WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

SPECIAL SESSION
Regional Action For Global Challenges

SIDE EVENTS
Implementing The Sendai Framework To Reduce The Humanitarian Burden: ASEAN Resilience In Practice
Humanitarian crises continue to challenge the world’s humanitarian system. Every second, conflicts and crises affect large number of people throughout the world. Enhanced understanding and knowledge on humanitarian assistance are needed now more than ever before.

In response to these challenges, the United Nations (UN) held the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, with over 5,000 participants from all sectors and regions. It was the largest-ever gathering to focus on humanitarian action.

The ASEAN Joint Statement on Disaster Management and Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management was issued to reaffirm ASEAN’s commitment to the global effort to prevent and reduce human crises and suffering. The statement was issued at the opening ceremony of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 May 2016.

According to the “Too important to fail” Report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, the world spends around US$25 billion to provide assistance for 275 million people affected by wars and natural disasters. A large amount, yet still insufficient to mitigate the number of deaths caused by humanitarian issues, especially when compared to the US$783 trillion annual GDP the world produces.

With the state of humanity in dire need of attention, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon held the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 May 2016. The World Humanitarian Summit, which was organised by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), was designed to reinvigorate commitment for humanity and reach universal humanitarian principles by addressing humanitarian problems and bringing world leaders together to agree on ways of moving forward. The Summit also aims to share best practices that can help save lives around the world.

The AHA Centre is honoured to be a part of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. Through the Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Networks (ROHAN), the AHA Centre has been working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action.

On 22 May 2016, the ASEAN ministers held and Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (IAMMDD) which was chaired by H.E. Willem Rampangili, Chief of Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority and Chair of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disasters and Emergency Management (IAMMDD) Conference of the Parties, and attended by Ministers in charge of disaster, Secretary-General of AHA Centre, H.E. Le Luong Minh; Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Yonghap Arak听话salavates, Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of AHA Centre; and ASEAN Secretariat.

During the IAMMDD, some of the agenda discussed was the consideration on the draft of the ASEAN Joint Statement for the World Humanitarian Summit, as well as ASEAN’s participation in the World Humanitarian Summit. Ministers discussed how to showcase and highlight ASEAN’s commitments and practices, as well as to engage more with the AADMER Work Programme and ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management.

The AHA Centre, further emphasised the importance of disaster management in ways that safeguard the people’s lives, by continuing to strengthen local and regional systems, and to capitalise on the partnerships and other relevant stakeholders we have crossed paths with through the AHA Centre.

The AHA Centre is pleased to be a part of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. We hope that the partnership we have forged with organisations and other relevant stakeholders we have cross paths with through the World Humanitarian Summit continues to flourish, and together we can continue our efforts to reduce the human suffering and to save the lives of those affected by humanitarian crises.
Massive loss of lives and livelihoods due to natural or human-made disasters has a tendency to increase in terms of frequency and intensity due to climate change, and rapid and unplanned urbanisation. Realising that there is a need for a more efficient approach to identify, anticipate, and act early to prevent disaster risks, the Roundtable for Natural Disasters & Climate Change developed 5 core commitments:

- Coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and other relevant strategies and program actions to accelerate the reduction of disaster and other climate-related risks.
- Reinforce national and local leadership and capacities to handle disaster and climate-related risks.
- Improve the understanding, anticipation and preparedness for disaster and climate-related risks by investing in knowledge.
- Increase investment in building a resilient community that acts as a critical first line of response.
- Ensure regional and global humanitarian assistance in times of disaster.

In recognition of the role these organisations play in humanitarian action, the Special Session on Regional Action for Global Challenges allowed high-level representatives of Regional Organisations and other relevant stakeholders to present cases of regional approaches to humanitarian crises, and identify challenges and opportunities for regional organisations within the humanitarian system. The Session also marked the launch of Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN). Established in 2015, ROHAN is an informal network of 14 regional organisations focusing on humanitarian action. With different sets of knowledge and skills that enables these institutions to interact closely with locals, a more far-reaching role for regional organisations are needed more than ever, as they can carry out responsibilities different from those carried out by governments and humanitarian agencies.

One of the agendas in the High-Level Leader’s Roundtables aimed to develop a “new way of working” that is different with traditional approaches to delivering aid and relief for the affected population. The current model of providing affected population with aid and relief for a certain time period would tends to result in recurrent crises that leave them dependent on the aid.

Through the roundtables, high-profile leaders were able to develop and promote a new way of working and financing that can prevent crises and sustainably reduce levels of humanitarian need.

Two core commitments that arise from the Roundtable on Changing People’s Lives:

1. Commit to a new way of working which will meet people’s immediate humanitarian needs, while reducing risk and vulnerability.
2. Commit to enable coherent financing that avoids fragmentation.
The ASEAN-UN partnership in the area of disaster management was strengthened through the joint response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar 2008, where ASEAN played a key role in coordinating the emergency response and providing assistance directly to one of its Member States, as well as in negotiating the terms of a joint response with the European Union (EUMyanmar).

