FLOOD RESPONSE IN VIET NAM

AUGUST 2017
Greetings fellow ASEANers!

The vision of “One ASEAN, One Response” unites all ASEAN Member States in responding to disasters within and outside the region. In August 2017, the AHA Centre conveyed ASEAN’s solidarity as it distributed relief items to those affected by flash floods and landslides in northern Viet Nam. The AHA Centre’s work to provide for those in need is covered in this edition’s News Highlight.

This month’s News Story focuses on the AHA Centre’s participation in a series of events, including the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2017, the Workshop on the Framework for an ASEAN Standards and Certification for Expertise in Disaster Management (ASCEND), and the 3rd Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge and Innovation Management (WG-KIM).

In this edition, the ACE Corner makes its return and we are pleased to share the coverage of the Leaders Talk by Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary-General for Partnership of IFRC, and interviews with the participants of the 4th batch of the ACE Programme from Indonesia and Viet Nam.

In this edition’s The Other Side section, we spoke with Mr. Anand Pillay, Director of Corporate Affairs for the AHA Centre. He graciously shared with us his journey and his hopes for the future of the AHA Centre.

To add, this edition provides Indonesia’s disaster overview, and we hope this insight will be beneficial for all readers.

If you wish to share your suggestions, comments or anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact us at comm@ahacentre.org.

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The Column is a monthly news bulletin from the AHA Centre - capturing the latest activities from the organisation
INDONESIA’S DISASTER OVERVIEW

According to the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA) 2015 publication Indonesia: Disaster Management Reference, Indonesia is susceptible to many different types of hazards and the varied nature of threats complicates risk management in the country. However, Indonesia’s total risk exposure is considerably lower than that of many other Asian nations.

NATURAL HAZARDS

EARTHQUAKE

Indonesia experiences frequent and severe earthquakes because the country lies along the boundaries of three tectonic plates with many active faults. The provinces most at risk of severe earthquakes include Sumatra, Java, Bali, Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, Sulawesi, and Papua. Between 1970 and 2009, earthquakes accounted for more deaths and people affected than any other type of disaster type in Indonesia, including tsunamis. Additionally, earthquakes also caused the second highest levels of economic loss, exceeded only by wildfires.

TSUNAMI

Like other geologic hazards, tsunamis are a real threat to Indonesia. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was a devastating example of the threat tsunamis pose to the country. Since then, Indonesia has experienced three major tsunamis resulting in a total of 1,333 deaths and 47,502 people affected. The faults that occur along the borders of tectonic plate are located
on the sea floor rather than on land, meaning earthquake epicentres are more likely to be located where they can generate tsunamis.

Since 2006, Indonesia instituted the InaTEWS (Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System), which connects a series of monitoring devices to a data and information integration centre that quickly determines if an earthquake is likely to produce a tsunami. Any applicable warnings are then disseminated through a series of public broadcast systems.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Volcanic eruptions are another notable geologic hazard to affect Indonesia. There are a total of 129 active volcanoes, of which 70 have erupted in the last twenty years. The majority of volcanoes can be found on Java. In the past, volcanic eruptions have caused large numbers of fatalities. Mt. Krakatau (Krakatoa) famously exploded in 1883, causing more than 36,000 deaths and affecting people around the world. Many years later, global temperatures decreased by 3 degrees Fahrenheit as a result, and skies were discoloured by the ash.

Today, volcanic activity is closely monitored by the Center of Volcanology and Geophysical Hazard Mitigation and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

FLOODING

Floods are the most pervasive hazard affecting Indonesia. While the impacts vary regionally, every part of the country sustains flood-related damages annually. Flooding in Indonesia is driven by annual rains during the monsoon season, which occurs between November and March, when Asian and Pacific air masses influence weather patterns. The areas at highest risk for flooding include the northeast coast of Sumatra, the north western coasts of Java, the western and southern regions of Kalimantan, the southern region of Sulawesi, and southern Papua. Rivers at a high risk of flooding include the Bengawan Solo and Benanain River. Other factors affecting flooding include deforestation upstream, changes in sedimentation, and paving over catchment areas.
NEWS HIGHLIGHT

FLOOD RESPONSE IN VIET NAM

HOME LIES IN RUINS AFTER THE FLASH FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES THAT HIT NORTHERN VIET NAM.

In early August 2017, flash floods caused landslides affecting the Nam-Ho Dien Bien district of Lai Chau Province, the Mu Chang Chai district of Yen Bai Province, and the Muong La district of Son La Province. The Government of Viet Nam, through the Central Steering Committee of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) of Viet Nam, swiftly responded to the disaster. The CCNDPC of Viet Nam reported 26 casualties and 15 people missing. The landslides left 231 houses completely destroyed, 425 houses damaged, 338.5 hectares of rice fields destroyed, national, provincial and district roads eroded, and 145 irrigation systems damaged.

