

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULETIN

VOL 18

One ASEAN One Response

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULETIN 2016



## NEWS HIGHLIGHT

### ASEAN WebEOC Refresher Course and WebEOC Improvement Workshop

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#### NEWS STORY

**New Zealand Field Visit:  
Leadership on Crisis Training  
and Emergency Management Training**

**Leadership on Crisis Training**

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#### INSIGHTS

**The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders  
Make in a Crisis**



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

VOLUME 18  
**2016**

Coordination amongst ASEAN Member States (AMS) is an essential aspect which will contribute to the sharing of information during disaster period. The Fourth WebEOC Refresher Course and Improvement Workshop were held last month not only to provide deeper understanding on the utilisation of the WebEOC, but also to strengthen connections between disaster management professionals in AMS.

On this edition, we would like to share the experience of ACE Participant's visit to New Zealand, where they received hands-on field visit to sites affected by the Canterbury Earthquake and to observe the astonishing recovery process.

In addition to that, ACE Corner is still here, covering recent activities done by the programme such as Post-Disaster Needs Assessment training, and media visit to CNN Indonesia.

The Column 18th Edition will elaborate the 10 popular mistakes by leaders during crisis. We hope these insights are beneficial for all the readers.

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

Sincerely,  
The Column Editor

**The Column** is a monthly news bulletin from the AHA Centre – capturing the latest activities from the organisation.

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

ASEAN WebEOC Refresher Course and WebEOC Improvement Workshop



Group photo of ASEAN WebEOC Refresher Course

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is the backbone of the AHA Centre's operation. As one of the elements of ICT, WebEOC or Web-based Emergency Operations Centre is an integrated emergency communications platform where information regarding incidents can be disseminated from the AHA Centre to all ASEAN Member States (AMS), and vice versa, in a timely manner.

A series of workshop to familiarise the operations of WebEOC has been conducted these past several years. The ASEAN ICT needs study and assessment first commenced in 2011 – followed by 3 ICT Phase Projects until January 2016.

The first phase aimed to strengthen the operationalisation of AHA Centre through support from an integrated ICT. Before WebEOC, AHA Centre's information sharing was limited to email and fax, which resulted in delay response and information distribution. Through each ICT Phase Project, AHA Centre marked each establishment and development of the ASEAN WebEOC system. AHA Centre constantly develops the software in order to perform better in managing disaster in ASEAN regions.

This year, the AHA Centre, with the support from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), held three-day training for each National Disaster



Field visit to NIED – National Institute for EQ Science and Disaster Prevention of Japan

Management Offices (NDMOs) and appointed participants from the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre in Tokyo, Japan. The training is a follow-up to the first WebEOC Familiarisation Workshop that was conducted in June 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This year's workshop aims to establish connections between and among the Operation Officers of the EOC and EOC managers of all NDMOs from the AMS, provide a platform for representatives from NDMOs to share their experience on WebEOC utilisation, provide knowledge on how WebEOC is applied in disaster management in Japan, and disseminate lessons from users to maximise the application and utilisation of WebEOC.

The overall objective of this project is to enhance the current ICT operational capacity and to ensure the resilience of current ICT facilities, including ASEAN WebEOC system and other systems that are available at the AHA Centre.

The Workshop involved hands-on training, discussions and sharing of experiences. The AHA Centre presented the current status and utilization of ASEAN WebEOC, and the trainer provided technical coaching and emphasis on a hands-on training on the ASEAN WebEOC.

The Column had the opportunity to conduct a short interview with Mr. Adi Bishry, who was one of the



Hands-on training

facilitators in the WebEOC Refresher Course and WebEOC Improvement Workshop.

"The WebEOC refresher course has been conducted regularly to provide the opportunity for its users to enhance their skill and knowledge on the features that the WebEOC can offer during disaster. Furthermore, the simulation exercise was also an added point to amplify the sense of realness of the training," said Adi Bishry, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Officer of the AHA Centre.

