EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS

Ms. Adelina Kamal during her lecture on the topic of “Effective Leadership in Crisis”
Greetings fellow ASEANers!

We are excited to reveal this 26th edition, as you may have noticed, it comes with a new look. The Column has always been one of our tools in providing ASEANers with relevant information regarding disaster management.

Through this new layout, we strive to provide our readers with a better reading experience as part of our attempts to offer the best service for ASEANers. In addition, the AHA Centre always perceives the importance of knowledge sharing of our regular operations and activities.

In February 2017, the AHA Centre represented by Ms. Adelina Kamal, our Acting Executive Director, contributed to the Comprehensive Crisis Management Course conducted by Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in Hawaii.

She delivered an uplifting and inspiring session on how to be an effective leader in crisis. You can find her lecture in this month’s edition of ‘News Highlight’.

Also in this edition, we are pleased to provide you with the summary of APEC Climate Change Centre-ASEAN Disaster Management Regional Symposium. The symposium concluded with a draft research roadmap and a plan for the development of a science-based disaster management platform.

This issue will also provide you with useful tips on Typhoon Preparedness and Response in our ‘Insights’ section. And also, information regarding our regular stock-taking of relief items that was recently conducted at the WFP-UN Humanitarian Resource Depot (UNHRD) Warehouse in Subang, Malaysia.

In ‘The Other Side’ column, we managed to speak with Mr. Mardiyansyah, one of the newest AHA Centre members, about his thoughts after joining the AHA Centre in mid-2016.

ASEAN will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The AHA Centre would like to encourage ASEANers to always stay tune to news about #ASEAN50 commemoration in our social media channels.

Lastly, we are always open to suggestions, comments, or anything you wish to share with us. You know the drill right? Drop us an e-mail at comm@ahacentre.org and we’ll do the rest.

Sincerely,

The Column Editor
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Editors

Editor-in-Chief
Ms. Adelina Kamal

Managing Editor
Andri Suryo

Editor
Vishnu Mahmud

Journalists and Researchers
Ananda Gabriella
Prasasya Laraswati

Creative Director
Mardian Y Chandra

Graphic Designer
Eric Budiarto

Contact Information
URL: www.ahacentre.org
Twitter: @ahacentre
Instagram: ahacentre
Facebook: ahacentre
Email: comm@ahacentre.org

Graha BNPB
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38, 13th floor
Jakarta 13120
Indonesia

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WWW.AHACENTRE.ORG

The Column is a monthly news bulletin from the AHA Centre - capturing the latest activities from the organisation
This section covers disaster outlook data from 1 to 28 February 2017.

TOTAL # OF DISASTERS: 34

- PHILIPPINES
  - 1 disaster
- MALAYSIA
  - 1 disaster
- INDONESIA
  - 32 disasters

- 30,500 Affected Houses
- 11,700 Ha Affected Agriculture
- 251,000 People Affected
- 208 Injured People
- 10 Deaths
- 15,000 Displaced People

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 States.

SOURCE:
Basemap is from global administrative area. Information is generated from many sources including NDMOs, international organisations and news agencies.
Indonesia reported the highest number of disasters occurring in ASEAN region with 32 incidents, representing 94% of the total 34 incidents along February 2017. This is followed by a single incident happened in Malaysia and one in the Philippines. Flood is still dominant as recorded with major impact and exposure to the region. The earthquake occurred in Surigao, Philippines, produced higher impact to this month’s number of disaster occurrence. At least 250,000 people were affected with 15,000 people being displaced.

The current northeast monsoon conditions are expected to persist and affect the ASEAN region throughout the month.

During the northeast monsoon season, the dry weather conditions can continue over the northern ASEAN region, while wet weather condition is expected to be carried through in the southern part, particularly within Indonesia region.

Further, in late March or early April, the northeast monsoon is expected to gradually give way to the inter-monsoon season. It is usually accompanied by the increase of shower activities.
Located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific, the Philippines is visited by an average of 20 typhoons every year, 5 of which are highly destructive. Situated in the ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’ makes it also vulnerable to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Its geographical location and physical environment also contributes to its high-susceptibility to tsunamis, sea level rise, storm surges, landslides, floods and drought.

