

INSIGHTS

MYANMAR'S DISASTER OVERVIEW

THE OTHER SIDE

Mr. Bernardo Rafaelito R. Alejandro IV

*Director of Policy Development and
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Defense of the Republic of the Philippines*



ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE
NEWS BULLETIN
VOLUME 34

NEWS HIGHLIGHT



HUA HIN, THAILAND
14-21 November 2017

THE 8TH ERAT INDUCTION COURSE

NEWS STORY

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RESPONSE IN VIET NAM FOR
TYPHOON DAMREY

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS
HUMANITARIAN ACTION
NETWORK (ROHAN) 2017

ACE CORNER



ACE PROGRAMME
PARTICIPANTS FROM
THAILAND, PHILIPPINES
& SINGAPORE

DISASTER OUTLOOK

26 TOTAL DISASTERS
from 1 to 30 November 2017



NOVEMBER 2017

THE 8TH ERAT INDUCTION COURSE

HUA HIN, THAILAND

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

Many people may not be aware of the ASEAN region's special team that is always on standby to support disaster-affected countries through providing humanitarian assistance and goods during their time of need. Throughout such deployments, team members are not identified by their nation or their organisation, but rather come together collectively as one united ASEAN.

As a mechanism to strengthening its key objective, the 8th ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Induction Course came to a close last month with an intensive seven-day training in Thailand, of which is covered in this edition's *News Highlight*.

This edition also takes a look at the AHA Centre's response in Viet Nam for Typhoon Damrey. The *News Story* section also covers the Annual Meeting of the Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN) 2017, that recently took place in Ethiopia.

On *The Other Side*, we are lucky to have the opportunity to chat with Mr. Bernardo Rafaelito R. Alejandro IV, Director of the Policy Development and Planning Service of the Office of Civil Defence, in the Republic of the Philippines, as he shares stories related to his experience and expertise.

We also provide some more interesting insights into the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, through interviews with participants from Thailand, Philippines and Singapore, as well as a photo gallery regarding the programme

participants' visit to Malaysia and the Leader's Talk Session.

Finally, a look into Myanmar's disaster preparedness context takes place in this edition's *Insights*, which we hope will be beneficial for our readers.

We also welcome your suggestions, comments, and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact us at comm@ahacentre.org. Enjoy reading!

Sincerely,

The Column Editor





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ONE ASEAN
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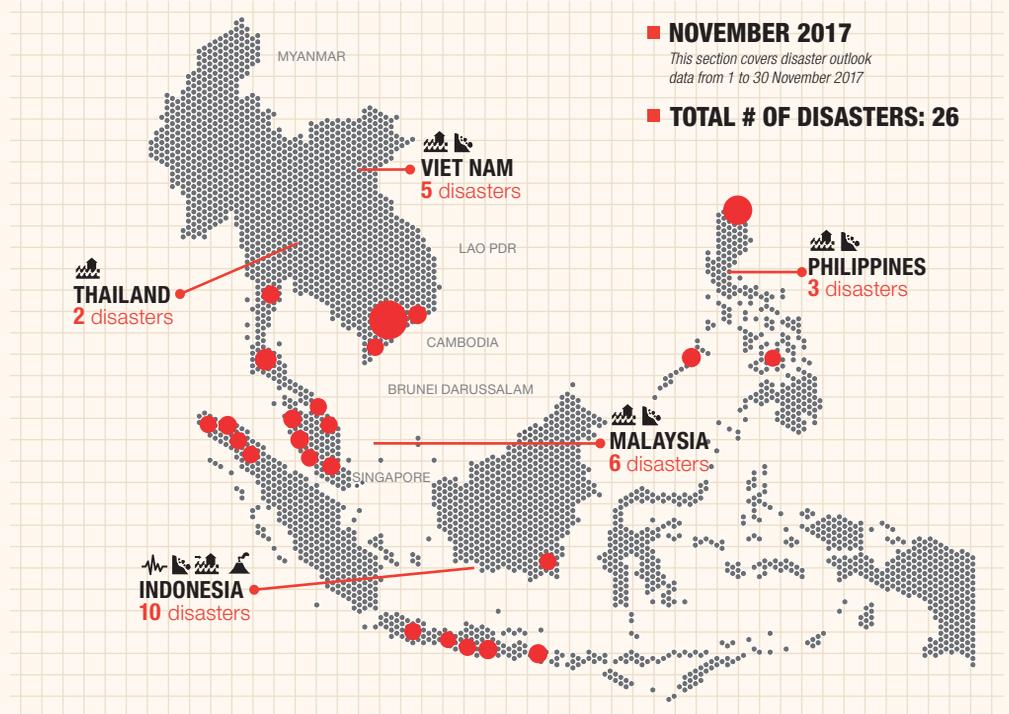
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MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK OF NOVEMBER 2017