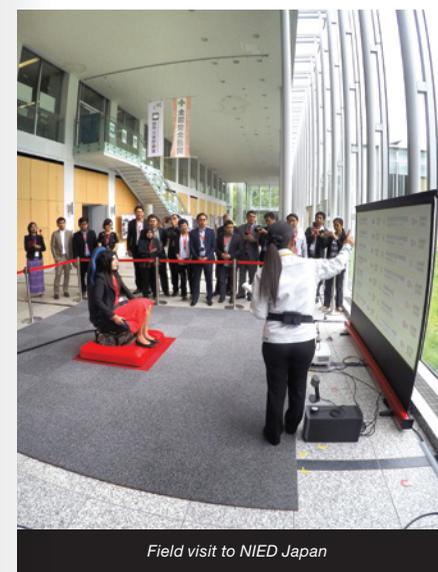
In this occasion, Mr. Bishry also mentioned the workshop was very useful as participants required to operate the software directly after being explained the technical procedures. The more practical method hoped to be instrumental in supporting these participants' functions as operation officers of the EOC.

Participants from NDMOs were given 20-minutes time for them to present the utilization of the ASEAN WebEOC. From there, NDMOs together with the AHA Centre worked on finding the gaps on ASEAN WebEOC applications as well as establish the best practice of its utilization.

As part of the journey, participants of the workshop also visited the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience in Japan. Through the visit, participants were expected to enhance the knowledge and skills on the disaster management of NDMOs and the AHA Centre staffs.

Through the training, discussion sessions, and technical coaching, participants are exposed to the best practices of the ASEAN WebEOC, and learned how to identify the gaps of the WebEOC applications.

To end, Mr. Adi Bishry said "I believe this refresher course is beneficial for the participants, mainly due to the fact that all modules were structured to really provide a hands-on experience."



Field visit to NIED Japan



Activities

ACE participants were occupied with numbers of trainings and workshops the whole June 2016, here are the activities they participated in:

Through one of its sessions, ACE Participants learned about the Rationale and Purpose of Assessments:

**A Post-Disaster Needs Assessments**

Post-disaster period is a demanding and challenging period. It is when the various tasks of humanitarian response actions are executed and life-saving relief items are distributed to the affected community.

The training consists of eight sessions that covers data collection, damage and loss estimation, macro-economic and human development analysis, PDNA report writing, and an overview of the ASEAN Disaster Recovery Reference Guide.



Mr. Sanny Ramos Jegillos, Practice Coordinator, Regional Disaster Reduction Adviser Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific facilitated the Post-Disaster Needs Assessments Training



Ms. Shairi Mathur, Executive Officer of the UNDP New Delhi Area, India at the PDNA Training

**B Coordinated Needs Assessment Training**

The purpose of the Coordinated Needs Assessment Training was for ACE Participants to gain an understanding of the importance of coordinated assessments and the proper approaches to constructing an effective decision, forward planning, and resource mobilisation.

Facilitated by John Marinos, Information Management Officer at United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, The workshop was organised into a three-day training consisting of six sessions that covers various important aspects of assessment coordination.

1



Coordinated assessments make a humanitarian response more efficient and effective, because it helps to ensure an effective analysis, better decision-making, and strategic planning.

2



Assessments can be coordinated through joint or harmonised methods. Harmonised assessments occur when agencies gather and process, as well as analyse data separately, while joint assessments occur when the whole process is formed through one single process between different agencies.

3



Actors within the process are humanitarian actors, humanitarian coordinator, cluster lead agencies, and individual organisations. Each of them play important roles and in conducting assessments.

Various activities were prepared for ACE Participants in each session of the Coordinated Needs Assessment Training – including discussions, role play, group presentation, and other exercises.

**C** Emergency Communications Training and Communications for Disaster: Professional Training

The Emergency Communications Training and Communications for Disaster was held from 30 May – 3 June 2016, and was facilitated jointly by UNOCHA, IFRC and Cohn & Wolfe, a global communications and public relations firm.

Through the training, ACE Participants learned how to establish communication plans, how to develop key messages, and how to communicate these messages to relevant stakeholders and the affected communities through social media as disaster management tool.

The training also helped participants gain perspective on how the media works, and provided participants the opportunity to practice how to behave appropriately during interviews. As part of the curriculum, participants visited CNN Studio to see the behind-the-scenes work of the media. Participants expressed their excitement as they practiced how to be a news anchor in the studio.



Mr. Luqmanul, ACE Participant from Indonesia (left) practicing on how to deal with interviews



Mr. Rohaizat, ACE Participant from Malaysia (left) and Ms. Grace Endina, DELSA Programme Assistant (right) practicing being a news anchor during the CNN Studio media visit

**INTERVIEWS**



Ms. Mary Grace Somido Mr. Mark July Yap



**Despite the challenges, why do you think the ACE Programme is important?**

**G** **Grace**  
The slogan itself explains the importance of ACE Programme: preparing future leaders. I believe we are being prepared not only to be good leaders, but also contribute to our respective NDMOs and country. The courses included in the programme are significant in preparing us to perform the vital role in the safety and resilience of our respective countries.