Typhoons (and storms) make up 58% of all disasters in the country, followed by typhoon-related flooding at 25% and landslides at 6%. The Philippines Government, INGOs and local NGOs are all doing their best to address climate change and disasters at various levels.

Here are some very practical tips and timely reminders to prepare for a typhoon, according to Plan International, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Official Gazette:

### 1. BEFORE THE TYPHOON

- Store an adequate supply of food and clean water. Prepare canned foods that do not require cooking.

### 2. DURING THE TYPHOON

- Keep flashlights, candles and battery-powered radios within easy reach.
- Examine your house and repair its unstable parts.
- Always keep yourself updated with the latest weather report.
- Harvest crops that can be yielded already.
- Secure domesticated animals in a safe place.
- For fishermen, place boats in a safe area.
- Should you need to evacuate, bring clothes, first aid kit, candles or flashlight, battery-powered radio and food.
- Stay inside the house.
- Keep yourself updated with the latest weather report.
The tips were issued by PRC after Typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines in 2013. It is with great hope that these survival tips could be useful for ASEANers in the future in order to be better prepared whenever a typhoon strikes. Following these tips, state weather bureau Philippines Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) also launched an upgraded version of its smart phone application called “DostPagasa” that is geared towards enhancing the Philippines’ capacity on weather observation, forecasting and warning. Most importantly, the app can measure the distance of the user from the typhoon by using global positioning system (GPS).

By learning from past experiences and with the support of high technology facilities that are now available, we are optimistic that we can reduce the potential damages from future disasters, in this case, typhoons.
NEWS HIGHLIGHT

AHA CENTRE’S KEYNOTE LECTURE FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE CRISIS MANAGEMENT (CCM) COURSE AT DKI APCSS IN HAWAII

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS

Ms. Adelina Kamal during her keynote lecture on the topic of “Effective Leadership in Crisis”

(Photo credits: DKI APCSS)
It was a great pleasure for the AHA Centre to be invited by the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) on 23-24 February 2017.

DKI APCSS is a U.S. Department of Defence institute established in 1995 and located in Honolulu, Hawaii. The centre addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the United States and Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive programme of executive education and workshops, both in Hawaii and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

In view of ASEAN’s strategic engagements in Asia-Pacific and its leadership in disaster management, the AHA Centre, represented by Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, delivered a keynote lecture on “Effective Leadership in Crisis” on 23 February 2017.

“A good leader is not someone that needs to be served, but one that is willing to serve others. When you are a leader, it is no longer about you!” One this note, she also shared the quote of Mr. Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric. “Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.”

During that day, Ms. Adelina Kamal spoke to over 100 Asia-Pacific security and disaster management practitioners, who were joining the five-week course. Among the course participants were officials from ASEAN Member States, including Mr. Luqmanul Hakim (Indonesia) and Ms. Vimala Khounthalangsy (Lao PDR), two of AHA Centre (ACE) Programme graduates. Ms. Pimvadee Keaokiriya, Senior Officer of the ASEAN Secretariat’s Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, also joined the course. APCSS faculty members and senior officials of the U.S Department of Defence also joined Ms. Adelina’s lecture to get her insights on crisis leadership in ASEAN.
Ms. Adelina also shared the five elements of effective leadership, which came from the former Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Mr. Said Faisal. These five elements were also featured in the Special Edition of the Column 23rd Edition, 2016.

Ms. Adelina further described how true leadership capacity of a person is tested during times of crisis and shared some tips on how to lead in crisis, drawing from her personal leadership experience as well as observing the experiences of notable crisis leaders in the ASEAN region. She also shared how ASEAN went through the three large-scale disasters, i.e. 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2008 Cyclone Nargis and 2013 Typhoon Haiyan and the lessons from these major disasters.

“When crisis happens, there will be chaos. A good leader should put chaos into order,” she reminded the participants.

On the following day, Ms. Adelina delivered a presentation about ASEAN’s disaster management mechanisms to the APCSS fellows and faculty members. The dialogue provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to learn more in-depth about the role and responsibilities of the AHA Centre.

Still on the same day, Ms. Adelina then led a roundtable discussion at the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA) of the US Pacific Command. CFE-DMHA is a U.S. Department of Defence organisation that was established by the U.S. Congress in 1994. The Centre is located on Ford Island, Hawaii. CFE-DMHA has been one of the contributors of the ACE Programme.

