

## INSIGHTS

MAKING COMMUNITIES  
DISASTER-RESILIENT

## THE OTHER SIDE

Ms. VANDA LENGKONG

*Asia Regional Disaster Risk  
Management Specialist for  
Plan International*

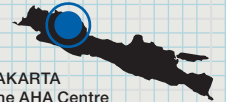


ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

# THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE  
NEWS BULLETIN  
VOLUME 29

## NEWS HIGHLIGHT



JAKARTA  
The AHA Centre  
10 May 2017

## SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE AHA CENTRE'S OFFICE

## NEWS STORY

ASEAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ASSESSMENT TEAM (ERAT)  
TRANSFORMATION PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING & ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

ASEAN MILITARIES READY GROUP ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (AMRG ON HADR)

2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE PROJECT WORKING GROUP (PWG) 1: STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN REGIONAL CAPACITY ON DISASTER HEALTH MANAGEMENT (ARCH PROJECT)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN SATELLITE WAREHOUSES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND

## DISASTER OUTLOOK

**17 TOTAL DISASTERS** from  
15 to 31 May 2017



MAY 2017

## SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE AHA CENTRE'S OFFICE

**EDITOR'S NOTE****Greetings fellow ASEANers!**

Coordination amongst ASEAN Member States and ASEAN partners is an essential aspect that contributes to the sharing of information and knowledge. This month, the AHA Centre had the honour to host a visit from the African delegation for a meeting focused on "Exploring Shared Pathways to Stronger Climate Resilience and Food Security" as covered in the News Highlight.

In this month's News Story, we would like to share reviews of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Project Working Group 1: Strengthening the ASEAN Region Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) and the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) Transformation Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting & Advisory Group Meeting.

ASEAN Member States' commitment in further strengthening the collective response and realising the "One ASEAN, One Response" vision is becoming increasingly evident. In this vein, we have included an update on the progress of preparations for the ASEAN Satellite Warehouses in the Philippines and Thailand. We also cover the meeting of ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (AMRG on ADR) in the News Story section.

In this edition's The Other Side, we spoke to Ms. Vanda Lengkong, Plan International's Disaster Risk Management Specialist for Plan International the Asia Region, to learn about her passion and key responsibilities in supporting the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management strategy for 14 country offices.

Also, this edition will elaborate upon the characteristics of a disaster-resilient community. We hope these insights will be beneficial for all the readers.

Lastly, if you wish to share suggestions, comments, or anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact us at [comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org) and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,


*The Column Editor*








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

 @ahacentre

 ahacentre

 ahacentre

 [comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org)

 Graha BNPB 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38  
Jakarta - 13120  
Indonesia



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

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*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Ms. Adelina Kamal**



*Managing Editor*  
**Andri Suryo**



*Editor*  
**Vishnu Mahmud**



*Journalist & Researcher*  
**Ananda Gabriella**



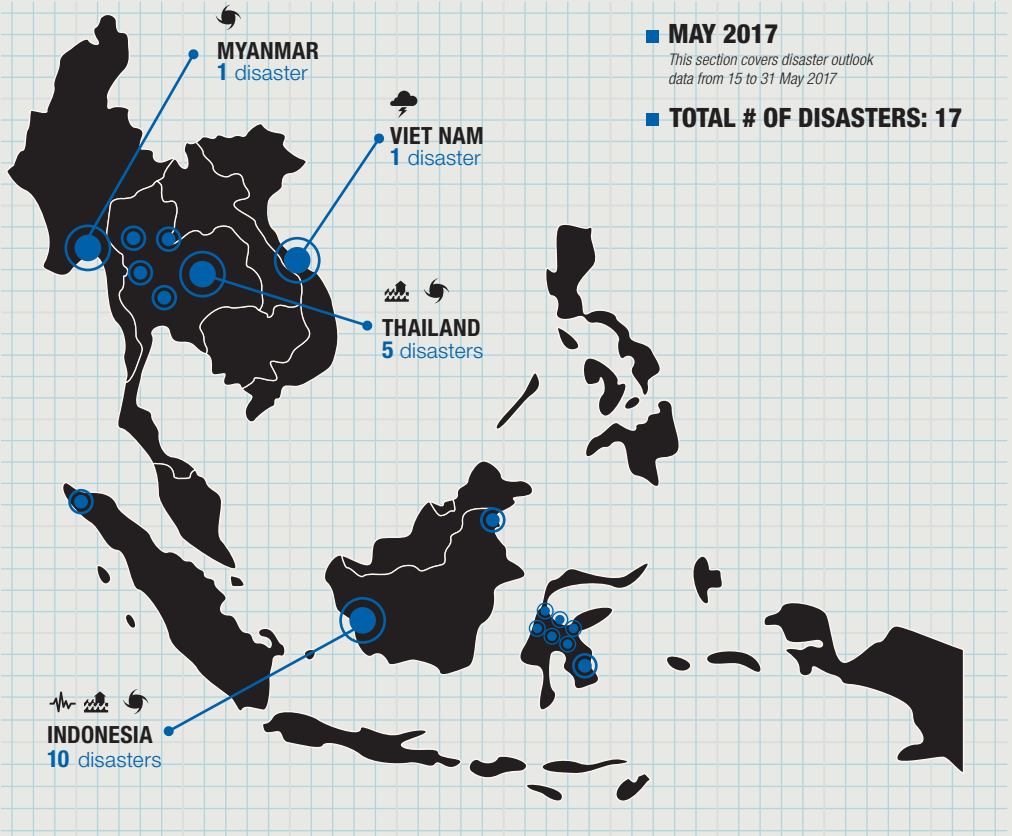
*Creative Director*  
**Mardian Y Chandra**



