NEWS HIGHLIGHT

5th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre

NEWS STORY

The 29th ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Meeting

4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and the 5th Meeting of Conference of Parties to AADMER

INSIGHTS

All You Need to Know About Flood

DISASTER REPORT

Tropical Cyclone ‘Haima’ (Lewin), the Philippines

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Over the years, the AHA Centre has been established as the central of disaster response within the ASEAN region, through coordination and leadership of ASEAN Member States' efforts in the attempt to achieve the One ASEAN, One Response’ vision and build a disaster-resilient region and safer communities. The organization has continuously progressed since its inauguration in 2001, as presented during the 5th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the review and result of the Meeting are announced in The AHA Centre Newsletter. Albeit the specific ASEAN Member States – Indonesia, Viet Nam, The Philippines, Thailand, and Myanmar – suffered from floods and flash floods during the first quarter of 2016, floods have become the most destructive disaster that often occurs in the ASEAN region. The Centre presented important aspects regarding floods that need to be improved. To provide a more accordingly response during disaster period and to create a more resilient community, the AHA Centre, cooperated with a series of meetings hosted by Indonesia National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), the meeting will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 4th and 5th December. The meetings are the 5th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the 29th Meeting of the ACDM, the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, and the 5th Meeting of Conference of Parties to AADMER. The series of events will be held in conjunction with the commencement of the ACDM for Disaster Management.

October 2016, the Philippines was affected by the impact of Typhoon Haiyan, Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines region on 20 October 2016. The Government of the Philippines through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) managed to distribute aid, and recovery efforts in response and relief to more than 300,000 affected people. A more complete report of the Typhoon Haiyan and other recent disaster incidents can be found in the News Story section of this month’s edition of The AHA Centre Newsletter. We hope you will gather valuable information from the 22nd Edition. Last, if you wish to share some stories / articles / blogs / comments with us to improve the bulletin, please drop a message at comm@ahacentre.org, and we will be the best.

The Work Plan 2016 followed by the new organizational structure of the AHA Centre based on the guidance from the 5th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre. The current Executive Director of the AHA Centre’s term will be concluded by the end of 2016, the AHA Centre made milestone revisions to the 2nd draft of Terms of Reference (ToR) for Selection and Appointment of the next Executive Director which was presented during the 5th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre.

After the presentation of each Agenda item, Members of the Governing Board, including the representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, and representatives of the Government of Indonesia provided guidance, inputs, comments, or encouragement to adapt the presented Agenda item.

Finally, The Column editor.
Mr. Willem Hamangeli, Minister/Head of Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management and Chair of ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDEM) during the opening ceremony said, “One ASEAN, One Response. In the event like this, we need the courage to be bold and to be strong. It will be a long-term gain achieved through long-term policies and commitment.”

The activity was marked as the kickoff of the Communication Month of Disaster Risk Reduction and the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management. The events were aimed to raise more awareness and garner support for ASEAN’s efforts towards disaster risk reduction and management.

Overall, the series of activities in October 2016 in Manado, Indonesia was another effort by ASEAN to further enhance ASEAN’s preparedness and response to disasters, both inside and outside the ASEAN region in achieving the resilient community.

**Tropical Cyclone ‘Haima’ (Leyi), the Philippines**

**Typhoon Haima**
- Landfall: 19 October 2016
- Max sustained winds: 225 kph
- Gustiness: 215 kph

**Impact as of 25 October 2016**
- Death: 14 People
- Injured: 4 People
- Affected Houses: 90,035
- Affected Population: 46,592

The AHA Centre captured the formation of Tropical Cyclone ‘Haima’ (Leyi) in the Pacific Ocean on 14 October 2016, and the Typhoon ‘Haima’ began to enter the Philippines Area of Responsibility (PAR) on 17 October 2016. It intensified further and reach super typhoon status before making its landfall over Cagayan Province on 20 October 2016 at around 11:00 PM, with maximum sustained winds up to 220 kph and wind gusts up to 275 kph. The typhoon caused damages to 13,996 houses and flooded 7,999 hectares some affected areas.

Local authorities, the Government of the Philippines through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), has been in the highest alert status and arranged various preparations measures. Other authorities such as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) placed warning signals to indicate the potential for a heavy and widespread damage within affected areas.

As of Sunday, 23 October 2016 morning, 8 deaths were reported, mostly due to landslides in Region CA. The typhoon caused damages to 13,996 houses and flooded to 7,999 hectares some affected areas.

The Government of the Philippines and NDRRMC has anticipated well the possible effects of the Typhoon ‘Haima’ and made significant preparations that involved all relevant agencies. NDRRMC managed to evacuate more than 380,000 affected people pre-emptively, as well as activated Disaster Response Cluster and deployed advance teams under the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to support the preparedness measures.

As much as USD 270 million worth of assistance to the affected populations was provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other Local Government Units.

Since the beginning of the alert commencement of Typhoon ‘Haima’, the AHA Centre has deployed two staffs and one National ASEAN-ERAT member to Manila, Philippines to liaise with and coordinate with the NDRRMC directly. Meanwhile, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) and the ASEAN Emergency Response Team (ASERT) have been on standby mode should there be further assistance and requirement to deploy additional resources to the Philippines.

Although the westward-moving Typhoon ‘Haima’ had weakened and exited the Philippines since 20 October 2016, the NDRRMC is prioritizing In-country resources to manage the situation, while international assistance is requested to be standby in case there should be a need to augment In-country resources.