The roundtable discussion topics covered the "One ASEAN, One Response" vision and the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan, involving representatives from various Hawaii-based centres, including CFE-DMHA, DKI APCSS, Malaysian Armed Forces, International Committee of the Red Cross, U.S. Army Pacific, Marine Forces Pacific, U.S. Pacific Command, ASEAN Secretariat and Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defence for Policy.

The roundtable discussion also touched on the priorities of Malaysia and the U.S. as they now serve the co-chairs of the ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) for three years (2017-2019), and the critical role of the AHA Centre in civil-military coordination.
The APEC Climate Centre (APCC) organised the APCC-ASEAN Disaster Management Regional Symposium on 9-10 February 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The symposium was part of the ASEAN Science-Based Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP) project between APCC and ASEAN to promote the involvement of science in policy development and policymakers in the research process, for disaster management and risk reduction in the ASEAN region.

The topic of the symposium was ‘Promoting and supporting scientific and technical research that will inform disaster management practice and policy.” Disaster management officials from ASEAN countries as well as researchers and partners from the Asia Pacific region participated in the symposium, including the AHA Centre. It was an honour for the AHA Centre as our Acting Executive Director, Ms. Adelina Kamal, delivered remarks during the opening of the symposium.

The two-day symposium aimed to share technologies and policies in managing and reducing disasters within the ASEAN region as well as to collect information and opinions towards establishing a long-term research roadmap in the region to bridge scientific technical research with disaster management practice and policy.

In Ms. Adelina’s speech, she conveyed AHA Centre’s expectation that the research roadmap should generate innovations that could be used by practitioners and policy makers to make ASEAN as a global reference and a global leader in disaster management, as envisioned in the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management. The research should also help answer problems, provide solutions, allow disasters management practitioners to become more effective in responding to disasters, and provide evidence-based, scientific-based contingency and response planning to achieve “One ASEAN, ASEAN One Response”.

The conclusion and results of the symposium included an agreement for the APCC to support disaster managers in the ASEAN region through the ASDMP, which will allow disaster managers to make available decision-relevant tools, models, and methodologies through convenient access to relevant research and technical studies.
**NEWS STORY**

ASEAN INTER-SECRETARIATS RETREAT

"FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER"

ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, a vision endorsed by the ASEAN Leaders at their 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015, charts the path for the ASEAN Community over the next ten years. It is a forward-looking roadmap that articulates ASEAN goals and aspirations to realise further consolidation, integration and stronger cohesiveness as a community.

In order to further develop a deeper understanding of the functions and mandates of various ASEAN centres and entities, a retreat was held on 13-14 February 2017. Hosted in Bali, Indonesia, the objective of the retreat was to ‘lower the fences’ between the centres and entities of ASEAN and plan activities to jointly commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.

The activities included presentations and overviews of the ASEAN Communication Master Plan – outlining the challenges and plan for the next steps, Editorial 101 presentation by the Jakarta Post, and a presentation by the Hill + Knowlton Communications towards ‘How to Build the ASEAN Brand’. On the second day of the retreat, participants were divided into working groups and engaged in team-building activities to discuss issues related to governance, administration and communications, and how the entities and the centres cooperate with one another.

The two-day retreat established a friendly consultation and informational exchange within the ASEAN entities and centres, in particularly the Corporate and Community Relations Department of the ASEAN Secretariat, the AHA Centre and other ASEAN entities, namely, the ASEAN Foundation, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the ASEAN Institute of Green Economy (AIGE), and the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (ASEANSAI). The AHA Centre was represented by Ms. Adelina Kamal, the Acting Executive Director, and Mr. Andri Suryo, the Communications Officer.

Discussions during the retreat resulted in several key outcomes, such as a deeper understanding of the functions and mandates of various ASEAN entities/centres, acknowledgment of the importance of mutual cooperation in the implementation of ASEAN Vision 2025, a shared common picture on institutional knowledge, further developed actions for the implementation of effective dialogue and consultation mechanisms, and finally the development of a feasible ASEAN 50th anniversary commemoration plan.
The AHA Centre conducts a regular stock-taking of disaster items twice a year to ensure that ASEAN has adequate relief items ready to be distributed swiftly during emergency situations.

