Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue

NEWS STORY
- MoI Signing Between AHA Centre and CFF
- 4 Steps of DELSA Activation

INSIGHTS

THE COLUMN
AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOLUME 11
2015

AHA CENTRE
ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management

One ASEAN One Response
Cooperation and coordination is an essential element in disaster management, with different stakeholders having different skill, resources, and capabilities that can complement one another.

The importance of regional cooperation and coordination has been notably present this month, with the recent Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue held in early November, with prominent actors in the ASEAN region sharing their thoughts on disaster management and the Work Programme for the coming years.

The Memorandum of Intent signing between the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the Corporate Citizen Foundation (CCF) and the workshop for the development of the Incident Management Team (MIT) roadmap for AADMER as covered in this month’s news story also reminded us that combined efforts in managing disasters with other parties are equally important.

Following last month’s DELSA 2 Feasibility Study for Satellite Warehouses, the activities continued on in November with warehouses in Indonesia and the Philippines visited during the month, followed by a validation workshop.

In further understanding how the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) works, this month’s insights look into the four steps of DELSA activation.

With the challenges involved in being in the disaster management field, the Column learned that the reward is invaluable hearing from Mr. Yos Makkie, AHA Centre’s Preparedness and Response Officer, in this month’s The Other Side.

If you wish to share some stories/articles/blogs/comments with us to improve the bulletin, please drop us a message at comm(at)ahacentre.org, and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,
The Column Editor

---

**NEWS HIGHLIGHT**

**Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue**

As 2015 draws to a close, the end of the year also marks the conclusion of the five-year AADMER Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme.

In an unprecedented move, three Secretaries-General of ASEAN, H.E. Le Luong Minh, current Secretary-General of ASEAN, along with former Secretaries-General H.E. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong (2003-2007) and H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan (2008-2012), sat together and shared their views on the future shape of ASEAN cooperation on humanitarian action and in building resilient and safer communities throughout the region during the Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue on 3 November 2015.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), AADMER Secretariat, and the AHA Centre joint forces to jointly organise the event with the support of the ASEAN-Australia Cooperation for AADMER. Moreover, the Sri Rajaratnam School of International Studies (SRIS) was also commissioned to conduct the background studies as well as to develop and facilitate a number of sessions in the Policy Dialogue, as funded by the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund.

The Policy Dialogue was attended by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), along with other ASEAN sectoral bodies, the AHA Centre, ASEAN Secretariat, AADMER Dialogue Partners, Civil Society Organisations, international organisations, the private sector and academics. The event, which took place in Singapore, aimed to help plan the way forward for the next five years.

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) was ratified by all ten ASEAN Member States and entered into force in December of 2009. The aim of the AADMER is to establish and enhance regional cooperation, coordination, technical assistance, as well as resource mobilisation related to disaster management and reduce disaster losses within the region.

The AADMER Work Programme was intended to realise AADMER’s spirit and ambition into concrete actions over the course of five years from 2010-2015. With 2015 coming to an end, it has been evident that the AADMER Work Program has laid a strong foundation in enabling the ASEAN Member States achieve region’s vision of disaster resilient nations and communities. The Work Programme has helped Member States successfully implement a number of key initiatives, including the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in November 2011. The organisation has played a key role in coordinating responses for various major disasters that have occurred in the region.

In his opening address, H.E. K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law said, “The landscape of humanitarian assistance on disaster management is one that is constantly evolving. It is a topic that is complex, challenging and one which requires a sustained collective effort by all ASEAN Member States.” He further added that collectively, ASEAN Member States “must ensure that the AADMER framework remains strong, relevant and importantly, forward-looking.”

“Participation of the people is key in the next ten years, as ASEAN forges together towards a more people-oriented, people-centered and resilient ASEAN community,” said Secretary-General H.E. Le Luong Minh. “More multi-sectoral and multi-pillar approach must be adopted to make the region more self-reliant. Learning from the lessons from Typhoon Haiyan, ASEAN has a role in bridging regional, national and local initiatives on recovery.”

The drive towards regional cooperation and commitment among the ASEAN Community was strongly felt during the event as Dr. Surin said in the dialogue, “AADMER must deliver on its own commitment to each other.” He further added, “Learning from Cyclone Nargis in 2008, full implementation of AADMER is a basic requirement in the next ten years. Building resilience is a test of the region, especially for people who are most at risk and vulnerable.”

