

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULETIN

VOL 19

One ASEAN One Response

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULETIN 2016



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ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

VOLUME 19
2016

The humanitarian community in the ASEAN region has learned that coordination and collaboration amongst Member States are important to achieve a resilient community. ASEAN strives to strengthen its capacity and capability to create a more resilient community in terms of disaster management through knowledge and innovation management.

In this month's 'News Highlights', we reviewed the overall discussion of the First Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management as part of the AADMER Priority Programme 8: LEAD. The new Work Programme 2016-2020 has just started and we wish for the ACDM Committees and its respective partners could jointly work together to achieve its success.

It is only a few weeks away to the graduation of the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme the third batch, but the activities of the participants are still packed. After a visit to Japan last month, the Officers went to Aceh for a study visit to the 2004 Tsunami affected area, which followed by numbers of trainings held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

As one of the facilitator in ACE Programme's training – the International Humanitarian System Training – Mr. Hannes Goegele from UN-OCHA shared his remarkable and inspiring story of being a humanitarian officer for the past years. The Column hopes that Mr. Goegele's story could motivate our readers in becoming better humanitarian actors.

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

The First Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management



Head of delegations group photo

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a framework to achieve a cooperative, coordinated, and effective technical assistance and resource mobilisation in all aspects of disaster management within regional scope.

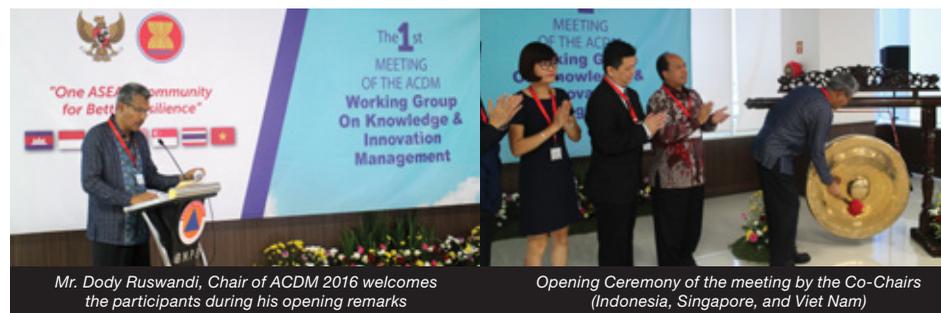
In AADMER, appropriate guidelines to attain effective mechanisms are discussed and planned to reducing disaster losses in lives, and in the social, economic, and environmental assets. The initial AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015 was a success that led to a new Work Programme 2016-2020.

On 25-26 July 2016, the first meeting of the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management was conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia. Knowledge and Innovation Management (KIM) is an aspect of AADMER Priority Programme 8: LEAD – ASEAN Leadership for Excellence and Innovation in Disaster Management. The meeting was a realisation of the Relevant Decisions of the 28th Meeting of the ACDM that agreed to conduct an informal gathering of the members of KIM.

The Priority Programme of Working Group on KIM aims to strengthen ASEAN's regional knowledge management system and mechanism, and professionalism to enable ASEAN in becoming the global leader and the centre for excellence and innovations in disaster management.

3 There are three programme outcomes that were discussed during the first meeting of ACDM Working Group on KIM; including:

- Establishing an integrated regional disaster management knowledge hub
- Building professionalism in Disaster management through Standardization and Certification
- Creating innovations that could transform the way disasters are managed



Mr. Dody Ruswandi, Chair of ACDM 2016 welcomes the participants during his opening remarks

Opening Ceremony of the meeting by the Co-Chairs (Indonesia, Singapore, and Viet Nam)

In a bigger scale, the ACDM Working Group on KIM shall lead ASEAN to be a recognised global leader on disaster management, and shared its experiences with other regions and regional organisations.

The meeting was attended by the chairs of ACDM Working Group on KIM that consists of Indonesia, Singapore, and Viet Nam. Nonetheless, ASEAN Secretariat and NDMOs' representatives, and respective partners were also participated in the meeting.

