware of the opportunity. Once they have been exposed to the opportunity doors will open, and may discover a talent and skill; including professional skills because the work of humanitarian assistance and disaster management field is one of its kind, and requires various skills, regardless of people’s background. But positive attitude and good communication skills are keys for building a successful career in humanitarian assistance. Being a part of the AHA Centre, the safer community – so why not? Furthermore, its not about profit maximisation, but about giving back to the society.
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.