Written by: Pang Qing Yuan



ESTIMATED NUMBERS



156,493 (see disclaimer)
Affected Houses



222
Injured People



179
Public Infrastructure



36
Missing People



153
Deaths



28,745 hectares
Agriculture



1,346,008
People Affected



26,660
Displaced People



27,935 cages
Aquaculture

DISCLAIMER:

AHA Centre estimation based on data and information shared by National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States, international organisations and news agencies. For each recorded-significant disaster, description and detail of data and information sources are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>.

SOURCE:

Basemap uses global administrative areas. Disaster information is generated from a range of sources, including the National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of each ASEAN Member State, international organisations, and news agencies. For each recorded significant disaster, description and detail of data and information sources are available at: <http://adinet.ahacentre.org/reports>.

DISASTER OUTLOOK

DISASTER COMPARISON NUMBER NOVEMBER 2017 // 2016



FLOOD



EARTHQUAKE



WIND



DROUGHT



LANDSLIDE



VOLCANO



STORM



GENERAL OVERVIEW

During the month of November 2017, the ASEAN region was affected by 26 disasters, with a majority formed by hydro-meteorological disasters. Resulting secondary hazards, such as landslides and rock-falls, were prominent following the onset of typhoons and storms.

Typhoon Damrey made landfall in Viet Nam, with extensive flooding and damage battering coastal and mountainous communities. Many were affected through extensive losses of agriculture and aquaculture resources and infrastructure. Authorities and communities rallied together to respond collectively, currently heading down the road to recovery.

Indonesia's Mount Agung erupted near the end of November, rekindling major concerns for residents and tourists on the island of Bali. An eruption across several days resulted in ash clouds that saw airport closures in Bali and Lombok, with the aviation industry taking great caution regarding the effect volcanic ash can have on jet engines. Large numbers of tourists were stranded, however extensive support was provided by the Government and tourism industries to ensure the safety and continuity of services. Lahars were also reported to the south of the volcano, with agriculture and residential premises experiencing extensive damage.

FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 2017

With the transit to Northeast Monsoon conditions, the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre is expecting the onset of the traditional dry season in the northern parts of the ASEAN region. In contrast, the southern areas of ASEAN are expected to experience occasional spells of prolonged moderate-to-heavy rainfall, accompanied by strong winds at times. The increase in rainfall through this region is expected to ensure regular hotspot activities are generally subdued.

With the increasing volcanic activity of Mount Agung, major concerns were raised regarding the dangers of pyroclastic and lahar flows. Experts are speculating that the impact of an impending eruption may be similar to the volcano's last eruption in 1963, when pyroclastic and lahar flows took the lives of an estimated 1,100 to 1,500 people.

INSIGHTS

MYANMAR'S DISASTER OVERVIEW

Written by: Prasasya Laraswati

Myanmar is affected by a variety of natural hazards, including destructive earthquakes, cyclones, flooding, landslides (particularly during the wet season that spans from June to September), and periodic droughts.

In 2015-2016, the El Nino phenomenon had a significant impact on Myanmar, with this El Nino phase considered one of the strongest since 1950. As a result, Myanmar experienced drought conditions, with intermittent cyclones registering in the 'very severe' category.