Despite the ACDM Knowledge and Innovation Management Work Plan 2016-2020, the meeting also discussed about the preparations for the 2016 ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster management (SPDDM) that will be hosted in Singapore. The SPDDM 2016 will be jointly organised by SCDF, ASEAN Secretariat, and AHA Centre with the support from Corporate Citizen Foundation, Singapore.

To end the first day of the meeting, delegates from ASEAN Member States visited the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and Diorama in BNPB. Followed by the next activities on the second day, where participants of the meeting paid a visit to INA DRTG Facilities in Sentul, West Java, Indonesia.

During their visit to INA DRTG Facilities, the Officers invited to the training facilities, CPR Room, TTX and CPX Rooms, and Video-Conference Room, as well as to the Competency Assessment Room and Logistics Equipment.

Although the ACDM Working Group on KIM has just started their work in achieving the objectives, we have great expectations over them to successfully execute the 2016-2020 work programme.



The First Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management



Participants of the meeting visited the INA DRTG Facilities



Activities

A Civil Military Coordination Training

Civil Military Coordination Training by United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is a humanitarian concept that describes an essential dialogue and interaction with military forces. ACE Programme Officers learned the importance of having a supportive relationship between civilians and the military force in responding to humanitarian emergencies, which designed in training activities consisted of the guidance on when military and civil defence resources can be used, how it should be employed, and the coordination mechanism of UN with international military forces.

Civil Military Coordination is important to establish and sustain communications with military forces, and its mechanism for information exchange and humanitarian actions with military forces and other armed groups. There are three key elements of UN Civil Military Coordination, which are: information sharing, task division, and planning.

ACE Programme Officers were given study cases for them to analyse and exercise the suitable coordination approach based on actual examples in a group consist of 5-6 persons and accommodated by one facilitator each group.

Moreover, the Officers were given the opportunity to have a Civil-Military Coordination Session with the Security Cooperation Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. The objective of the session was to expose the Officers with the framework of civil-military coordination, case studies, lesson learnt and strategies in providing support in the ASEAN disaster-prone regions.

B Humanitarian Logistics Training and Supply Chain

Logistics is one of the most vital global functions that ensure the implementation of a well-managed emergency response system as well as preparedness that can save human suffering and prevent loss of lives.

As part of the ACE Programme, Officers were required to follow a 3-week training series regarding Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia, and will be continued in Subang, Malaysia. The training was divided into three major segments which consist of important aspects in Humanitarian Logistics; General Supply Chain Management, Operational Emergency Logistics, and Practical Emergency Logistics.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), Humanitarian logistics involves the planning, implementing and controlling the efficient, cost-effective flow of and storage of goods and materials as well as related information, from the point of origin to the point of consumption, for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of vulnerable people. This is closely related to supply chain management that mainly focuses on relationships among the actors that make such movement possible.

Through this training, ACE Programme Participants were expected to have understanding of humanitarian logistics, from management level concepts to practical ground level constraints.

C Expanding the Horizon: ACEH Visit



Group photo with representatives from Syiah Kuala University in Banda

By the end of 2004, Indonesia was devastated by the 9.1 magnitude Tsunami that hit Aceh. It recorded as the most destructive disaster ever hit Indonesia that caused the death of hundred-thousand lives and many more number of people being displaced.

Although the tragedy happened more than a decade ago, the impact of it remains dwelt in the heart and mind of the people who lost their families and relatives during the catastrophe. Therefore, Aceh is considered as one of the most appropriate place for disaster managers to learn about the past experience, as well as to witness the most affected areas.

The ACE Programme participants visited Aceh in July 2016 for four days and had the opportunity to learn about the mechanism when Tsunami strikes. The participants learned the evacuation routes, community projects, and visited the local tsunami museum.

The Rector of Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Prof. Dr. Ir. Samsul Rizal, M.Eng, explained the damages caused by Tsunami and steps taken to help the community and government in managing the catastrophe by the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Centre (TDMRC). TDMRC is an organisation established by Syiah Kuala University to perform as the Center of Excellence for Tsunami and disaster mitigation studies in Indian Ocean region in 2025.

The participants also learned about Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) which facilitated by Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI). Aceh is a vulnerable location towards disaster, therefore, PMI believes that the community needs to be highly-aware and always prepare to face disaster.