*Journalist & Researcher*  
**Prasasya Laraswati**



*Graphic Designer*  
**Eric Budiharto**



■ **MAY 2017**

*This section covers disaster outlook data from 15 to 31 May 2017*

■ **TOTAL # OF DISASTERS: 17**



**38,700**  
Affected Houses



**11,900 Ha**  
Affected Agriculture



**188,000**  
People Affected



**16**  
Injured People



**6**  
Deaths



**14,700**  
Displaced People

**DISCLAIMER:**

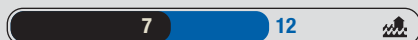
*The use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown are not warranted to be error free or implying official endorsement from ASEAN Member States.*

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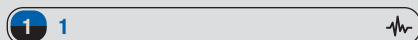
*Basemap is from global administrative area. Information is generated from many sources including NDMOs, international organisations and news agencies.*

# DISASTER OUTLOOK

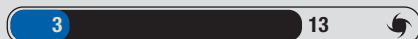
## DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER MAY 2017 // 2016



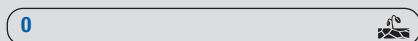
FLOOD



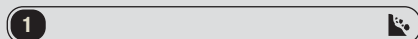
EARTHQUAKE



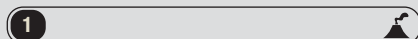
WIND



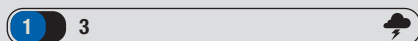
DROUGHT



LANDSLIDE




VOLCANO



STORM

 2017 - BLUE BAR

 2016 - BLACK BAR

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

During this period (15 – 31 May 2017), 17 natural disasters affected the region. In general, the region experienced 12 floods or flash floods, followed by three incidences of severe wind, one storm and one earthquake. Statistically, twelve flooding incidents have contributed to 70% of the natural disasters that occurred, followed by winds 18%, storms 6% and earthquakes 6%.

There were stronger impacts of disasters than the previous month. Widespread flooding affected 15 provinces in Thailand, causing significant economic losses and disrupting routines and business activities. Flooding brought on by intense rainfall also affected several provinces in Indonesia. Furthermore, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 shook Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, causing injuries and damaging hundreds of houses. Meanwhile, in Myanmar, Cyclone Mora caused some damages, but the official government assessment was still underway as of this writing.

## FORECAST FOR JUNE

Based on the forecast by the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, by June 2017, the Southwest Monsoon is associated with the dry season in the southern ASEAN region and rainy season for the southern. Forecasts indicate that the presence of tropical cyclones in the Western Pacific Ocean and South China Sea will bring heavy rainfall to some parts of the region. Meanwhile, due to the dry conditions in the southern ASEAN region, a proliferation of hot spots and wild fires in fire-prone areas such as Sumatra and Kalimantan is expected. Given the current forecast, preparedness and mitigation steps against potential flooding, landslides, drought, and fire should be taken by authorities to reduce risks and potential impact.

(Source:  
<http://asmc.asean.org/asmc-seasonal-outlook>).