RECENT HISTORY OF NATURAL DISASTERS



AUGUST 2016:

MONSOON FLOODS

Flood waters gradually moved south towards the Ayeyarwady Delta, as continuous moderate to strong monsoon conditions created increased rainfall over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The disaster saw at least 377,000 people displaced from their homes in six states, with Magway being the most heavily-affected area.

JULY 2016:

MYANMAR FLOODS

Heavy rain across the country caused flooding and landslides in Rakhine, Sagaing, and Kachin. The Rakhine State Government reported that more than 24,306 people were displaced across the four most affected townships.

JUNE 2016:

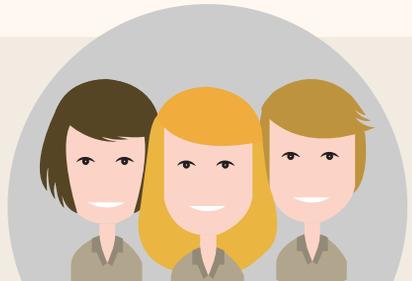
TROPICAL CYCLONE ROANU

The monsoon brought higher rainfall intensity and triggered flooding in several areas in Sagaing, Rakhine, Ayeyarwady, and Bago. Based on the data from Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) of Myanmar's Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the incidents caused eight deaths and affected 27,757 people.



LEAD GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN DISASTER RESPONSE

- Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR)
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)
- Armed Forces of Myanmar
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health



DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

- Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD)
- Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)
- ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)
- AHA Centre

NEWS HIGHLIGHT

THE 8TH ERAT INDUCTION COURSE

Written by: Grace Endina



The 48-hour simulation exercise is designed to resemble an actual disaster setting, including the presence of military checkpoints

The 8th ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Induction Course was conducted by the AHA Centre in Hua Hin, Thailand, on 14-21 November 2017. With host country support from Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), the AHA Centre was able to engage 32 participants from the 10 ASEAN Member States in this training round. The participants included representatives of government institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), as well as Red Cross and Red Crescent. Throughout the 100-hour induction course, participants learned about the cross-sectoral dimensions of disaster management – including, amongst many others, logistics management, emergency telecommunications, mental health well-being and cultural awareness.

The highlight of the 8th Induction Course was the extended, 48 hour simulation exercise. During this exercise, participants simulated the ASEAN-ERAT core function of supporting the affected ASEAN Member States. These included developing and

running the Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA), setting up a Reception Departure Centre (RDC), facilitating coordination meetings, conducting joint assessment and data analysis, facilitating incoming relief assistance, and also engaging with the media. The participants of the 8th ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course were given opportunity to simulate their tasks within a post-earthquake setting, and roleplay the key functions of ERAT, (including Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Logistics Manager, Information Manager, and Administration/Finance Manager). The successful conduct of the 8th ASEAN-ERAT Induction Course was accomplished with the support of partners from UN-OCHA, IFRC, Map Action, Telecom Sans Frontier (TSF), and the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team.

Finally, the course concluded with the graduation ceremony of the new ASEAN-ERAT members, with the ceremony undertaken in Bangkok on 22 November 2017. The Executive Director of the AHA Centre, members of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, and a representative from Mission of Japan to ASEAN, inducted the 32 new graduates into the ASEAN-ERAT team, increasing the overall membership of ASEAN-ERAT to 222 personnel.



The participants from Team Alpha present their response plan to the National Focal Point of the fictional affected Member States during a role-play session

THE AHA CENTRE'S RESPONSE IN VIET NAM FOR TYPHOON DAMREY

Written by: Ananda Gabriella



Mr. Anand Pillay, the Corporate Affairs Director of the AHA Centre facilitates media inquiries during the handover ceremony

Due to its geographical location, further accentuated by seasonal rains, Viet Nam, similar to other ASEAN region, often experience disasters caused by typhoons and tropical storms. In early November 2017, a severe tropical storm known as Typhoon Damrey, made landfall with catastrophic consequences in Viet Nam.