**M** **Mark**  
ACE Programme is very important not only in terms of the courses but also the partnership it forges to realise the vision of “One ASEAN, One Response”. The sharing of knowledge and skills between different countries deepen our understanding on disaster management and the importance of cooperation as well as collaboration.

**Does working in a disaster/humanitarian field fulfil your personal aspirations?**

**G** **Grace**  
Yes. Because it is not only “unique” and “thrilling” but also at the end of the day, all of the hard work, aims to create a safer, more adaptive and disaster-resilient communities.

**M** **Mark**  
Yes. Humanitarian work especially in disaster management gives me a sense of purpose in life. Being able to serve and assist the affected population and serve them basic needs reminds me how blessed I am, and that life is fragile, so we must be pro-active and resilient.

**Based on your experience, how important is ‘enthusiasm’ when working in the disaster management field?**

**G** **Grace**  
It simply gives you a sense of motivation and calmness that are important in a stressful environment. In order to endure such strenuous and often times erratic work situations, you need a tremendous amount of persistence and motivation.

**M** **Mark**  
The very last thing you want to share or give to the affected community in times of distress is “another stress”. These people are already suffering enough, and a little smile from you and enthusiasm in what you do would give them a sense of hope.

Having completed almost three months’ worth of training, what are some of the most important learning points you have gained so far that you would like to share to your colleagues back home?

**M** **Mark**  
Resilience, collaboration and leadership. These are the most underrated words in disaster management. For me this is the “triangle of life” in disaster management. Resilience is the key to evade disaster and good leadership will take us there. However, “no man is an island” and so collaboration is essential to make sure that nothing is amiss and that all stakeholders including the communities will have a sense of ownership of the plan and will adopt and practice it by heart.



Mr. Zaw Myo Khine Mr. Thein Zaw Htike



**Can you share some of your experiences in regards to dealing with disasters? Have you ever been deployed?**

**Z** **Zaw**  
I have been working in the Relief and Resettlement Department in Myanmar for several years. I was involved in providing relief items to be distributed at disaster-affected areas in previous disaster events. In executing our duties and responsibilities, we coordinated with the local stakeholders before making a report regarding the loss and damages due to the disaster.

**Entering into the third month of the ACE Programme training, have there been any challenges?**

**T** **Thein**  
It is quite challenging for me as I have only been working in the disaster management field for a little over a year, so I am still learning. However, through the ACE Programme, I learn something new every day, I gain not only knowledge but experience in the field that I am working in.

**Z** **Zaw**  
For me, personally, the most challenging training during this programme was the Incident Command System (ICS) because I was not familiar with the subject. However, the trainings have widened my knowledge skills, and gave me the opportunity to learn from others’ experience in managing disasters.

**You recently took part in a series of Leadership Talks with leaders from various fields. What does it mean to be a leader? What are your personal experiences in regards to being a leader?**

**T** **Thein**  
In my opinion, being a leader is not always about making decisions, but a leader also needs to have relevant skills to be able to negotiate and coordinate with other in the field. If we work collaboratively with other agencies or organisations, I believe the chances of producing the outcomes we desire are bigger. Lastly, a leader should hold responsibility for the work of their team.

**Based on your experience, how do you usually execute your job? Can you share with us about what you do during post- until pre-disaster period?**

**T** **Thein & Zaw**  
Before any disaster occurs, it is our job and responsibility to ensure that the community are aware of knows what to do in the event of disasters and how to prepare for them. During the disaster period, we are involved in them immediate response efforts and distribute relief items to the affected population. During the post-disaster period we focus on the people’s rehabilitation and infrastructure recovery efforts – so that the affected communities can begin to rebuild their lives.

**Having completed almost three months’ worth of training, what are some of the most important learning points you have gained so far that you would like to share to your colleagues back home?**

**T** **Thein & Zaw**  
I will definitely share my experiences of living abroad and being able to pay a visit to different countries and learn about their disaster management systems. I have listened to many testimonials from experts in the disaster management field; therefore, it will be wise to share what we learned with our colleagues.

