NEWS HIGHLIGHT

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

NEWS STORY

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

Collaborative Disaster Preparedness and Response Workshop

INSIGHTS

Project Management Roles
The humanitarian community in the ASEAN region has learned that a resilient community is important to achieve a resilient community. 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 (SPDM) that will be hosted in Singapore. The SPDM 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 Dormea in BNPB. Followed by the next activities on the second day, where participants of the meeting paid a visit to INAP DRFTG Facilities in Sentul, West Java, Indonesia.

During their visit to INAP DRFTG Facilities, the Officers invited to the training facilities, CPR Room, TTX and CPX Rooms, and Video-Conference Room, as well as to the Compability 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.

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

In a bigger scale, the ACDM Working Group on KIM shall lead ASEAN to be a recognized 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.

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 overall discussion of the First Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on LEAD – ASEAN Leadership for Excellence and Innovation in Disaster Management. The First Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on LEAD – ASEAN Leadership for Excellence and Innovation in Disaster Management was conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia. Knowledge and Innovation Management (KIM) is an aspect of AADMER Priority Programme 8: LEAD – ASEAN Leadership for Excellence in Innovation and 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 ACDM 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 issues in, 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 in Innovation and 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 professionalisation to enable ASEAN in becoming the global leader and the centre for excellence and innovations in disaster management.

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INTerviews

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

Long: Initially, I intend to gain more knowledge and skills related to natural disaster management, humanitarian operations, and project management. After that, I aim at being able 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.

Thang: I look forward to enhancing 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 NMDOs of ASEAN Member States.

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

Thang: One of the most noticeable activities is the 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 situations, so that I received clearer depictions of conditions that are possible to come across in the future.

Long: All of the training, 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 is like it was just like "yesterday". I have experienced the affected communities. The disaster is the most memorable activity for me.

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.

Thang: The most memorable activity during my 4 months in the ACE Programme would be the field visit to 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 to work in line 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 in volunteering themselves in the activity.

During your Japan visit, you received trainings from several respective agencies in humanitarian field through Leader talk. What made the unforgettable part of your experience?

Ms. Phatsita: I participated in the Joint Exercise for Response to Natural Disaster in Japan. I met with Mr. Noda from Japan Red Cross and Mr. Suttapak from AHA Centre, as well as many other Japanese experts. Among them, I especially remembered Mr. Noda, who is a very experienced person and has a lot of knowledge in disaster management. It was very interesting and addressed a lot of issues based on real situations, so that I received clearer depictions of conditions that are possible to come across in the future.

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

How important is collaboration with other parties in forming a good relationship as a humanitarian assistant?

Ms. Phatsita: Collaboration is very important because whenever disaster strikes, 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 experiences from this programme? What would you miss the most?

Ms. Phatsita: Undoubtedly, I would miss all of the 3rd ACE Participants and AHA Centre staff who took care of me during the whole programme. Our friendship is the most valuable asset for me to keep focus in the programme while being far away from home.

Mr. 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 HM. 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 this friendship and network among the participants could assist your work in the future as humanitarian officers?

Ms. Phatsita: It is very important and meaningful to build a strong friendship and network among the participants. It will be very helpful for us to work as a team and to respond to disasters in the future. I think the friendship and network among the participants will be very helpful for us in the future. We will continuously work together even after our programme is ended.

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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 circumstances. Through ICT, the 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 calculation of the operational capacity and support the organization’s mandate as the coordinating body in disaster management in ASEAAN.

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 to improve 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 operational 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.

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 training standard for government and non-government organisations. On this distinctive occasion, RedR Australia instilled knowledge for ACE participants on disaster as project and how they should perform functions as project managers.

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

Here are the functions of leads, or in this case as project managers that have involvement 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 personnel 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 be able to deal with these uncertainties through knowledge and experience in dealing with conditions.

4. **Problem Solving**
   - Similar to the previous point, project managers need to come up with strategic plans 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 resource or amongst projects, the conflict will have to be resolved. It is important for project managers to always put forward the needs and interests of their or her team.

**Insights**

**Project Management Roles**

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

Can you share with us 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 alumna of University 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 (OCHA). Guido passed away on duty under the rubble of the United Nations house destroyed by the Haitian 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. 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.

**How do you maintain balance?**

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 implement disaster preparedness and response plans effectively in their countries.

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 of 226 km/h, I visited the Amintao family south of Tacloban, the Philippines. They told me how they spent hours in the basement of their house during the storm. They were 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 gratitude 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 them?

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 humanitarian workers 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?

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About ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States of the Association are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia. As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN among others are to accelerate the economic growth, social progress, cultural development, to promote regional peace and stability as well as to improve active collaboration and cooperation.

About The AHA Centre

The AHA Centre is an inter-govermental 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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