On 23 May 2016, ASEAN and UN conducted a joint forum to share lessons learnt, good practices and inter-operability between ASEAN and UN through their partnership and discuss plans on moving forward to enhance their humanitarian assistance coordination systems. The forum, which was a side event at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) held in Istanbul, was attended by the ASEAN-UN also served as a platform to launch their Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2016-2020.

Moderated by Ms. Adelina Kamal, Director for Sustainable Development Directorate of the AHA Centre, the forum was attended by representatives from UN Agencies, Diplomatic Missions, Regional Organisations, National Disaster Management Offices (NADOMs), disaster management experts and practitioners, and other stakeholders.

UN has been committed to supporting ASEAN’s capacity in disaster management – through the AHA Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and by implementing the Sendai Framework. To maximise the effectiveness of the partnership, the two exchanges experience and knowledge, leverage existing technical collaboration through existing programmes and familiarisation on the core AHA and UN assessment, coordination and response mechanisms, tools and services.

Over the years, the partnership has only grown stronger with the establishment of the AHA Centre. The UN has been providing technical assistance for AHA Centre to support capacity building of the ASEAN-UN capacity building and Assessment Team (ERAT). Furthermore, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) have also been working closely with the AHA Centre to manage the regional warehouse for Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELISA) through its Humanitarian Response and Coordination (HRAC) Team.

Other than relief distribution during disaster response, ASEAN and the UN have been close partners providing support to meaningful national and local leadership, enhance preparedness and response capacities, and support the Regional Humanitarian Advisory Group through various capacity building programmes – which is aligned with Core Responsibility 4 of the Agenda for Humanity – to End Need.

2. Respect Rules of War

Wars have rules and limits. The fact that urban areas have become death traps, States need to respect and strengthen compliance with the international law to minimise human suffering and protect civilians.

While allowed Member States to recommit to protecting civilians and human rights by respecting the rules of war through their commitment, strategies, and regular activities, and resources that will be focussing on working with the UN to further strengthen their collective response, cooperation, and coordination in disaster management.

Prior to the main event of the World Humanitarian Summit, ASEAN opened its booth at the Exhibition Fair. The booth showcased ASEAN’s preparedness and experience and shared knowledge on disaster management and humanitarian actors.

Q A Session during side event – ASEAN Resilience in Practice

As part of the World Humanitarian Summit, a number of side events were held to facilitate discussion around themes relevant to the Summit, and for a variety of humanitarian organisations and stakeholders to discuss decision-making, opportunities, approaches and initiatives in an interactive manner.

The AHA Centre, together with MERCY Malaysia, the Regional Commission, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction organised the Side Event on ‘Implementing the Sendai Framework to Reduce the Humanitarian Burden: ASEAN Resilience in Practice’.

The key to minimise potential risks and reduce impact of natural hazards is to strengthen preparedness efforts and increase local capacities in handling crises. The side event not only made the case for increased investment in local disaster risk prevention through structural and non-structural measures are vital.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations (UN) have established a 15-year non-binding agreement that acknowledges the role of all stakeholders including the local government and the private sector, shares the responsibility to reduce disaster risk. A successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015, building on the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, the Sendai Framework aims to substantially reduce the loss of lives, livelihoods, health, and, in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries.

The Four Priorities for Action under the Sendai Framework for focused action across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels are:

1. Understanding disaster risk

Strong understanding of disaster risk in all of its dimensions should serve as the basis for disaster risk management policies and practices. Understanding and knowledge of disaster risk can be leveraged for risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response purposes.

2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Disaster risk governance at national, regional, and global levels can foster collaboration and partnership amongst institutions, and thereby enhances prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

– To enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of the people, communities, countries and their assets by reducing their vulnerability to disaster risk through structural and non-structural measures is vital.

4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better”

Increasing disaster risks make it necessary to strengthen disaster risk governance, response, anticipate events and take actionable steps towards them, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure capacities are in place. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is an important opportunity to build back better.

According to Ms. Adelina Kamal, Director for Sustainable Development Directorate of the AHA Secretariat, ASEAN was the first region in the world to adopt a legally binding framework on disaster risk management, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which entered into force in 2009. The Sendai Framework that was adopted by UN Member States in March 2015 serves as the basis for the new five-year plan for disaster risk reduction implementation of the AADMER.

The involvement of different parties and stakeholders for the implementation of the Sendai Framework is emphasised. The importance of joint efforts in disaster risk efforts is enhanced through the leadership of Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre, disaster management is a cross-sectoral, a sense of ownership in regards to disaster management needs to be shared by all stakeholders.

The preparation and implementation of the Sendai Framework is a 15-year non-binding agreement that acknowledges the role of all stakeholders including the local government and the private sector, shares the responsibility to reduce disaster risk. A successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015, building on the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, the Sendai Framework aims to substantially reduce the loss of lives, livelihoods, health, and, in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries.
One ASEAN One 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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