The AHA Centre facilitated the delivery of ASEAN relief items, which arrived on 8 August 2017 at the Hanoi International Airport. The shipment of relief items contained 3,000 hygiene kits, 600 family kits, 300 kitchen sets, 300 shelter repair kits, one multi-storage unit, and one 16kva generator. The relief items were transported from the logistic stockpile in Subang, Malaysia, under the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA), supported by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

The flood response in Viet Nam coincided with the 50th year anniversary ASEAN on 8 August 2017. The AHA Centre commemorated the
Local communities affected by the floods and landslides make use of the relief items distributed.

- 26 Casualties
- 15 Missing People
- 231 Houses Destroyed
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- 338.5 Ha Rice Field Destroyed
- 145 Irrigation System Damaged
- 3,000 Hygiene Kits
- 600 Family Kits
- 300 Kitchen Sets
- 300 Shelter Repair Kits
- 16 KVA Generator
- USD 230,000 Relief Items

The birth of ASEAN by supporting the people of Viet Nam who were affected by flash floods and landslides. It was also the first time that the AHA Centre provided humanitarian assistance to Viet Nam. “The AHA Centre would like to thank the Government of Viet Nam for the trust and confidence it has placed in the AHA Centre. Today, we commemorate the birth of ASEAN 50 years ago. It is a meaningful moment for the AHA Centre as we join hands with the Government of Viet Nam to extend ASEAN’s solidarity to the people affected by flash floods and landslides. This is solidarity in action, in the spirit of ‘One ASEAN One Response’,” said Ms. Adelina Kamal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre, during the handover of the relief items to the affected communities.
The ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) was first held in November 2015 in Singapore. Following the Dialogue, the ASEAN Ministers in charge of Disaster Management adopted the “ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management,” which charts the strategic direction for ASEAN in disaster management over the next decade. Since then, the SPDDM has sharpened ASEAN’s policy direction, strategic engagements and thought leadership in disaster management.

The annual SPDDM is co-organised by the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), the ASEAN Secretariat, and the AHA Centre, in conjunction with the World Humanitarian Day commemorated every year on 19 August. This year, the ASEAN SPDDM was held on 17-18 August 2017, and focused on cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations in disaster management.

The ASEAN SPDDM 2017 commenced with the remarks of Director-General of Social Welfare of Lao PDR as ACDM Chair Mr. Prasong Vongkhamchanh; Singaporean Minister of Home Affairs Mr. K Shanmugam; and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr. Le Luong Minh. Opening remarks were followed by a high-level panel discussion on “ASEAN-UN Partnership Moving Forward”, featuring Assistant Secretary-General of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Executive Director of UN World Food Programme (WFP) Ms. Elizabeth Rasmusson, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, and SCDF Commissioner Mr. Eric Yap. In the afternoon, a thematic discussion on “Leveraging Data Technology for Enhanced Disaster Preparedness and Capability Development” was held featuring speakers from UN Pulse Lab Jakarta, Pacific Disaster Centre, Twitter and Indonesian Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team.

About 150 participants from ASEAN countries as well as ASEAN partners and stakeholders participated in the Dialogue. The Dialogue identified current and future humanitarian challenges in the region and came up with recommendations on how to promote inter-operability between ASEAN and UN in the area of disaster management. The Dialogue also identified ways to utilise the potentials of big data to benefit humanitarian work in the region, and the enabling policies and regulations as well as required standards and practices. Progress of recommendations will be reported at the next Dialogue in 2018.
Due to the increasing number and scale of natural disasters across the region, ASEAN is developing qualification standards of its disaster management professionals to build professionalism in disaster management through standardisation and certification. ASEAN Standards and Certification for Expertise in Disaster Management (ASCEND) has therefore become one of the priority activities under the ASEAN’s work programme on disaster management.

On 29-30 August 2017 in Singapore, the ACDM Working Group on Knowledge, Innovation and Management (WG-KIM), led by Indonesia as one of the Co-Chairs and supported by the ASEAN-US PROGRESS, convened a workshop to review the draft framework for the establishment of the ASCEND. “It is potentially groundbreaking in terms of standards development for disaster management. UN may wish to emulate,” Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall of UN OCHA tweeted during the first day of the ASCEND workshop.

Apart from representatives from the ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, the workshop also gathered representatives from UN and other international organisations to provide input for the draft ASCEND framework. The AHA Centre is expected to play a key role in the management of the ASCEND programme.

The outcome of the workshop was then presented to the 3rd Meeting of the ACDM WG-KIM, also held in Singapore. The meeting concluded with recommendations to finalise the draft ASCEND framework and invited ASEAN partners to support the implementation of the ASCEND programme, as well as other priority activities of the Working Group.

It is expected that the draft ASCEND framework will be presented to the 31st Meeting of the ACDM in mid-October 2017 in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR to kick-start the implementation.
THE ACE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS FROM VIET NAM

QUYEN PHAM

Tell us a bit about your work in the disaster management field. How long have you been in this field?

I have been working for the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) of Viet Nam for three years. I am in charge of supporting international cooperation between the government of Viet Nam and international organisations and foreign governments, in support of the NDMO’s role as the focal point in disaster management.