Activities that were conducted during the four-day visit of ACE Programme Participants were very memorable for most of the participants as they could witness the destructive impact of Tsunami that happened 12 years ago.



Participant was being explained about standard operational procedure of Tsunami

Mr. Khairul Munadi explained the work and function of TDMRC

INTERVIEWS

Vietnam



Mr. Nguyễn Đức Thắng

Mr. Nguyễn Vinh Long



When you first joined the ACE Programme, what were your objectives or goals?

T Thang

Initially, I intend to gain more knowledge and skills related to natural disaster management, humanitarian mechanism in ASEAN, Japan, and New Zealand, so I can apply them in a suitable way in Vietnam. I also want to build a good friendship and network with participants of this program and I think it will be helpful for us in managing disaster in ASEAN.

L Long

I look forward to enriching the knowledge of disaster management, by learning and working in regional and international environment, as well as to build and strengthen with other participants from NDMOs of ASEAN Member States.

The whole programme must have been an experience for you, what is the most memorable activity during your time in the ACE Programme?

T Thang

One of the most memorable actions is a simulation exercise of humanitarian assistant in Red Cross Induction Course in Semarang, Indonesia. The exercise was very interesting and addressed a lot of issues based on real situation, so that I received clearer depiction of conditions that are possible to come across in the future.

L Long

Of all the trainings, the field visit to Aceh is the most memorable activity for me personally, because after visiting the Tsunami museum, I understood more about the impact of the 2004 Tsunami and learned the experiences of the affected communities. The disaster was happened 12 years ago, but if you go to Aceh, it feels just like "yesterday".

You had a study visit to New Zealand, Japan, and Aceh for the past month. What were the takeaways from the visits?

T Thang

I was enriched by the knowledge, skills, and experience of the study visits to New Zealand, Japan, and Aceh. I learned more about the effects of earthquake, tsunami, and how to give response appropriately towards each disaster. I also learned more about the systems of natural disaster management from the sharing in the Leaders Talk session.

L Long

The trips are very meaningful to me. I've received a lot of knowledge and experience. From the New Zealand field trip, I had better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of myself. I also learned a lot of experience in post-disaster recovery at Japan as well as Aceh.

As we are entering the last month of the programme, you must have built a strong friendship and network amongst the participants. How do you think your friendship and network could assist your work in the future as humanitarian officers?

T Thang

Friendship and network between participants play a crucial role in management natural disaster as well as humanitarian assistant. Good friendship and network will help us to understand ourselves better and communicate easier. It also means that the coordination between ASEAN member states will be better and the management in natural disaster in ASEAN will be more effective.

L Long

We do not only have a good relationship with participants but also have very good relationships with the trainers and facilitators in Humanitarian Assistance field within the ASEAN region. We have learned and shared experiences with each other very openly. I believe that our relationship will forever be sustainable and will support our profession positively in the future.



Mrs. Suttapak Suksabai

Ms. Phatsita Rerngnirunsathit



The whole programme must have been an experience for you, what is the most memorable activity during your time in the ACE Programme?

S Suttapak

The most memorable activity for me is the New Zealand visit, especially during the training session which took place at Christchurch University. The experience reminded me when I was still an undergraduate student – where I had to stay in dormitory, have 1500 words essay assignment, and group presentation.

P Phatsita

The most memorable activity during my 4 months in the ACE Programme would be the Red Cross Red Crescent Induction Course in Semarang, Indonesia. During that time we were staying at the PMI training centre, attending the course provided by PMI. In the last day of the course, we had field exercise to put knowledge into practice together. I played role as the Logistics in the scenario that we had activity with PMI staff and PMI Youth volunteer. It was my first time attending the field exercise arrangement by Red Cross. I was impressed by the young generations that are interested to volunteer themselves in the activity.

During your Japan visit, you received trainings from several respective players in humanitarian field through Leader talk. Who is the most unforgettable person? Why is it?

S Suttapak

Mr. Noda, Mayor of Kamaishi City. I have gained more understanding of recovery phase in terms of Building Back Better that follows Sendai Framework of Action through his presentation and sharing. Also, Mr. Noda presented a community management during normal situation to increase inner community level. This is similar with the Royal project of H.M. The King of Thailand to reduce the density of the population in the capital.

