NEWS HIGHLIGHT

Workshop for the Familiarisation of DELSA Stockpile and the AHA Centre Crisis Communications Tool (the ACT)

NEWS STORY

“One ASEAN, One Response Roadshow” in Lao PDR
The 8th DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

INSIGHTS

Key Factors Associated When Communicating Hazards through the Media
As One Community, the ASEAN region realises the importance of collaborative and coordinated efforts in managing disasters in the region. The ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ vision, which has been shared among the ASEAN Community since 2015, is a comprehensive approach as coordinated by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) respond to disasters as one and establish mechanisms that would enhance losses to disasters.

As told in this month’s news story, the ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ vision recently made its debut in the form of a two-week-long ACT workshop as part of its effort to socialise the vision.

Also an embodiment of the vision, the AHA Centre recently conducted a distinguished AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme. While the commencement of the third batch of the ACE Programme, we introduce the new participants, talks of the role of media and Indonesia to get a glimpse of their journey into the programme as well as their expectations, and looked into the participants’ activities this month.

With AHA Centre’s experience in socialising the ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ vision, we realise the importance of communication. The Column itself is part of AHA Centre’s strategic communications effort. In looking at the role communications play during disasters, we looked at how to communicate hazards through the media in this edition of Insights.

The AHA Centre also recently collaborated with Malaysia’s National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) to conduct a workshop for the familiarisation of DELSA Stockpile and the AHA Centre Crisis Communications Tool (the ACT) at the beginning of March 2016 in Subang, Malaysia as told in our News Highlight of the month. The objective of the DELSA Stockpile Familiarisation includes allowing all participants to be able to load, assemble and maintain the materials and equipment that are available in the stockpile.

Another major activity that was conducted between 1-3 March in Subang, Malaysia was the ACT workshop. The ACT is part of the AHA Centre’s continuous effort to realise its communications goal, which is to become a professional, trusted and preferred partner in disaster management in the ASEAN region.

The AHA Centre has formulated its own strategic communications workplan and has assigned tasks related to representing the organisation, as well as on how to speak in one voice and communicate the overarching message of ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ amongst its stakeholders and to the overall ASEAN community. The AHA Centre believes that an effective strategic communications workplan needs to be well-prepared, through the implementation of activities that can embrace a multitude of spheres at once including internal communications, external communications, and digital media. One of the activities that were conducted was the Crisis Communications Training aimed for Communications and Public Relations Officers of the NDMOs. The training was necessary considering potential reputational crisis that can occur at any given moment due to disaster events.
what are the difficulties involved in managing your local community?

Chun

I have been working for the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) of the Royal Government of Cambodia for three years.

Chun

I also work in the National Committee Disaster Management but in the Provincial Department.

What do you hope to achieve through the ACE Programme?

Chun

I wish to strengthen the relationship with all the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) and gain knowledge on how to help realise the “One ASEAN, One Response” vision. I think Cambodia has room to improve in terms of disaster management resources and knowledge, and building good relationship with people from the field of disaster management around the ASEAN region, we can do so.

How did you become a participant of the ACE Programme?

Chun

I heard about ACE Programme since it commenced the first batch, but at that time I was participating in the ASEAN-EAPF Initiation Course. Over time, I became more and more interested in joining the ACE Programme. And I was lucky because I was appointed to join this batch.

Wahyu

I received information about ACE Programme from my Director. My Director wished to improve the capacity and quality of the executive committee in the disaster management field, especially at the regional level. Based on my experience as Deputy of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction for six years, and my educational background, my Director suggested that I join the ACE Programme so I could develop my knowledge in the disaster management field and explore networking with other ASEAN Member States’ representatives.

What do you hope to achieve through the ACE Programme?

Wahyu

I hope the Programme can further enhance my knowledge and capacity in the disaster management field. In a more comprehensive way. Based on my experience in my position as the Section Head of Temporary Residential Development for three years, I am required to understand various aspects of disaster management including preparedness, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Chun

I wish to learn about how different countries handle disasters differently. Comparative studies between countries can hopefully help me to learn how to adapt it to Indonesia. In addition to this, I also want to expand my networking among ASEAN Member States’ delegates.

How do you plan on implementing the knowledge you have gained from the Programme to help your community?

Wahyu

Since we are government officers, we strictly adhere to rules. The community leaders have so many responsibilities, therefore disaster management may not be on the top priority list. Our challenge includes providing them with sufficient information regarding disaster management, to help them inform the rest of the community on how to prepare for disasters.

Chun

We should also share the knowledge to the community leader as well, to allow for more efficient preparedness. Also, how to deliver appropriate response during a disaster situation.