Typhoon Damrey first made landfall on Saturday morning, on 4 November, registering maximum sustained wind speeds of 139km/h (with gusts of up to 167km/h). The affected 14 provinces are mostly located in Viet Nam's southern region.

A week after Typhoon Damrey abated, as many as 4.33 million people were affected, with nearly 400,000 in need of assistance. As of 16 November 2017, the AHA Centre had reports of

110 deaths, 16 people missing, and 137,699 damaged houses – 3,455 of which were completely destroyed.

Through comprehensive coordination between the AHA Centre and respective parties – namely the Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (CCNDPC) of Viet Nam, the United Nations Viet Nam Country Team, and the International Federation of Red Cross – evacuees and affected people were provided the essentials relief items.

While the AHA Centre, through its Disaster Monitoring Response System (DMRS), predicted no additional risks from the typhoon, it recommended Viet Nam's affected communities remain constantly on the lookout for potential flooding due to heavy rainfall.

The AHA Centre continues to work closely with the CCNDPC to monitor the situation, and to gain a better understanding of the community's needs.

Through timely provision of assistance to people affected by Typhoon Damrey, the efforts and partnerships showcased ASEAN's solidarity in responding to large-scale disasters across the region. This has been a central theme during the six years since the establishment of the AHA Centre in November 2011.



ASEAN solidarity is emphasised at every disaster response, including the response to Typhoon Damrey

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS HUMANITARIAN ACTION NETWORK (ROHAN) 2017

Written by: Ananda Gabriella



The participants pose for a group photo during the Annual Meeting of the Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN) 2017 in Ethiopia (Photo Credit to ODI)

In February 2015, 13 regional organisational secretariats and centres whose work focus towards humanitarian activities, established the Regional Organisation Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN). The idea derived from the importance of shared experience and knowledge within the humanitarian field, and the need to have greater collaboration between regional organisations.

Last year, the AHA Centre had the honour of co-hosting the first ROHAN meeting, together with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). 2017's annual meeting took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between 7-9 November, this time co-hosted by the African Union.

The Addis Ababa ROHAN Conference focused towards the opportunity for networking amongst regional organisations and external stakeholders, with the goal of improved coordination of humanitarian activities in the future. Aligned with its function, the conference also served as a platform for humanitarian actors to share information regarding key common areas of interest.

The conference's first day was attended exclusively by ROHAN members, with members discussing and coming to an agreement on the next steps for ROHAN to achieve ultimate coordination within humanitarian efforts for all respective parties.

During the welcoming statement by H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union Commission, he stated that the world in general is facing rapid changes in the humanitarian landscape, with more than 3.5 million refugees and 15.5 million Internally Displaced Persons. It is considered to be an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that requires the full attention from all humanitarian actors.

"The Addis Ababa ROHAN meeting and Action Agenda should therefore explore ways and means by which we can strengthen this collaboration even further," he encouraged.

The Commissioner stated his expectation that ROHAN continue as a forum for all respective members to engage in more collective collaboration, an important element required for ROHAN to reach its ultimate outcomes.

"We need collective strategies to create and strengthen links to enable our systems to work closely in early warning, preparedness, and response," he added. "Technological advances in our regions should be a valuable resource based on our comparative advantages. We need to step up sharing of innovations through technological transfers."

PARTNERSHIP FOR ONE ASEAN, ONE RESPONSE

ASEAN and UN-ESCAP Collaborative Publication:

Handbooks on Space Applications for Disaster Management



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in close collaboration with United Nations partners, the AHA Centre, space agencies and National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) in ASEAN countries, have developed a series of handbooks regarding the use of innovative space applications to address disaster response in ASEAN countries. The series includes *'Sharing Space-based Information: Procedural Guidelines for Disaster Emergency Response in ASEAN Countries'*, *'Specific Hazards: Handbook on Geospatial Decision Support in ASEAN Countries'* and *'Innovations in Disaster Rapid Assessment: A Framework for Early Recovery in ASEAN Countries'*.