As we are entering the last month of the programme, you must have built a strong friendship and network among the participants. How do you think your friendship and network could assist your work in the future as humanitarian officers?

S Suttapak

I believe that the ACE Participants are able to build a stronger network and enhance each other's capacity in disaster management. Undoubtedly, the linkage we have built throughout the programme is a valuable asset for ourselves, AHA Centre, ASEAN Secretariat, related disaster management international organisations and ASEAN NDMOs. Good relationship and a strong network is the key to achieve the "One ASEAN One Response".

P Phatsita

After passing the 4th month of training, I am very confident that we have built a strong friendship and network among the participants. And even after we graduate from the ACE programme we will still maintain good relationship and exchange information with each other. This will help in cooperation between AHA Centre and ACE participants in disaster management in ASEAN region in the future.

How important is collaboration with other parties and colleagues in performing your job as humanitarian assistant?

P Phatsita

Collaboration is very important because whenever disaster strike, coordination and collaboration need to be taken place to put all efforts and resources to respond to disasters and help those affected area in time. Nobody or single organization has capacity to respond to disaster alone. We need collaboration from colleagues, government, and other parties to support our work as a humanitarian assistant.

Lastly, can you share your feelings and thoughts about this programme? What would you miss the most?

S Suttapak

Undeniably, I would miss all of the 3rd ACE Participants and AHA Centre's officers who worked closely with us throughout the whole programme. Our friendship is the main reinforcement for me to keep focus in the programme while being far away from home.

P Phatsita

This programme is a very innovative programme that I can put my knowledge into practice. It did not only provide me with knowledge and improve my skills but also expand my networking among ASEAN Member State in the area of disaster management. I would miss the time of discussion, sharing the idea, experience and lesson during the programme with the 3rd batch ACE participants. I hope that we still maintain good relationship and exchange information with each other even after we graduate from the ACE programme.

? 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

The AHA Centre

One ASEAN One Response

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

JULY 2016



JULY

DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER



GENERAL OVERVIEW

Indonesia reported the highest number of natural disasters occurring in the region with 17 incidents, which represents 71% of the total 24 incidents recorded for the month of July. This is followed by 3 incidents in Viet Nam, 2 in Myanmar and 1 each in the Philippines and Malaysia. Flooding is still the highest recorded disaster with 18 incidents, followed by 4 wind incidents, and 1 incident each of a storm and a volcanic eruption. A total of about 237,500 people were affected by these disasters, displacing approximately 21,000 and destroying 51,500 houses. Compared to the same month last year, there were lesser disasters reported in the region at 6 incidents in 2015.

FORECAST FOR AUGUST

August will be wet for the region except for Northern and central Philippines which has a slightly below normal rainfall outlook. Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, most of Malaysia including Sabah, Brunei, southern Philippines, North and West Sumatra in Indonesia will continue to have a normal rainfall outlook for the month of August. The rest of Indonesia except Java, Singapore and Sarawak of Malaysia will have slightly above normal rainfall. Java is expected to be wet with above normal rainfall (source: <http://asmc.asean.org/asmc-seasonal-outlook/>).

Precautionary measures for hydrometeorological hazards (e.g. tropical cyclones/ typhoons, thunderstorms, coastal storm surges, floods including flash floods) and its accompanying effects (e.g. landslides, dispersion of volcanic eruption material) should be implemented.

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.

Supported by: Australian Aid

NEWS STORY

The 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting of AHA Centre ICT Phase III



Mr. Ryo Horikawa (left) and Col. Lee Yam Ming (right) during the meeting of AHA Centre ICT Phase III



The 2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting of AHA Centre ICT Phase III discussed about the sustainability of ICT

The AHA Centre applies an integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT) System in supporting the operation of information relief and sharing during both disaster and non-disaster situation.

Collaborative Disaster Preparedness and Response Workshop



The Collaborative Disaster Preparedness and Response Workshop in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

The Collaborative Disaster Preparedness and Response Workshop conducted in Da Nang, Vietnam, on 19 – 21 July 2016. It was attended by senior leaders of disaster management in Vietnam, and representatives from international and regional partners.