**ACE CORNER** is a special column dedicated to report the activities of the current ACE Programme

**ACE CORNER** is a 6-month leadership training in disaster management, held by the AHA Centre with participants coming from ASEAN Member States



**DISASTER OUTLOOK**

**JUNE 2016**

The AHA Centre One ASEAN One Response



Affected Houses	<b>26,100</b> Units	Death	<b>72</b> People
Affected Agriculture	<b>2,000</b> Ha	Displaced People	<b>4,500</b> People
Affected Population	<b>225,000</b> People	Injured People	<b>58</b> People

**JUNE**

**DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER**



	FLOOD	EARTHQUAKE	WIND	DROUGHT	LANDSLIDE	VOLCANO	STORM
2015 - Black bar	2	12	1	1	0	1	0
2016 - Red bar	2	1	1	0	1	2	0

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**

Indonesia continues to report the highest number of natural disasters occurring in the region with 11 incidents, which represents 68% of the total 16 incidents recorded for the month of June. This is followed by 2 incidents each in Myanmar and the Philippines and 1 in Thailand. Flooding is the highest recorded disaster with 12 incidents, followed 1 incident each of an earthquake, a storm, a landslide and a strong wind. A total of 225,000 people were affected by these disasters, displacing 4,500 and destroying 26,100 houses. Compared to the same month last year, there were lesser disasters reported in the region at 6 incidents in 2015.

Data as of 1 - 28 June 2016

**FORECAST FOR JULY**

Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, most of Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and southern Philippines will continue to have a normal rainfall outlook for the month of July. Most of Indonesia except southern Sumatra and Java will have slightly above normal rainfall. Southern Sumatra and Java is expected to be wet with above normal rainfall. Northern and central Philippines, and Sabah will be dry having a slightly below normal rainfall outlook (<http://asmc.asean.org/asmc-seasonal-outlook/>).

**DISCLAIMER:**  
The use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown are not warranted to be error free or implying official endorsement from ASEAN Member State.

**SOURCE:**  
Basemap is from global administrative area. Information is generated from many sources including NDMO, International Organisation and news agencies.



## NEWS STORY

### New Zealand Field Visit: Leadership on Crisis Training and Emergency Management Training

Entering into the 9th week of the ACE Programme, ACE Programme participants recently visited the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, for a study visit. During the New Zealand trip, ACE Programme participants followed a 12-day training programme in four different cities in New Zealand to conduct comparative studies between ASEAN's and New Zealand's disaster management system.

The trainings and activities were managed by Mr Chris Hawker, renowned Regional Manager and Group Controller Emergency Management Otago and Dolapo Fakuade, Programme Development Officer Centre for Risk, Resilience and Renewal (UCR3). Humanitarian officers from Red Cross ASEAN and other appointed officers of the AHA Centre also participated in 12-day training programme.

During the trip, participants also visited the Red Cross Warehouse in Christchurch and learned the role of the Red Cross in supporting the Government of New Zealand's disaster management efforts, participated in the city hazards tour led by the Otago Regional Council Hazards Team, paid a visit to Otago Regional Emergency Coordination Centre, contributed to the Wellington Hazardscape Field Trip, and visited the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management.

Participants took part in a number of trainings including Leadership on Crisis Training, Dynamics of Collaborative Emergency Training, Community & Public Health Issues Post-Earthquake and Emergency Reduction & Readiness in New Zealand, and other skill-based training such as academic essay writing training and Exercise Science & Plan validation. The trainings were delivered by facilitators from the University of Canterbury, Resilient Organisations in New Zealand, Civil Defence Emergency Management of Otago and Canterbury, Wellington Regional Emergency Management, and other contributors.



Study visit to the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management

### Leadership on Crisis Training

One of the subjects discussed during the study visit to New Zealand was regarding leadership on crisis situation. Mr. Chris Hawker, the New Zealand ACE Programme Co-Leader and the Regional Manager and Group Controller Emergency Management Otago, facilitated the training of 'Crisis Leadership? What does that mean?'



Mr. Chris Hawker, the New Zealand ACE Programme Co-Leader and the Regional Manager and Group Controller Emergency Management Otago (on the right) led the training session

According to Mr. Hawker, leaders must be humble, have the courage, conviction, authenticity and kindness. These five basic characteristics of a leader complement other essential characteristics including listening skills, capacity to deal with uncertainty and failure, constructing plans and protocols, having a teamwork spirit, and being creative.