## INSIGHTS

# MAKING COMMUNITIES DISASTER-RESILIENT

A disaster-resilient community is highly aware of disaster risk reduction (DRR) steps, and often has the confidence and ability to demand that decision makers create a safer environment in which to live and work. It is conscious of its own capacity to face the risks and vulnerabilities it faces.

The most efficient way to raise awareness in a community is to invest in education for all segments of society and to make learning an integral part of the community's everyday life. Building a culture of safety will save lives, protect people's rights and entitlements, and help communities move towards a more socially and economically progressive society.

According to the 'Guidance on Livelihood: Disaster Recovery Toolkit' published by the Tsunami Global Lessons Learned Project Steering Committee (LGLLP-SC), a few key characteristics of a disaster-resilient community are as follows:

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITY:



A high-level of understanding of DRR, climate change, and environmental conservation, and an ability to design and implement policies based on local priorities;



A community early-warning system;



Trained manpower already in the community (people who can plan and implement DRR programmes) and given regular training;



Well-maintained, disaster-resilient local physical infrastructure;



Links with local government authorities and influence at the local level for sustainable development programming and implementation;



Understanding of relevant legislations, regulations, and procedures, as well as their own rights and obligations with regard to minimising future risks;



Stable and diverse sources of livelihoods;



Seeing DRR as an integral part of achieving wider community development goals;



Few people engaged in unsafe or hazard-vulnerable livelihood activities, such as less rain-fed agriculture in drought-prone locations;



Strong partnerships between local stakeholder groups and other entities (NGOs, CBOs, government institutions, and private businesses);



Effective and accountable community leadership;



High level of volunteerism;



An ability to mobilise knowledge, information, resources, and external assistance to reduce community vulnerability to natural hazards;



The skills to carry out community-level hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments with minimal or no external support.

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

# SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE AHA CENTRE'S OFFICE



## SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE AHA CENTRE'S OFFICE

The South-South delegation poses for a group photo during the visit to the AHA Centre in Jakarta on 10 May 2017.

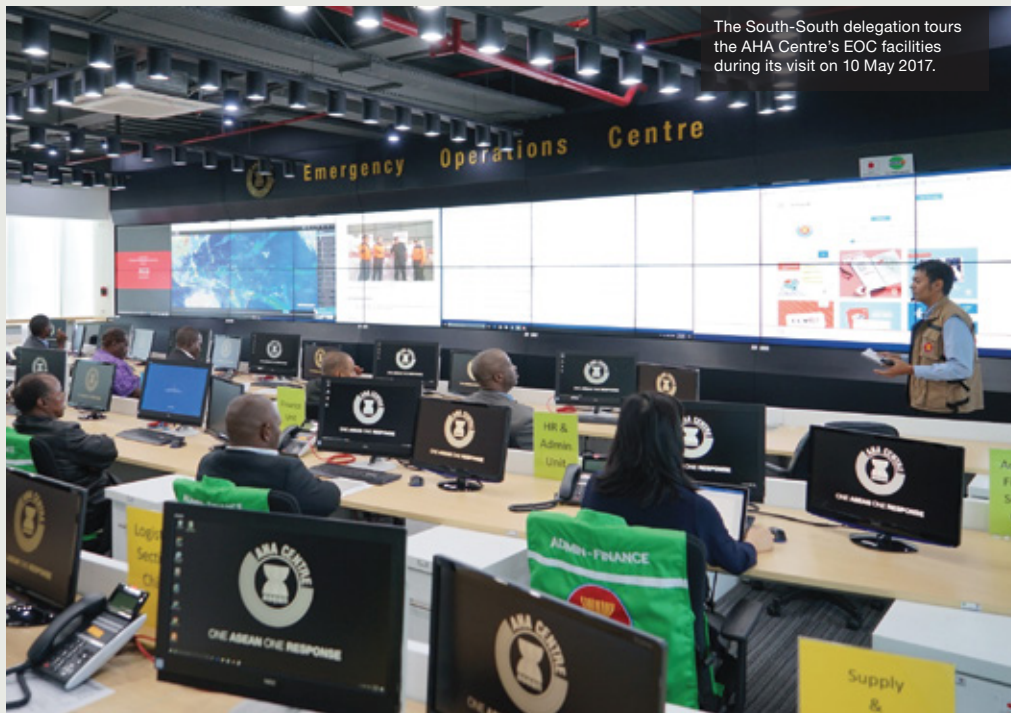
In recognition of common challenges and opportunities surrounding climate risks and deeper regionalism in both Africa and Southeast Asia, the World Bank organised a South-South Learning Exchange Visit during 8-12 May 2017 to Southeast Asia.