The workshop aimed to bring together the 25 Vietnamese senior leaders from different United States officials and international and regional partners to confer about disaster preparedness and response. Through the workshop, a stronger relationship among United States and Vietnamese

With the support from Government of Japan, AHA Centre has established three phases of ICT. The phase I project focused on the establishment of ICT platforms, systems, and equipment for Emergency Operation Centre in supporting the establishment and operationalisation of AHA Centre. The phase I also marked that the tasks have been completed and AHA Centre has now supported with a fully equipped operation room with ICT.

The ICT Phase II concentrated on how ICT can support the connectivity between AHA Centre and NDMOs during disaster and non-disaster circumstances. Through ICT, AHA Centre and NDMOs in the ASEAN Member States are capable to have a seamless information sharing. It also marked that the ICT has improved the AHA Centre's operational capacity and support the organisation's mandate as the coordinating body in disaster management in ASEAN.

The 2nd Project Steering Committee meeting of AHA Centre ICT phase III was conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia on 27 July 2017. The main focus of ICT Phase III was sustainability of the software and hardware, as well as its management in providing functions to support the operations of AHA Centre.

The committee discussed about the project progress and strategies to enhance the maximum operation of ICT software and hardware.

Moving onward, AHA Centre will remain develop and maintain the purpose of ICT in supporting AHA Centre's maximum function in disaster management.

armed forces, governmental & non-governmental agencies, and inter-governmental organisations.

When disaster occurs, a collaborative response amongst agencies involved would enhance the effectiveness of relief and response distribution. The workshop enhanced understanding of the officers regarding the roles and responsibilities of the national and provincial level disaster responders to build cross-community professional networks, as well as preparing them for the DaNang People Committee-led field training exercise as part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet's Pacific Partnership 2016.

Also, the Collaborative Disaster Preparedness and Response Workshop facilitated officers to figure out the lessons learned and best practices on response efforts to natural disasters.

Mr. Janggam Adityawarma, Senior Emergency Preparedness and Response Officer of the AHA Centre participated in the workshop as the speaker of ASEAN Support to Regional Disaster Response and International Support for Disaster Response session.

Other speakers took part in the workshop were from VINASARCOM, MARFORPAC, and CFE-DMHA.

INSIGHTS

Project Management Roles

On 20 – 22 June 2016, ACE Participants took part in a Project Management Training delivered by RedR Australia.

RedR Australia is prominent in providing quality humanitarian training and delivering standard training for government and non-government organisations.

On this distinctive occasion, RedR Australia instilled knowledge for ACE Participants on how to see a disaster as project and how they should perform functions as project managers.

Leaders in humanitarian affairs should be able to plan and manage resources to create a successful specific outputs, outcomes, and impacts.

Here are the functions of leaders, or in this case as project managers that have correlation in the humanitarian affairs:

1 Manage People



Humanitarian leaders need to administer and manage people involved in a project. Project managers also has the responsibility to recruit qualified people to be deployed in the hazard area, and then constantly provide them with motivation to keep giving the best.

2 Manage Resource and Budgets



A project manager should make sure the costs and expenditures required in the project, as well as determine resources, which will support the effectiveness of the execution.

3 Manage Risks



In many circumstances of a single project, the implementation of plans may not run smoothly. Leaders and project managers have to have the ability to deal with these uncertainties through knowledge and experience in dealing with conditions.

4 Problem Solve



Similar to the previous point, project managers need to come up with strategic plan that is most efficient when dealing with problems along the project.

5 Conflict Resolution



Such plans may require in times when conflict strikes. Whether it comes amongst human resources or other parties involved in the project. It is important for project managers to always put forward the needs and interests of his or her team.

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

THE OTHER SIDE



"I believe that all humanitarian workers have something in common: the passion to help people. It is this passion who drives and motivates me every day."

Hannes Goegle

Humanitarian Affairs Officer of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Driven by personal passion to always helping people since the younger age, Mr. Hannes Goegle has been dedicating himself in the humanitarian environment for years. Mr. Goegle has shared with us his poignant experiences and feelings during his journey in the humanitarian affairs field. The Column hoped the readers could be inspired by his story.

Can you share with us about your journey as you entered into the humanitarian field?