It is with great hope that the Policy Dialogue will continue to bring regional cooperation in managing disasters, and assist ASEAN in realising the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision.
The establishment of the network of satellite warehouses for the ASEAN region is one of the key elements of DELSA Phase 2. The main objective of the mission is to enhance timely emergency preparedness and response capacity of the ASEAN Member States and the AHA Centre in both large-scale, and especially in medium-scale disasters within the region by way of creating additional stockpiles of relief items closer to disaster-prone areas.

With warehouses in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand having been visited last month, warehouses in Indonesia and Philippines were visited in the month of November. Following the study visits, the validation workshop for the Feasibility Study was conducted on 11 November 2015 in Subang, Malaysia, with members of the DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) alongside members of the ACCM Working Group on Preparedness and Response in attendance.

Satellite warehouses in disaster prone and selected countries in ASEAN can help supplement the existing regional warehouse in Subang, Malaysia, opened during DELSA Phase 1 to ensure quicker availability of emergency relief items that can be deployed and distributed to the affected areas.

The expected outcome of the mission includes the following:

- Recommendations on the appropriate locations of ASEAN’s satellite warehouses in the ASEAN Member States.
- Cost estimation for upgrading warehouses
- Recommendations for required arrangements with host countries (such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)) for the operation and maintenance of the selected warehouses
- Duration of usage of the satellite warehouses to ensure sustainability upon completion of the project, and as reference to review the timelines of this MoU
- Identification of the list of possible items to be procured
- List of possible suppliers for the satellite warehouses.

4. FOUR CRITERIA were assessed:

1. Hazards and vulnerability
   a. Proximity to disaster prone areas
   b. Whether the facilities are located within secure areas

2. NDMS’s Emergency and Preparedness
   a. Whether the country already has an existing capacity in place
   b. How the international assistance impacts the response

3. Logistics accessibility and infrastructure
   a. Whether the facilities are close to main roads, airports, and ports
   b. Whether there is enough flexibility for the reconstruction into a staging area
   c. The quality of infrastructure, telecommunications and efficiency of transportation procedures.

4. NDMS’s current capacity
   a. The NDMS’s capacity for the management of stocks, inventory systems, related accountability, as well as staff capacity
   b. The financial commitment for long-term sustainability

Pending ACCM approval, selected warehouses are expected to start the operation of DELSA2 by the first quarter of 2017.
When disaster occurs, there are 4 key steps involved in activating the DELSA stockpile from Subang, Malaysia, to be deployed to the affected area in the ASEAN region. On this edition, AHA Centre’s Logistic Officer (DELSA), Mr. Yoram Lukas is here to share these important steps:

1. Preparedness

Stockpile that consists of all standard relief items in Subang, Malaysia must always be ready to be deployed at any given moment. During the preparedness phase, minimum amount of stock must be determined based on the maximum number of affected people in a disaster event. Local suppliers that can help supply certain items must also be identified at this stage.

2. Activating Emergency Response Operations:

When the status of the organisation is raised from green to yellow, all personnel and any relief items that might be deployed must be ready for the operation. There are two types of disaster events that AHA Centre responds to: the first is a slow onset disaster, one that can be predicted. This DELSA logistic officer will further determine the supplies needed based on the ICC’s (In Country Coordination) Team’s recommendations. The officer needs to determine two sources of relief item supplies. The first is from the DELSA stockpile in Subang, Malaysia, and the second from a local supplier. When the supplies needed have been determined, the AHA Centre would request UNRIN in Subang to send the relief items to the affected area. In this phase, the DELSA logistic officer also needs to identify the mode of transportation to ensure the relief items can safely reach the affected area, either using a commercial flight, a charter flight, or with the help of ASEAN member states.

3. Executing the options

When the status of the organisation is raised to red to indicate the response phase, the DELSA logistic officer will execute the plan as identified in the previous phases, including the use of the mode of transportation determined in phase 2. Generally, the selected option is one deemed to be the quickest.

4. Demobilisation

When responding to disasters, there are certain items the AHA Centre team carries to the affected area. In the demobilisation phase, the logistic officer determines which of these items need to be left behind and which needs to be brought back. This phase also indicates that the officer needs to finalise any kind of work agreement with local vendors.

