The 27th Meeting of the ACDM and the 3rd Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre

NEWS STORY
The Year in Review and Visioning 2016
Key Competencies of a Humanitarian Worker

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AHA CENTRE
ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management
A series of meeting was conducted back-to-back in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, including the 27th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre (ACDM), held on 14 December. The 27th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre (ACDM), held on 14 December. The 4th Meeting of the Joint Task Force to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant AHA Bodies on Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Relief (HADR), the 4th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to AADMER (CPP to AADMER), and the 3rd Meeting of the Conference of Parties to AADMER Management (AMMDM), held between 15 December 2015.

The 27th Meeting of the ACDM aimed to review and enhance regional disaster management under the framework of the ACDM Agreement. Disaster and Emergency Response (AADERM). In attendance were ACDM focal points and their representatives from ACDM focal points and their representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as representatives from the ACDM Secretariat and the AHA Centre.

Welcoming the ACDM Delegates and Representatives during the Opening Ceremonies of the 27th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre and the 3rd Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, H.E. Mr. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission and First Vice President of the National Committees for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia stated:

During his opening speech, H.E. Nhim Vanda highlighted the achievements of the AHC in 2015 and the challenges that the AHC will face in 2016.

Among the many agendas of the Meeting were:
- Implementation of the AADMER Work Programme and its progress in the AHA Centre.
- Progress of ASEAN’s Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Areas (ARAYA).
- Progress of implementation of One ASEAN One Response and the finalisation of the draft declaration on One ASEAN One Response, as well as its operationalisation.

One of the highlights of the Meeting was the presentation on the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA). In particular, regarding the results of the feasibility study on establishing satellite warehouses in the region.

With the wealth of knowledge and experiences the region possesses, the Meeting agrees to use the ACDM facilities to support the region to become stronger and more unified in order to respond to disasters. As a common strategy, the Ministerial Conferences agreed to continue to implement the ACDM Agreement and the AHA Centre’s mandate to better support and assist its friends and partners.

The ACDM was opened by H.E. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission and First Vice President of the National Committees for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The ACDM was opened by H.E. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission and First Vice President of the National Committees for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The ACDM was opened by H.E. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission and First Vice President of the National Committees for Disaster Management of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2015: The Year in Review

January

ASEAN – AHA Centre Emergency Response to Malaysia Flood

The AHA Centre activated its DELSA warehouse in Subang, Malaysia in response to floods that hit several areas in the Malaysian peninsula since the fourth week of December 2014.

February

The Second Batch of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme

The ACE Programme kicked-off the second batch in February. The six-month programme aimed to develop officers from the National Disaster Management Officers (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States as future leaders of disaster management.

March

Risk, Resilience and Renewal: A Kiwi’s Experience on Disaster Management

A series of meeting was conducted in March 2015. Members of the AHA Centre worked closely with the ASEAN – ERAT, which was established to support ASEAN Member States that are affected by disasters, conducted a field induction course in Bogor, Indonesia from 19-29 June 2015.

April

26th ACDM Meeting and 2nd Governing Board Meeting of the AHA Centre

The 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Disaster Information and Coordination Centre (ADICC) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia where the AHA Centre was recognised as a symbol of commitment of the ASEAN member States.

May

ARF-DiREx 2015

ACE Programme participants visited New Zealand, one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, and learned directly from the Christchurch City Council and Civil Defence Emergency Management about the damage and the efforts relating to the February 2011 earthquake. ACE Programme participants also heard from the Defence University of Canterbury’s Centre for Risk, Resilience & Renewal (UCRR) regarding crisis leadership to prepare them as future leaders of disaster management.

JUNE

Fifth ACE Programme Batch: Batch 5, Training and Assessment

The AHA Centre deployed three staffs to Manila, Philippines to liaise and coordinate with Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Board (NDRRB) to support to Typhoon Koppu, which made landfall in Cagayan Valley, Aurora Province in Philippines on 18 October 2015.