The activity was part of a broader regional programme designed to identify and assess common challenges, as well as find opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation on El Nino preparedness and response, and strengthen food systems resilience against future climate shocks in East and Southern Africa.

On 10 May 2017, the AHA Centre had the honour to welcome a South-South delegation from four sub-regional organisations in Africa to the home of “One ASEAN, One Response”, for a meeting focused on “Exploring Shared Pathways to Stronger Climate Resilience and Food Security”. Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal, provided an overview of the Centre’s establishment, including the legal and institutional framework, and the evolution of its operations in the face of ever-changing circumstances.

The AHA Centre then provided a tour to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and presented a variety of the tools available for





The South-South delegation tours the AHA Centre's EOC facilities during its visit on 10 May 2017.

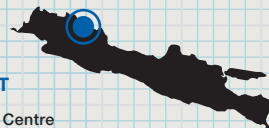
monitoring disasters and information sharing during disaster response operations including the equipment, family kits and a demonstration of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The platform is capable to monitor natural disaster risks, exchange information, and coordinate relief response between ASEAN Member States and partners. The facility provides a data base of emergency response professionals within all National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in case a deployment is necessary.

During the last session of the visit, Ms. Adelina Kamal noted that drought is forecasted to become increasingly an issue for ASEAN.

Given to that is the main risk of Africa, ASEAN could learn a lot from Africa as an on-going effort to encourage countries to learn from each other and together find innovative solutions, the delegation expressed willingness to help ASEAN and invited the AHA Centre to visit Africa.

### **SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT**

**JAKARTA, The AHA Centre**  
10 May 2017



# ASEAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ASSESSMENT TEAM (ERAT) TRANSFORMATION PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING & ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

## ERAT PSC AND ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

CO-CHAIRS



THAILAND



SINGAPORE



The attendees pose for a group photo during ERAT PSC Meeting and Advisory Group Meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 1-2 May 2017



The meeting of ERAT PSC and Advisory Group commences in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 1-2 May 2017

The ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) Transformation Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting and Advisory Group Meeting were held on 1-2 May 2017 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Attendees included members of the Advisory Group from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand as well as representatives from the Mission of Japan to ASEAN, the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) Project Management Team, and the AHA Centre.

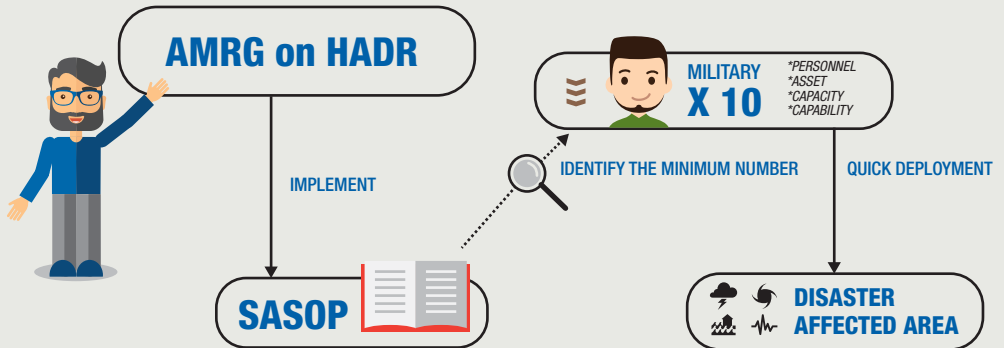
The meeting was opened by Mr. Arun Pinta from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation from Thailand, who was nominated by the Working Group to assume the role of the Co-Chair due to his involvement as a member of both the ASEAN Committee on Disaster

Management (ACDM) Preparedness and Response Working Group and the ERAT Advisory Group.

The meeting discussed the overview of the project, the adoption of the PSC's Terms of Reference (TOR), and plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> ERAT Induction Course. The AHA Centre presented a progress report on the implementation of the ASEAN-ERAT Transformation Project, highlighting several of the project's achievements and the largely positive feedback from participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> ERAT Induction Course, held at the end of April 2017.

During the meeting, it was decided that Singapore to also assume the position of the Co-Chair in addition to Thailand, for the ERAT PSC and Advisory Group Meeting.

## ASEAN MILITARIES READY GROUP ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (AMRG ON HADR)



The ASEAN Defence Ministers adopted the Concept Paper on ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (AMRG on HADR) at the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) on 16 March 2015 in Malaysia. The Concept Paper in its final form consolidated the inputs from all ASEAN Member States, including the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre.