The physical count inventory is important so the AHA Centre could be accountable of all its processes – including those related to the acquisition of items (i.e. procurement, packaging, storing, etc.). The AHA Centre is not only responsible to reconcile the quantity of items, specifications, and the recording process, but also accountable to provide inputs to WFP–UNHRD in Malaysia on how to ensure high quality standards in maintaining and storing inventories as well as conducting the procurement process.

The UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) in Subang, Malaysia plays a key role in helping ASEAN in managing and storing relief items. As the custodians, they are responsible to clarify any discrepancies, damage, unfeasible items, and any others issues with regard to the stock prepositioned by ASEAN in the warehouse.

Relief items stored in WFP–UNHRD in Subang include personal hygiene kits, family kits, kitchen kits, shelter repair kits, and family tents, etc. When items are depleted, the AHA Centre may launch a local procurement process with the affected country and/or borrow “white-stock”, i.e. unlabelled stock, from the local WFP warehouse. The AHA Centre could immediately obtain these items and deliver them to the affected country’s NDMOs, and UNHRD could later replenish stocks from its Subang warehouse. This practice allows the AHA Centre to obtain the same items, or items with similar specifications or qualities in shorter about of time.
THE OTHER SIDE
-- Mr. Mardiyansyah
ICT Technical Administrator for ICT Phase III Project

There have never been any fences on the structural communications with each other, no matter what your position is.

Can you share your role and responsibilities as an ICT Technical Administrator for the ICT Phase III Project?

My role and responsibilities at the AHA Centre mainly focus on implementation of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Phase III Project. My role focuses on “Disaster Recovery Development System” in Singapore.

This project is intended to be a backup system for the ICT system in Indonesia. Should there be any technical difficulties or hiccups, then it will automatically be switched to the server in Singapore, which will still be operated by and from the AHA Centre in Jakarta.

Other than that, I’m also responsible for the construction of the office backup, to ensure that the AHA Centre can continue to operate even if the main office is experiencing difficulties.

In addition, I am in charge of developing the E-learning Platform for the AHA Centre and the Member States. The expectation is that the E-learning Platform could be useful for a more effective and efficient working process in terms of the time and costs.

What was your journey like to get where you are now?

When I was still studying at university, I was an IT Administrator at a private radio station in Bandung. My job then was to take care of the e-radio for the radio station itself so that the listeners could tune in the radio through the site.

Afterwards, I was a Junior Electrical Engineer at one of the power plant developments located in outskirts of Jakarta for a year. Then, I was an IT staff for one of the law offices in Jakarta for seven years before I finally joined the AHA Centre.
You joined the AHA Centre since mid-2016. Regardless of your years of service with the AHA Centre, what do you think about the organisation? How is it different with your previous work places?

I think that there is a lot of new things that I still need to adapt to in the AHA Centre. Since I spent somewhat over seven years in my previous jobs, I am humbled to be able to learn new things here, seeing unfamiliar faces and working in a new environment. Although, I can definitely say that the AHA Centre’s working environment is much more dynamic than my previous working environments.

Are there any particular reasons or personal ambitions of why you chose to work in the AHA Centre and entered the humanitarian field?

I do not think that there was any reason in particular. I simply believe that my skills and capability are the ones that took me where I am today. I am confident that I can contribute significantly towards the mission and vision of the AHA Centre.

Are there any challenges working in the humanitarian field as an ICT Technical Administrator? Could you tell us more about it?

The constraints that I had were mostly around technicalities of the project. Although these could be insignificant, the working process can be affected. However, so far there have not been any severe issues that we could not resolve.

What has been the most memorable experience since you joined the AHA Centre?

Perhaps the most memorable experience since I joined the AHA Centre would be the opportunity to work with these kind-hearted, humble and competent people of the AHA Centre. There have never been any fences on the structural communications with each other, no matter what your position is.

Do you have any personal aspirations or hopes for the AHA Centre in the coming years?

The AHA Centre needs to continue to make a difference and add values to the ASEAN Member States. I hope that in the near future, the AHA Centre could become the pioneer for disaster management and become the reference for other regions to learn.
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.

The AHA Centre is an inter-govermental organisation established on 17 November 2011, through the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the AHA Centre by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of State / Government 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.

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a legally-binding regional 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.