The series is designed to promote the institutional capacity of countries wishing to embrace innovative space-based information within their disaster risk management processes. Satellite-derived and geospatial information is often used to increase situational awareness during the aftermath of disasters. The Handbooks familiarise disaster managers on the systematic approach taken to leverage such innovative applications. They can be used as training manuals or reference guides, addressing the needs of both geospatial information providers and decision makers.

A set of instructions is also presented to mitigate possible confusion when dealing with multiple platforms for sharing information at national, regional and international levels. The Handbook on specific hazards informs disaster managers and geospatial information providers regarding decision-making considerations within different hazard contexts. This is due to the fact that the context of different hazard types require a range of theme-specific information

or data sets, that may not be immediately apparent or available within one single map or information product.

A robust, long-term recovery and reconstruction framework exists through formal post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs), which can take numerous weeks, if not months, to complete. Decision makers, meanwhile, often require informed estimations to make time sensitive decisions, facilitating the existence of rapid assessment processes. The handbook series seeks to improve sectoral coordination, and to promote the standardisation among the many agencies and actors conducting such assessments concurrently, while ensuring recovery and reconstruction considerations to promote early recovery.

Tapping into the extensive regional and international experience, ESCAP, in close collaboration with ASEAN counterparts, held extensive consultations throughout 2015 and 2016 to identify the range of operational needs. This was followed by simulation exercises during 2016 and 2017, based on emerging innovations from a variety of sectors, to refine the identified techniques and methodologies. Subsequent field-testing in various settings served to further refine the procedures, undertaken through focused consultation with the AHA Centre and its Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT). Some nations have already adopted these processes as standard procedure, and many others have expressed their desire to adopt similar practices.

The handbooks can be accessed here:

Sharing Space-based Information:

Procedural Guidelines for Disaster Emergency Response in ASEAN Countries
http://bit.ly/spacebased_information

Specific Hazards: Handbook on Geospatial Decision Support in ASEAN Countries
http://bit.ly/specific_hazards

Innovations in Disaster Rapid Assessment: a Framework for Early Recovery in ASEAN Countries
http://bit.ly/recovery_innovations

For more information, please contact:

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THE ACE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PHILIPPINES



RYAN ROXAS

Operation Centre of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Office of Civil Defense



MARIA ESTRELLA

*Civil Defense Officer,
Office of Civil Defense*

Through the ACE Programme, your leadership qualities are being developed. What do you think are the essential qualities that a leader in the disaster management field should own?

R From the sessions of “Leaders Talk”, I learned that people management is the most essential quality that a leader in the disaster management field should have - because one should equip themselves with the proper skills in managing people, as people are your main assets.

M I think a leader in the disaster management field should be knowledgeable and experienced, as well as capable of seeing the bigger picture. Someone who can basically lead not just other people, but also lead themselves. Their ability to communicate and listen is also essential when leading in a disaster situation.

What do you wish to obtain through the ACE Programme? What aspects about yourself do you wish to improve?

R Enhancing my knowledge in the field of disaster management is my main objective in joining ACE Programme. I wanted to capacitate myself more holistically in the field of disaster management.

M Through the programme, I wish to enhance my knowledge and skills in disaster management so that I will be able to share the things I have learned from my first hand experiences in responding to disasters. Other than that, I want to also improve my communication skills so that I will be more confident to speak up and share my thoughts and ideas.

THE ACE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS FROM SINGAPORE



MUHAMMAD AZHAR

Fire and Rescue Officer at Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

Based on your experience in the disaster management/humanitarian field, what do you feel is the most important thing to remember when managing a disaster?

A It is important for emergency responders to remain calm when faced with uncertainties in a disaster. Ability to be in control of yourself and understand the situation of your surroundings, would give a better judgement

of the situation - hence, it helps you make the right decision. Panic and emotion should be avoided as it could impair the assessment of the situation.

What do you wish to obtain through the ACE Programme? What aspects about yourself do you wish to improve?