On 8–10 May 2017, the AHA Centre participated in a meeting in Malaysia to develop the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the AMRG, designed to support the establishment of a single military team among ASEAN Member States to quickly deploy in support of HADR operations in a coordinated manner.

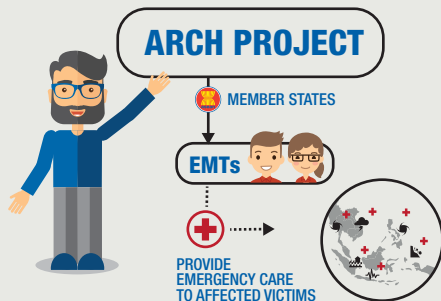
According to the Terms of Reference (TOR), structures of the AMRG, among others, include the SOPs for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), which shall serve as the main reference document for the implementation of the AMRG. In cases where other SOPs are inconsistent with the provisions of SASOP, SASOP shall prevail. AMRG

shall work under the coordination of the AHA Centre in collaboration with other relevant regional and international HADR partners, and act in accordance with the guidelines of respective National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) or National Focal Points (NFPs). In addition, each ASEAN Member State shall also designate a military representative to act as a Liaison Officer for the AHA Centre to facilitate information sharing, coordination, and strengthen military ties between respective ASEAN Member States and the AHA Centre.

Implementation of the AMRG requires each ASEAN Member State to identify and determine the minimum number of national military personnel, assets, capacities, and capabilities to be ready for deployment and to provide capabilities such as (but not limited to) engineering, communications, logistics, and medical support during deployments.

The provision of these capabilities shall be done in coordination with other Member States and the AHA Centre to avoid redundancy.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE PROJECT WORKING GROUP (PWG) 1: STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN REGIONAL CAPACITY ON DISASTER HEALTH MANAGEMENT (ARCH PROJECT)



The ARCH Project aims to enhance regional collaboration in order for ASEAN Member States to provide appropriate emergency care to meet the needs of affected victims. Collaboration between Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) during a sudden onset disaster is a crucial element of cooperation in providing an effective and efficient response.

The AHA Centre under the coordination from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and / or from the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA) can play a strong role in helping EMTs to ensure their efforts are complementary and avoid duplication.

The previous PWG 1 meeting, held on 20 January 2017, discussed the framework and work plan towards the development of regional collaboration tools. The regional tools, including standard operating procedures, rapid health needs assessment, and a database for EMTs in the ASEAN region, are expected to improve the



The participant pose for group photo during the 2nd Meeting of the PWG 1: Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) in Bangkok on 8-9 May 2017.

emergency medical response capacity of ASEAN Member States to sudden onset disasters and ultimately contribute to the realisation of the “One ASEAN, One Response” vision.

As agreed at the previous meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the PWG 1 was held on 8-9 May 2017 in Bangkok to review and provide feedback on the first draft of the regional collaboration tools.

Participants of the meeting included PWG 1 members, including the Health Ministries of ASEAN Member States, Health Division of the ASEAN Secretariat, the AHA Centre, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the ARCH Project Team. Together, they planned and agreed on the framework and mechanisms that will be tested during the First Regional Collaboration Drill in July 2017.

During the meeting, the Thai National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a workshop on the draft ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Disaster Health Management and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the coordination of EMTs in ASEAN. The workshop included a discussion on creating a database of EMTs in ASEAN and the minimum requirements for EMT members.



Preparedness and Response Officer (Logistic), Ms. Agustina Tnunay from the AHA Centre during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the PWG 1: Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) in Bangkok on 8-9 May 2017.

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN SATELLITE WAREHOUSES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND



Construction of the warehouse is underway in Thailand.



ASEAN disaster professionals meet at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand in February 2017.



ASEAN officials discuss preparations during a meeting at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand in May 2017.



Meeting at the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) together with Regional and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in the Philippines in February, 2017.

The Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN or DELSA in short was established in 2012 with the aim to enhance ASEAN's capacity on providing relief efforts in times of emergency. With the support from the Government of Japan, DELSA enabled the AHA Centre to preposition its relief items within the United Nations World Food Programme's regional warehouse in Subang, Malaysia.

Due to the increased intensity of disasters in the region, the AHA Centre has identified challenges in delivering relief items in a timely manner in accordance with the SASOP. Therefore, mechanisms to pre-position relief items in the most disaster-prone countries in the region were established as a solution.