LE DIEN MINH

The ACE Programme plays a crucial role for me in gaining more understanding, experience, and knowledge in both regional and international disaster management. Thus, with the knowledge and skills gained from training courses, I hope I can better implement emergency responses and recovery activities, as well as strategic planning.

How do you plan on using the knowledge you have gained from the ACE Programme to help the community?

I am the head of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Control Division under the Sub-Department of Water Resources in Thua Thien Hue province, Viet Nam. I have been working in the field of disaster management for over 14 years.

How did you become a participant of the ACE Programme?

Considering my experience, knowledge, as well as my language capacity, I was nominated by the NDMO Viet Nam after they received an invitation from the AHA Centre.

What do you hope to achieve through the ACE Programme?

I would like to apply the experiences and knowledge gained to better respond to severe natural disasters. I believe that I can work well with international assistance after mastering the knowledge regarding procedures and mechanisms on humanitarian assistance.

I am planning to implement the knowledge I gained to organise training courses for local authorities and residents who are considered as being primary responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). In addition, I will transfer the knowledge I gained to my colleagues and apply it to the disaster management activities of the sub-department.
THE ACE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS FROM INDONESIA

HENRIKUS ADI HERNANTO

Tell us more about your work within the disaster management field. How long have you been in this field?

I have been working for the National Disaster Management Authority of the Republic of Indonesia (BNPB) since 2010, focusing on the Disaster Management Training Centre.

How did you become a participant of the ACE Programme?

I was recommended by the Deputy Minister of BNPB for Preparedness and Mitigation and then appointed by the Secretary-General of BNPB, to join the ACE Programme.

What do you hope to achieve through the ACE Programme?

DIAZ HAPSARI

Through the programme, I hope I can develop my knowledge and expand the network of connections between regional disaster management stakeholders and the BNPB.

How do you plan on applying the knowledge you have gained from the ACE Programme to help the community?

I am planning to use the knowledge and experiences that I gained by being a trainer facilitator, to help enhance the capacity of local government authorities at both the provincial level and the district level.

I am planning to develop a programme proposal and present it to my supervisor to further develop business management capacity in BNPB.
Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmod, the IFRC Under Secretary-General for Partnership, visited the AHA Centre on 11 August 2017 for the Leaders Talk session of the 4\textsuperscript{th} Batch of the ACE Programme. Dr. Jemilah’s great contributions to humanitarian issues have earned her wide recognition as a prominent leader in the humanitarian sector, and her dedication and compassion for others is admired by many. In 2013, Dr. Jemilah was awarded the prestigious Isa Award, one of the highest achievements for those working in this field.

During her 90-minute presentation, Dr. Jemilah shared stories about how her path to becoming a humanitarian worker was influenced by how she was raised by her parents. It was from them, she said, that she inherited a strong passion for helping others. She then went on to explain her decision to leave behind a medical career in order to be on the front lines of conflicts as well as natural disasters, before going on to establish Mercy Malaysia, one of the biggest humanitarian organisations in the region.

Her very interactive style, combined with her heart-felt stories, made for a captivating experience for all participants. During the Q&A session, participants enthusiastically asked her for tips, especially on leadership styles.

As an early pioneer of ERAT, she concluded her remarks with warm wishes for the IFRC and the AHA Centre to continue their collaboration in the humanitarian effort.

5 tips on becoming a good leader from Dr. Jemilah Mahmod:

- Always hungry to learn
- Don’t be afraid to speak the truth
- Be good at making friends
- Power is to be shared, just like knowledge
- Stay motivated

Executive Director of the AHA Centre, Ms. Adelina Kamal (left) gives the ERAT vest to Tan Sri Dr. Jemilah Mahmod (right) to recognise her contribution during the first ERAT deployment following Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, 2008.
What are your roles and responsibilities as the Director of Corporate Affairs at the AHA Centre?

Mainly my work is about putting processes, procedures and guidelines in place and ensuring compliance in executing the organisational goals, especially in financial management, human resources, and administration. I also work to ensure our human resources are well taken care of for business and operational continuity. I engage in all strategic decision-making processes for the AHA Centre.

international development context, I have been humbled to be able to contribute to the AHA Centre’s mission to achieve “One ASEAN, One Response” within the ASEAN region and beyond.

How do you translate the expertise you have gained over the years into help for the ASEAN community through the AHA Centre?

Mainly through activities to support knowledge sharing, capacity building, and other methods to ensure effective and efficient business processes are in place that can further enhance the operational efficiency of the ASEAN response through the AHA Centre.

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

I have been working in the humanitarian field since 2000 and have worked with various international organisations, not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also in Africa and the Caribbean.

What are some of your aspirations or hopes for the AHA Centre in the coming years?

I hope to enhance the business process, capacity, and reliability of the AHA Centre in supporting all humanitarian responses effectively and efficiently, while also supporting accountability and increased transparency.

What were the particular reasons or personal ambitions that led you to work in this field and at the AHA Centre in particular?

I am passionate about the humanitarian field and with my extensive experience in

THE OTHER SIDE is a special column where we interview professionals 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-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.

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.