Leaders excel better when they gain the trust of their team members, and thereby the respect of the team. According to a management training and assessment services provider organisation, namely Franklin Covey, there are thirteen behaviours that can help leaders gain trust:

- 1 Talk Straight**  
tell the truth and demonstrate integrity
- 2 Demonstrate Respect**  
show kindness and genuine attention in little things
- 3 Create Transparency**  
be genuine, open, and never hide information
- 4 Right Wrongs**  
admit the faulty and apologise
- 5 Show Loyalty**  
show appreciation and credit to others
- 6 Deliver Results**  
accomplish your responsibility and never make excuses
- 7 Get Better**  
learn and improve
- 8 Confront Reality**  
address the tough stuff directly
- 9 Clarify Expectations**  
reveal, discuss, and validate expectations
- 10 Practice Accountability**  
take responsibilities for the results
- 11 Listen First**  
listen more and do not make assumptions
- 12 Keep Commitments**  
do what you say you will do and do not break confidences
- 13 Extend Trust**  
do not withhold trust because risk is involved

At the end of this training participants reflected upon their leadership style that they adopt, and analyse the kind of leadership style that meets the requirements of their country and/or organisation.



Mr. Chris Hawker and Ms. Dolapo Fakuade



Group photo of the training's participants

## INSIGHTS

### The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make in a Crisis

By the Talon Challenge – a 2.5 day crisis scenario-based executive learning experience, co-led by former Secret Service, Homeland Security, FBI, and military crisis subject matter experts. The information was provided as part of the Leadership and Crisis Training ACE Programme in New Zealand.

During crisis, a leader is often required to make various difficult decisions. Extensive research and collaborative efforts between crisis management experts, including the Secret Service, military, CIA and FBI found that during crisis period, there are typically ten big mistakes leaders often make.

- 1 Failure to Plan**  
The first failure that leaders often make when a crisis occurs is lack of planning and preparation. Leaders tend to get caught off-guard when catastrophic events strike without any plans or structure in place to follow. The lack of pre-crisis training would force the leader and therefore the team, to apply knee-jerk solutions. A set of plans is necessary to guide the leader and the team before, during and after the crisis period in determining the goal of the crisis intervention, the people who can best exercise the actions, and how the resources will be used to meet the goals.
- 2 Failure to Determine and Follow a Hierarchy**  
Following a proper hierarchy of executive and field leadership is important to navigate through crisis. However, leaders often fail to align the goals, people, and resources to win during the crisis. A well thought out chain of command must be established before crisis occurs so that everyone involved knows who to call and what their responsibilities are during a crisis.
- 3 Failure to be Visible, Present, and Attentive**  
A leader cannot be in two places at once, yet leaders often make the mistake of hiding during a

crisis, which often negates their perceived and expected leadership actions. Visibility, presence and attention must be delivered during and after the crisis to colleagues, customers, constituents, and communities.

- 4 Failure to Listen and Comprehend**  
Leaders need the ability to listen and comprehend all parties involved in a crisis situation. Great decisions are often made through the contribution not just one individual leader, but through other stakeholders. Leaders have to set aside their egos and be willing to listen to all parties. Only through listening can a leader create an open, trusting and professional environment to help navigate the team through crisis.

- 5 Failure to Effectively Communicate**  
Failure to effectively communicate often contributes to more problematic situations; it usually covers unclear goals, misunderstood instructions, poor delegation, incomplete feedback systems, and lack of decision-making. Leaders need to build a good communication-flow between all parties involved that is minimal of interpretation errors.

- 6 Failure to Try New Things**  
Crisis demands leaders to be open to act fast, be willing to try new ways of solving problems. Well-meaning leaders tend to over rely on previous strategies to handle crisis, which may no longer fit the current condition. Although current encumbering systems may still work, leaders should be able to adapt to different situations that need different solutions.

- 7 Failure to Give Up Control**  
It is natural for leaders to assume control over a crisis. However, during crisis leaders must create an environment that moves beyond delegation to respond to the crisis, often times this requires leaders give up a certain amount of control. Failure to give up control can cause more damage than necessary.

- 8 Failure to Act**  
During a crisis, leaders often hesitate to make decisions. Indecisions during a crisis can negatively impact the teams' enthusiasm, motivation, and commitment to succeed. Leaders should have the courage and confidence to act upon convictions, with a solid plan and a well-trained crisis team to navigate through the crisis

- 9 Failure to Lead**  
Crisis demands real leadership, one that includes making tough choices, pull the trigger and facing oppositions.