One ASEAN One Response

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Natural disaster reports are regularly recorded in the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet): www.adinet.asean.org

Only significant disasters that satisfy the following criteria are recorded in ADINet:

1. More than 100 people affected
2. Involved more than 1 disaster

At least 10 significant natural disasters occurred this month in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Malaysia. Four different disasters namely volcanic eruption, earthquake, landslides, and floods occurred in Indonesia in November. Mt. Ranjau has been active and has affected more than 100 families living in the surrounding areas. Moreover, the Western part of Indonesia was affected by a number of earthquakes. One earthquake struck the region on 21 November, which happened on November 4 in Aceh which caused damages to 654 houses and disrupted 51 infrastructures and public facilities.

Influenza pandemic situation reported in the ASEAN region has started to cause fear in several countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Viet Nam. In Malaysia, flooding in two zones has affected about 300,000 people in the coming months, below normal rains, as an impact of El Niño, will still be expected in the region. In Indonesia, the Northern part of borneo island. Normal rainfall intensity is expected in the remaining parts of the ASEAN region, which includes the Northern part of Viet Nam, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos PDR and the eastern part of Indonesia.

THE OTHER SIDE

I get to work with people who are incredibly dedicated to their field and to their jobs. Their personality and their teamwork make the organisation alive. I learn something every day, and the more I try to contribute, the more I learn.

Yos Malone
AHA Centre’s Preparedness and Response Officer

As a Preparedness and Response Officer of the AHA Centre, Mr. Yos Malone is often deployed at very short notice, but he finds working within the disaster management field more rewarding than it is challenging with stories to come home with. Through this month’s THE OTHER SIDE, Mr. Yos Malone shared some of his most memorable deployment stories.

Can you share us how you became a part of AHA Centre?

I used to work for Red Cross from 2006-2012. That’s where I became familiar and became interested in the disaster management field. I joined the AHA Centre in 2013 because I wanted to explore the field further, and I also thought it was a good opportunity to join an organisation and contribute to the ASEAN region.

Do you have any memorable deployment experiences you can share with us?

I have a few that were quite memorable to me personally. The first was when I was deployed for a preparedness mission in Viet Nam, just before Typhoon Vamco made a landfall, It was impressive to see how the AHA Centre was received by the Government of Viet Nam. Our team was led by the Ministry of Agriculture, who made personal visits to areas that were forecasted to be affected by the typhoon. He made sure that people were evacuated and were well prepared to handle the effects of the disaster. Another time was when I was deployed to respond to the flood in Malaysia. AHA Centre contributed tents, and family kits. When we arrived, we were invited to enter one of the forts where the beneficiaries thanked us personally. I remember being touched by how much our efforts were truly valued.

As a Preparedness and Response Officer for the AHA Centre, you must be deployed often. Is it difficult balancing your work life and your personal life?

Not really. My family appreciates and understands the work I do, and the kind of contribution I make. Sometimes I feel somewhat proud when I speak about the organisation I work for and tell them to my family. When my child asks me my wife where I am, she’ll say “He’s helping people,” and I think that’s such a rewarding thing to say about you. I think given the opportunity to contribute and make a difference for the people living in disaster-prone areas. I think that is a great motivation to work.

Do you get used to being deployed on the field?

I suppose so. I understand this job would require me to be deployed on very short notice. I’ve worked in a very remote island for two years near Aceh, and would only be able to go to the city once every two weeks. I think the experience made deployment there much easier. I feel useful when I get deployed to the field. I get to learn as much as possible from other people, and I always come back with stories to share.

What is one of the most important lessons you learn from working in the disaster management field?

When you are deployed to respond to disasters or emergencies, you directly interact with people who are heavily affected by these events. I see that these people have lost a lot, but they kept moving forward. They have this immense faith, and I feel that I could do more to help them.

I get to work with people who are incredibly dedicated to their field and to their jobs. Their personality and their teamwork make the organisation alive. I learn something every day, and the more I try to contribute, the more I learn.

Remembering that November 2015 marks AHA Centre’s 4-year anniversary, can you share us some of your aspirations for the AHA Centre in the years to come?

I hope in the coming years AHA Centre can continue to facilitate the ASEAN region in responding to disasters and achieve the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision, working with all ASEAN Member States and become the best regional organisation in the field of disaster management. For me personally, I want to help the organisation achieve that goal.
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.