As for the responses from the AHA Centre and ASEAN, here are the details of reaction given during the aftermath phase of Typhoon Haima:

Deployment of In-Country Coordination Team (ICET): consisted of 2 AHA Centre Staffs and 2 ASEAN-ERAT members from the Philippines.

One personnel of the AHA Centre (Mr. Jamilang Adhynormar) and two national ASEAN-ERAT members (Mr. Jamilang Adhynormar & Ms. Franceline Palma Araneta) joined the NDRRMC Composite RDHA Teams in assessing 91, 28 municipalities of Cagayan and 61 barangays of the Philippines.

Meeting of OIC of CAG region in Regional City

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All You Need to Know About Flood

Flood is one of the most common disaster ever occurred within the Asia Region. According to the World’s Disaster Reports by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2015, floods were the most frequently occurring disaster throughout the globe and accounted for 42 per cent of deaths in 2014.

During the period of August – October 2015, at least five Member States have suffered from floods and flash floods that caused major damages and loss of lives. Floods have undoubtedly become the worst nightmare for ASEAN Member States.

On this edition, The Column will explain and outline the things you need to know about flood, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Society.

Types of Flood

**General Floods**

General Floods can be predicted in advance. The impact of general floods usually can be destructive to houses, crops, cattle, and people.

**Flash Floods**

Flash Floods are the type of floods that are sudden, with extreme volume of water flow rapidly and cause inundation. Flash Floods usually harder to forecast compared to General Floods. It takes little time for people to escape or save their belongings.

**How to React During Floods Occurrence?**

1. Keep your valuables, important documents, including hazardous or basic substances on elevated surfaces.
2. Follow the most recent updates of floods from TV, Radio, or internet.
3. When the floods are eminent, close all doors and windows.
4. Try to seal all low down gaps or openings under doors or windows using cloths or tape for the window frames.
5. Turn off the gas and electricity supplies at the mains.
6. Move to an upper floor if there is one.
7. Keep your vehicle at a higher ground, if possible.
8. Stay away from any electrical power lines which have fallen to the ground.
9. If you are isolated, signal your location to the authorities.
10. If you are outdoors during the occurrence of the flood, try to move to an elevated location. Do not shelter in your car!

**How to Prepare in Advance to Floods Occurrence?**

1. Get informed of the risks of your area, and relate it to the safety measures.
2. Check whether your house is located in a flood-prone area.
3. If you are living in a prone flood area, keep your important documents, valuable, and hazardous products as high as possible.
4. Keep a copy of your important documents with your friends and families, or make use of the digital filing service.
5. Keep all electrical plugs elevated.
6. If you have children, find out and study the places and safety measures to save your children in case the flood occurs during school hours.
7. If you are physically disabled, inform the emergency services.

I hope that with the AHA Centre, the ASEAN Member States would emerge as a strong, resilient region and guided by the spirit of One ASEAN. One Response the ASEAN Member States will be able to withstand future obstacles with One Solidarity and One Unity.

Ms. Rivie Ayudha
Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of the AHA Centre

In this month’s edition, The Column talked to the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Rivie Ayudha. Her dedication since the beginning of the establishment of the AHA Centre has been amplified by the solidarity and kinship amongst the AHA Centre’s officers.

When did you join the AHA Centre?

I started joining the AHA Centre in 2015. I was the second member of the AHA Centre at that time. Before that, I was working in the AASI Secretariat. I found information that the AHA Centre was looking for an assistant, which was my expertise, thus it would be more challenging as well.

During that time, the AHA Centre was still very new and developing. What were your considerations in taking the position?

It would be very challenging as I had the experience to learn about things regarding disaster management, which was something new to me. However, I believed in the AHA Centre’s mission and vision.

**Working in the AHA Centre means that you have to be ready if required to go to an affected area. How do you manage to adapt to that?**

During the deployment, I had learned new things about the AHA Centre, which was helpful to me. I have been to Tacloban and Marawi, the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda. Could you please share your experience during your deployment in the Philippines?

It was definitely once in a lifetime experience for me – very intriguing and interesting. The good thing was before my deployment, I had received the ASEAN Emergency Response Team (ERAT) training, and so I already had a depiction in my mind of how the situation would be, how I should react to certain situation, and so on. In addition to that, fellow ERAT teams who already went to the field prior to my arrival also explained the updated condition in Tacloban, the Philippines – where the most destruction of the Typhoon Yolanda occurred.

My deployment was differ from the other ERAT team and AHA Centre’s officers’ mission, I was responsible to assist the Secretary-General of ASEAN – H.E. Le Luong Minh, Deputy Secretary-General – Mrs. Alicia Baki and other ASEAN senior officials, including Mr. Said Fahadi as the Executive Director of the AHA Centre itself. The Secretary-General at that time along with other guests visited Marawi and Tacloban to handover items to the Government of the Philippines. I was mainly responsible for the logistics and administration purposes.

Lastly, do you have hopes or expectations for the AHA Centre in the coming years?

I hope that the AHA Centre can reinforce the AHA Centre’s position in the public eye where the Centre’s stakeholders, public and media will be aware and reminded of the AHA Centre along with its functions, mandates, and purpose.

Moreover, I hope that with the AHA Centre, the ASEAN Member States would emerge as a strong, resilient region and guided by the spirit of One ASEAN One Response the ASEAN Member States will be able to withstand future disasters and weather the coming typhoon with One Solidarity and One Unity. The AHA Centre is always eager to forge the strong relationship amongst all of the officers. We maintained very cooperative and encouraging interactions each day, boost my morale and it was an honour to work with my colleagues, whom I consider as my own family.
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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