Fifth ASEAN – Emergency Response and Assessment Team Induction Course

A series of meeting was conducted back-to-back in Phnom Penh, Cambodia where the 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the 3rd Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre took place. The AHA Centre participated in the meeting of the ACDM (2003-2007) and H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan (2008-2012) and AHA Centre (top row), and four ACE Programme Graduates from Thailand (bottom row) in the ‘One ASEAN’ vision, the AHA Centre brought the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision to the ASEAN – ERAT, which was established to support ASEAN Member States that are affected by disasters, conducted a field induction course in Bogor, Indonesia from 19-29 June 2015.

JULY

Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Training

At the start of November, three Secretaries-General of ASEAN, H.E. Lim Jek Cheng, 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 during the Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue to share their views on the future shape of ASEAN cooperation on humanitarian action and in building resilient and safer communities in the ASEAN region.

August

ASEAN Supports Myanmar Flood Relief Efforts

The AHA Centre participated in the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Assistance and Relief Exercise (ARF-DiREx) in May. The event focused on testing civil-military effectiveness and coordination in responding to large-scale disasters, and synchronise efforts toward supporting the effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (ADMER) as a common platform for disaster management in the region.

September

One ASEAN One Response Roadshow in Thailand

In an effort to socialise the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision, the AHA Centre brought the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision to Thailand in the month of September. Whereas the previous roadshow was held in other ASEAN Member States starting from April 2015.

October

Emergency Response: Typhoon Koppu

ASEAN – AHA Centre Emergency Response to Typhoon Koppu

The ASEAN – ERAT, which was established to support ASEAN Member States that are affected by disasters, conducted an induction course in Bogor, Indonesia from 19-29 June 2015. Typhoon Koppu caused severe flooding and landslides of Myanmar and prompted Government of Myanmar to declare a state of emergency at the beginning of August. ASEAN, through the AHA Centre worked closely with the Government of Myanmar to help respond to the heavy floods.

November

Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue

AHA Centre’s Knowledge Repository

At the start of November, three Secretaries-General of ASEAN, H.E. Lim Jek Cheng, 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 during the Post-2015 AADMER Strategic Policy Dialogue to share their views on the future shape of ASEAN cooperation on humanitarian action and in building resilient and safer communities in the ASEAN region.

December

The 37th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre

A series of meeting was conducted back-to-back in Phnom Penh, Cambodia where the 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the 3rd Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre took place. These meetings showcase the commitment of ASEAN Member States in realising the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision.

In an effort to socialise the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision, the AHA Centre brought the ‘One ASEAN One Response’ vision to Thailand in the month of September. Whereas the previous roadshow was held in other ASEAN Member States starting from April 2015.

AHA Centre Knowledge Repository

* All of the activities above is excerpted from the AHA Centre Annual Work Plan 2016.
The smiles of relief on the faces of the beneficiaries when the aid they received are appropriate to their prevailing needs. Of course, this requires reliable and up-to-date ground intelligence and the ability to adapt to the quick-changing needs at the affected grounds.

Do how you feel the cooperation between Corporate Citizen Foundation and the AHA Centre will help with disaster management within the ASEAN region in the future?

I reckon the AHA Centre – CCF cooperation will help set the tone for greater and more proactive collaboration of the private sector players. Corporations must go beyond traditional giving in regional disaster management. Beyond monetary donations, there is a ready range of assets, expertise and networks that reside within the private sector domain which are useful for disaster preparedness and acute response. However, resources must be properly coordinated to avoid duplication of their deployments, failing which, would lead to wastage of such resources. Resources are available, but they are not unlimited. Under AADMER, the AHA Centre has the mandate to play this critical role of coordination, and CCF stands ready to further support AHA Centre’s strategies.

Do you have any advice for our readers out there who are interested in pursuing career in the humanitarian field?

Passion, compassion and commitment are a must to serve the humanitarian cause well... As for personal development – he who holds the lamp for others, has his own path lighted.
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.