Can you tell us more about your work within the disaster management field?

Lorn

I have been working for the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) of the Royal Government of Cambodia for three years.

Lorn

I also work in the National Committee Disaster Management but in the Provincial Department.

How long have you been in this field?

Mr. Luqmanul Hakim

Right

ACE Programme Officer from Indonesia

Mr. Wahyu Indriyadi

Left

ACE Programme Officer from Indonesia

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Since 2015, the AHA Centre has organised “One ASEAN, One Response” Roadshow in an effort to promote ASEAN’s regional mechanisms in disaster management, as well as to introduce the “One ASEAN, One Response” vision in hopes of uniting the efforts of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and its stakeholders as they respond to disasters in the region.

So far, the Roadshow has taken place in four countries of the ASEAN Member States namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand. As the first one to take place this year, the “One ASEAN, One Response” Roadshow was recently held in Vientiane, Lao PDR through the joint efforts of Lao PDR’s National Disaster Management Office, with the AHA Centre. Furthermore, as part of the socialisation effort of the activity, members of the National Disaster Management Office, with the AHA Centre.

One ASEAN, One Response Roadshow in Lao PDR

Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre, noted that the “One ASEAN, One Response is about Speed, Scale and Solidarity,” Speed of response as inviting ASEAN Embassies in Lao PDR for one of the sessions as part of the socialisation effort of the activity, members of the Disaster Management Of/ f_ice, with the AHA Centre. Furthermore, the ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ Roadshow was recently held in Vientiane, Lao PDR through the joint efforts of Lao PDR’s National Disaster Management Office, with the AHA Centre. Furthermore, as part of the socialisation effort of the activity, members of the National Disaster Management Office, with the AHA Centre.

As part of the Roadshow, members of the National Disaster Management Office were invited to the AHA Centre for a presentation on the ‘One ASEAN, One Response’ vision. The presentation highlighted several key factors associated with communicating hazards through the media.

The Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) was established to provide immediate substantial logistics support for ASEAN Member States (AMS) during an emergency response. DELSA was also established to enhance the capacity of the AMS and AMS during disaster emergency logistics operation. With these objectives in mind, the DELSA Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established to realise the vision. The recent meeting took place in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22nd March 2016.

The meeting was executed through the collaboration of the Project Steering Committee members, which consists of Malaysia and Singapore as Co-chairs, and 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.

Each member of the project management team from AHA Centre presented progress updates regarding each 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.

The 8th DELSA PSC Meeting with the guidance from Malaysia and Singapore as the Co-Chairs and attended by representatives from Japan Mission to ASEAN, Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAF), and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Can you share us how you became involved in the humanitarian field?

I started my career in the humanitarian field in 2002, when I was asked to help manage the humanitarian aspects of the Indonesia tsunami crisis. The main focus of my work was to provide emergency support for the affected communities in the south of the island of Sumatra.

THE OTHER SIDE

How does it feel to work in the humanitarian field?

Working in the humanitarian field, especially when you are deployed against the backdrop of a humanitarian crisis, can be extremely challenging. However, it is also incredibly rewarding to see the impact that your work has on the lives of those affected by disasters.

THE OTHER SIDE

Can you share some of the most memorable moments you have worked through?

One of the most memorable moments I have worked through was when I was deployed to the Philippines in 2013, a week after Typhoon Haiyan struck the country. It was a massive disaster; thousands of people were displaced and most infrastructures were destroyed. With so many facilities damaged, it was a challenge for us to reach the affected areas. However, thanks to the support of the people, we were able to reach the affected areas and provide support for the personnel in the affected area. In addition to these challenges, we also faced the challenge of coordinating with different agencies in the Philippines, some of whom were already at the disaster sites.

I would not say it is an achievement, because when it comes to logistics, there are always challenges, and the only way we can get through it all is to build strong collaboration amongst governmental institutions in ASEAN.

How important is the feeling of ‘one community’ for ASEAN Member States in disaster management?

It is very important, because responding as one community would ensure the fastest and most effective response for the affected community in any disaster event. However, this strategy will not work in areas with limited internet access.

How would you like to see the future of the media in disaster management?

I would like to see the future of the media in disaster management as being more collaborative and coordinated. This will ensure that the message is delivered in a timely and effective manner to those who need it most.

Can you have any advice for these future leaders in disaster management?

I hope the delegations come back home with an abundance of knowledge in disaster management, especially a better understanding in logistics, considering how important it is in the field. We also need to be able to coordinate with different agencies (or government) across ASEAN to provide a faster method of distributing supplies and equipment to those that need it.

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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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