I grew up in a mountain community in Northern Italy with a strong sense of voluntarism. From a young age, my parents have always encouraged me, my brothers and sisters to support each other and the community whenever we could. Many years later, I found myself at a crossroad between a career in the private or in the public sector. As a young alumnus of Vienna University, I was keen to apply my academic knowledge and skills to advocate for the protection of migrants and minority communities. I worked in countries across former Yugoslavia and lived in Kosovo for several years, right after the conflict in which ethnic Albanians opposed ethnic Serbs. I witnessed families being torn apart by war, leaving their homes and loved ones. I also saw families being brought back together thanks to humanitarian diplomacy and the kindness of people. At that time, a good friend of mine – Guido – introduced me to the work of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Guido passed away on duty under the rubble of the United Nations house destroyed by the Haiti earthquake in 2011, but he remains an inspiration as a humanitarian worker.

Why is it important for you to be a part of the humanitarian field?

I believe that all humanitarian workers have something in common: the passion to help people. It is this passion who drives and motivates me every day. The past ten years have seen a considerable change for the humanitarian community in the ASEAN region. Countries have transitioned to middle-income status. Local capacity to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters has significantly increased. As a humanitarian worker in the ASEAN region, I can take part of an effort for humanitarian action to be "as local as possible; as global as necessary" as suggested in the United Nations Secretary-General's report to the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, which took place in Istanbul in May 2016.

What has been the most memorable experience during your journey?

Days after Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, the strongest tropical storm ever recorded at landfall with sustained winds at 230 km/h, I visited the Amintao family south of Tacloban, the Philippines. They told me how they spent hours in the basement of their wooden house, keeping the children safe. The moment they thought the storm was over, they heard that a storm surge was approaching. They quickly moved all family members to the roof of their house. They prayed while they saw the water approaching. The family was lucky, as the storm surge which reached 6 meters high, spared their village. I remember them telling me that they had enough food for the family, but they needed tools to rebuild the family home. I will

never forget the incredible resilience of the people in the Philippines, their inspiring smiles and their gratefulness for the humanitarian help.

Can you share some of your most challenging moments during your time working in the humanitarian field? How did you overcome those challenges?

In April 2015, I was one of the first humanitarian responders to arrive in Kathmandu, Nepal, after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed over 8,800 people, injured thousands of children, men and women, and destroyed more than 800,000 buildings and monuments. I was tasked with establishing the humanitarian hub (or the emergency operations centre) in Gorkha, the epicentre of the earthquake. It was very difficult to find a flat ground in a mountain city to set up an office and sleeping tents. It was also extremely challenging to bring together hundreds of humanitarians to work together in support of the local Government. I was blessed to be joined by highly skilled colleagues who are based in Nepal and as well as by a very competent United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. Days after setting up the office, the coordination centre felt alive, with many colleagues walking in and out exchanging information.

Working in the humanitarian field can sometimes be challenging. How do you maintain balance?

Humanitarian work can be very stressful, both for the body and the mind. It is important to retain a healthy lifestyle and work-life balance. After deployment, I cherish the home-coming. I take time to digest the impressions and experiences. I appreciate the small pleasures in life much more. Family and friends has become the centre of my life.

You are one of the International Humanitarian System Training speakers since the first batch of the ACE Programme, what kind of progress have you witnessed since the Programme was first launched?

Asia and the Pacific is the world's most disaster prone region. To make the "One ASEAN One Response" vision a reality, it is imperative for Member States to continue to empower their disaster managers with knowledge and skills. This will allow them to efficiently take advantage of available tools and services within ASEAN and beyond. ACE participants have always been eager to learn about the international humanitarian system. Over the past years, the AHA Centre has significantly improved the curriculum and strengthened their focus on operational readiness. UNOCHA embraces the challenge to continuously improve joint preparedness and response, as well as to harmonise disaster management systems in the region.

It is a pleasure and an honour to be a facilitator in the ACE Programme. When I was deployed to Myanmar in August 2015, I worked alongside several ACE alumni as well as the ERAT team in the National Operations Centre. There is no better preparedness than a good understanding and an existing network across governments and the international system. Together, we are "One humanitarian 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.

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