In such situations, the satellite warehouse feasibility study was completed and delivered in 2015, and recommended the Philippines and Thailand as potential locations for pre-positioning

ASEAN relief items. The satellite warehouse project is a continuation of the current DELSA Project which run from 2012 until the end of 2017.

After six months of implementation, the satellite warehouse preparatory activity is expected to come up with a memorandum of agreement between the AHA Centre and the host country, improve the knowledge of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) through training and capacity building (provided prior the commencement construction of the satellite warehouse), and finalise building's design, as well as a list of tools and stock items that will be prepositioned at the satellite warehouse based on the consultations with the NDMO.

Having started in January 2017, preparatory activities are expected to be completed in June 2017.

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# THE OTHER SIDE

## Ms. Vanda Lengkong

*Asia Regional Disaster Risk Management Specialist  
for Plan International*



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**What are your responsibilities as a Disaster Risk Management Specialist? What was your journey like to get where you are now?**

Currently I am the head of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) for Plan International Asia, with key responsibilities for overseeing and supporting the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management strategy in Plan International's 14 country offices in Asia, and contributing to global learning efforts and initiatives aimed at strengthening DRM within the wider organisation. In addition, I also supervise the regional specialists and project coordinators of the DRM team for the region.

**Tell us about your role as part of the ASEAN Agreement for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Group (APG).**

Currently I am the co-chair of the APG. I was involved in this group since 2012. It's a very dynamic group of seven agencies in the region that are committed to partnering with ASEAN in implementing AADMER. One thing that makes me proud to be part of the APG is the opportunity to voice and showcase the meaningful engagement of civil society within ASEAN. I have also been able to meet and engage with excellent colleagues from the CSO side, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the AHA Centre throughout the last 5 years with the APG. This group is evidence of what "collaboration" means in DRM.

**You have been with Plan International for more than 8 years. How do you think Plan International's disaster preparedness and response has transformed during that period?**

At Plan International, we look at disaster preparedness and response within the bigger concept of DRM. For us, DRM is as a range of activities, from strengthening resilience and reducing risks in development work to launching humanitarian response and recovery during disasters and conflicts. It has grown significantly in the past eight years in terms of investment in capacity, including human resources as well as strategy. We have been able to build our reputation in this sector, growing our portfolio significantly, resulting in increased capacity and confidence. We are now recognised as a large, technical, and credible NGO actor in the humanitarian sector, in addition to our longstanding development work. Recently we launched our new global strategy “100 Million Reasons” that covers both development and humanitarian work. We are committed to make a lasting difference for the most marginalised and vulnerable girls as well as reaching children in places where the worst violations of human rights are taking place.

### **What was your personal ambition or reason for choosing to join the humanitarian field?**

As I mentioned previously, DRM has always been my passion in life. Working in the humanitarian field makes me feel alive. I always have a reason to wake up in the morning and do my work because I believe that the results of the work I do with my organisation make a difference in other people's lives. My personal ambition is to live in a world where there is no more violence towards children and where the communities are resilient to disaster. My ambition is continue to be a meaningful and trustworthy humanitarian worker.

### **What goals have you set in the past for your field and how did you accomplish them?**

My goal is to contribute to building the resilience of children and communities before, during, and after disaster. Having been born and raised in a country that is prone to disasters, and with real life experience as a survivor of a number of deadly earthquakes motivates me to accomplish this main goal. And now, I am satisfied with the accomplishments. I value the teamwork at Plan International, as well as with other networks where I am engaged, that offer an enabling environment for me to accomplish my goals. It's not an end, as there are still more to do as the world continues to develop. New trends emerge that require adaptive capacities and we must be flexible in doing humanitarian work.

### **What are your hopes for ASEAN's disaster management in the coming years?**


My hope is ASEAN's disaster management will continue to contribute to building a resilient ASEAN community, becoming a recognised entity globally, and in the coming years, in terms of capacity and resources, be a centre of excellence that many people from different countries and regions can look to as a role model. In addition, I always believe in and engage civil society in the journey of success.


# One **ASEAN** One **Response**

## Talk to Us

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

 @ahacentre

 ahacentre

 ahacentre

 [comm@ahacentre.org](mailto:comm@ahacentre.org)

Graha BNPB 13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38  
Jakarta - 13120  
Indonesia

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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 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.

## ABOUT AADMER

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.