- 10 Failure to Debrief**  
There are always 'lessons learned' from any kind of circumstances. After crisis, most leaders often make the mistake of putting the crisis behind having gone through the pain. However, one of the most important parts of a crisis situation is a post-event analysis, called the "Debrief Session". It is a focused, well-structured, and comprehensive analysis of the goals and objectivism the actions taken, the decisions made, the success and failure and the overall lessons learned to apply into the future. The "Debrief Session" allows the leader and the team to be better prepared for the next crisis they may face.

INSIGHTS is a special column for guest contributors, and does not necessarily reflect or represent AHA Centre's point of view.

## THE OTHER SIDE



Ms. Ririn Haryani  
AHA Centre Executive Programme Officer

**Can you share with us about your story as you entered into the humanitarian field?**  
I started my career in this field in 2004, when a tsunami hit Aceh the day after Christmas. I was still working in one of the local NGOs in Yogyakarta which focuses on waste management. They asked me to support the team in Aceh in installing temporary portable toilets for the affected communities. Later in 2006, I was involved in the Yogyakarta earthquake response efforts by leading the translator and field-workers team to support the works of the medical doctors from the Australian Government.

**What is the most rewarding thing about being a humanitarian worker?**  
When you can see your work and efforts have made a difference for those who suffered. Success is when you know you have made someone else's life easier, especially those affected by disasters.

**How did you become an ACE Programme Officer?**  
I was on my last semester finishing my Master's degree in Melbourne when I saw the post advertised, and I immediately decided to take a chance to apply for this post. It was a bit like a dream come true actually. After my service with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Indonesia on People Centred Development Programme for Papua and West Papua for 4 months, this post was still vacant and here I am still with the AHA Centre after almost 3 years.

**As the AHA Centre Executive Programme (ACE) Officer, you must have experienced some interesting moments working, nurturing and sharing knowledge with the ACE Participants. Can you share them with us?**  
Different batches have different stories, but each them are memorable to me in different ways. In general, the participants are always funny and expressive. We have quite a balanced environment.. I find it very interesting that we are actually distanced by language barriers, but it never stops us from sharing jokes.

**What was your most moving experience working with the ACE Programme participants and organising the programme in general?**  
In general I am always so proud to see the improvements they make through the Programme. The most significant one is possible their improvement in the use of the English language. Most of them start out shy and soft-spoken. By the end of the Programme, they can share and express their ideas freely among their colleagues and partners in a language arguably foreign to them. Every time I look back to the first day these participants arrived in Jakarta, there is always a moment of disbelief and proud. Moreover, the months we have spent together has created a strong bond among all of us, and makes it hard to say goodbye at graduation day.

**How do you feel your work contributes to the ASEAN region, specifically in the disaster management field? Why is it important to develop future leaders of disaster management?**  
I feel grateful and proud to be part of the journey in preparing the future leaders of disaster management in ASEAN. As the future is in our hands, we need to prepare these young leaders with the technical skills related to disaster management to make sure that they are ready to lead the organisation fully. However, it is the leadership and communications skills that we have to share with them the most as these two skills will determine how they will support their respective organisations in achieving their goals and deliver meaningful outcomes to the affected community.

**How important is 'enthusiasm' when working within the humanitarian field?**  
'Enthusiasm' is the glue in your professional work that makes you dedicate yourself with the work you do, it also creates a sense of belonging not only to your job but to the organisation you work for, for the sake of humanity.

**Now that we have entered the second half of the third batch of the ACE Programme, what do you think about the participants so far? What are your hopes for the third batch of the ACE Programme participants?**  
I always put high expectations on all ACE Programme Participants and they never fail me. All of the batches have shown their best performance and contribution to the works of the AHA Centre. I hope they will enjoy this rewarding journey and do their best in the future as leaders of disaster management, so when the time comes, they can contribute to their respective National Disaster Management Officers and, of course, to the wider community.

THE OTHER SIDE is a special column where we interview professional players in disaster management. Crafted with light discussion in a casual manner, THE OTHER SIDE captures the human side, up close and personal. This section does not necessarily reflect or represent AHA Centre's point of view.

# 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.*

### Talk To Us:

 [www.ahacentre.org](http://www.ahacentre.org)

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