A The programme has allowed me to learn and understand much about the humanitarian response system. On top of that, it also allows me to foster relationships with the participants and trainers, indirectly building a

network for future collaborations. For personal improvement, I need to become more prepared to face future disasters, and be ready for when they happen. Being more prepared ahead of time can help a complex situation become much easier.

THE ACE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS FROM THAILAND



SOPHITA THANYALAKMETHA

*Research and International Cooperation Bureau,
Department of Disaster Prevention and
Mitigation (DDPM)*



JITTAPORN WILAIJIT

*Research and International Cooperation
Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and
Mitigation (DDPM)*

Based on your experience in the disaster management/humanitarian field, what do you feel is the most important thing to remember when managing a disaster?

S The most important thing is to think of a way to reduce loss of life, as well as social, economic and environmental assets as much as possible, as it is also the objective of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

J I believe the most important aspects to remember are, first of all, information management; secondly, communication; then lastly, coordination. These are the three key aspects that disaster managers should have in the forefront of their mind when managing a disaster.

Through the ACE Programme, your leadership qualities developed. What do you think are the essential qualities that a leader in the disaster management field should own?

S During crisis, everyone tends to work under pressure and it is of those time that having a good leader is most needed. Therefore, being able to act in a professional manner and make appropriate decision especially during those hard times is one of the most important qualities that a leader should have.

J A good self-management that includes knowledge and attitude. I think those are the most essential qualities that a leader in disaster management field should possess.



H.E. Kazuo Sunaga, Japan Ambassador to ASEAN, shares his leadership experience with 17 ACE participants and the AHA Centre's staff



During the Leaders Talk, Amb. Kazuo Sunaga reminds us the importance of preparedness in disaster management



New Zealand Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Stephanie Lee shares her wisdom as a leader who is responsible for the safety of her staff during crisis



Amb. Stephanie Lee emphasises that building relationship is an integrated part of leadership



The participants from Lao PDR and Myanmar work together in handling the relief items



Loading exercise on C-130 with the Royal Malaysian Air Force



Participants of ACE Programme visit ASEAN's regional stockpile during the humanitarian logistic training in Subang, Malaysia

THE OTHER SIDE

Mr. Bernardo Rafaelito R. Alejandro IV

Director of Policy Development and Planning Service of the Office of Civil Defence of the Republic of the Philippines



The Column had the honour of interviewing Mr. Bernardo Rafaelito R. Alejandro IV for this 34th edition. Throughout this interview he shares his experiences and personal reflections gathered throughout his almost 16 years working in the field of Disaster Management.

Looking back to 16 years ago, what attracted you to work in the disaster management field in the first place?

Prior to joining the Office of Civil Defence (OCD), I was with the Philippines Senate as a Legislative officer. I did not know that the OCD was active in handling disaster management. My background is actually Public Administration, so I would say that my journey into the field was quite accidental, but I am happy it went that way.

What is the biggest challenge in performing your role in OCD?

The biggest challenge would be resource management. This is because we are divided into small teams, but face high expectations. At the moment, we are still in the transition phase, expanding our organisation, and that requires a lot of resources. Really, managing resources is a tough challenge.

In terms of the archipelagic landscape of the Philippines, does this also create challenges for you?

Yes, it is a challenge for deploying resources from one island to another. A plane sometimes works as the transportation mode, but large boats are primarily suitable for our logistics. Specific requests or requirements regarding specified transportation modes can also pose a challenge.

In general, what would you like people to know about disaster management?

Disaster management is really a concern for everybody, not just the government. In the Philippines context, disaster management must start from the grassroots, as it is the communities who are most affected by disasters.

People at the grassroots level need to be equipped with better understanding on how to initially support themselves before anyone else. It is important for their capacity to be developed. Following that, as disaster management officials, we also need to engage local leaders in order for them to be capable of properly guiding their own communities during disaster.

This is then completed with resources from officials and disaster management actors – not only from the government, but also from the private sector. Having all parties on-board creates an environment for success.

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

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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.