



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

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ROAD TO **ARDEX-23**

HIGHLIGHT

ROAD TO ARDEX-23:

Final Exercise Planning Team (EPT) Meeting and Referee Training for the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2023

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook for May 2023

PARTNERSHIP

Building Resilience of Women and Other Vulnerable Groups through Capacity Building

THE COLUMN ⁸²

THIS ISSUE:
ROAD TO ARDEX-23: FINAL EXERCISE PLANNING TEAM (EPT) MEETING AND REFEREE TRAINING FOR THE ASEAN REGIONAL DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIMULATION EXERCISE 2023



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02 | HIGHLIGHT

The Final Exercise Planning Team (EPT) Meeting and Referee Training for the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2023 (ARDEX-23) recently took place from 8 to 11 May 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



ONE ASEAN
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HI READERS,

Welcome to the 82nd edition of The Column, brought to you by AHA Centre. In this edition, we are excited to bring you a collection of insightful articles and updates that reflect our ongoing commitment to disaster resilience and management in the ASEAN region.

Our Highlight segment delves into a pivotal event – the Final Exercise Planning Team (EPT) Meeting and Referee Training held in preparation for the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2023 (ARDEX-23). Turning our focus to the ever-pressing concern of disaster preparedness, our Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook for May 2023 provides an overview of the disasters that occurred during the month.

In our Insight section – we bring to you the AHA Centre Podcast Series "At The Crossroads". This platform offers a unique auditory experience, bringing together experts, practitioners, members of ASEAN's very own ASEAN-ERAT to discuss the evolving landscape of disaster management. Tune in to listen to these captivating conversations!

Partnership takes centre stage as we explore one of the AHA Centre's newest projects supported by Canada, a crucial endeavor that aims to build resilience among women and other vulnerable groups through capacity building.

In line with the spirit of capacity building, we are also pleased to share details about the ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course in the AHA Centre Diary. This course exemplifies our commitment to developing skilled leaders who can effectively lead ASEAN emergency response efforts during times of crisis.

Finally in The Other Side, we delve into the personal experiences that make up the vibrant tapestry of the AHA Centre. Through the Internship Stories by Aulia Dara Nur Arifin and Andreane Tampubolon, we gain insights into the enriching journey of young talents contributing to our mission.

Enjoy this edition of The Column, and as always, stay safe and informed.

The Editor



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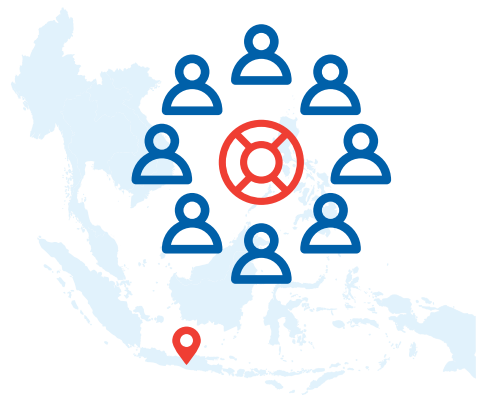
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ROAD TO ARDEX-23:

FINAL EXERCISE PLANNING TEAM (EPT) MEETING AND REFEREE TRAINING FOR THE ASEAN REGIONAL DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIMULATION EXERCISE 2023

The Final Exercise Planning Team (EPT) Meeting and Referee Training for the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2023 (ARDEX-23) recently took place from 8 to 11 May 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



Hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia (BNPB) and the AHA Centre, as co-organisers, the Final EPT Meeting served as a continuation of the First EPT Meeting held in February 2023. During this gathering, the ASEAN Member States, BNPB Indonesia, AHA Centre, ASEAN Secretariat, and other stakeholders convened to solidify the Master Scenario Events List (MSEL), determine the level of participation from ASEAN Member States, establish the exercise control team structure, and make necessary logistics arrangements. These crucial elements are vital to ensuring the success of ARDEX-23, as they lay the foundation for effective coordination and response during the exercise. Held on 8-9 May 2023, the Meeting was officially opened by Deputy Minister of Logistics and Equipment of BNPB Indonesia Dr. Lilik Kurniawan, ST., M.Si.

Following the EPT Meeting, on 10-11 May a Referee Training session was conducted to define the roles and responsibilities of referees, and to standardise the evaluation process, and equip Referees with the necessary tools and provided with guidance to fulfil their tasks effectively, guaranteeing a seamless exercise. The Referees will play a crucial role during ARDEX-23, closely observing the exercise at both the Strategic and Operational Levels in order to gain insights that will serve as valuable references and planning parameters for future ARDEX exercises.



Planners and referees of ARDEX-23 from the ASEAN Member States received a short briefing from BNPB Indonesia during a visit to Sultan Agung Stadium in Bantul, Yogyakarta, which will be the location of Command Post Exercise (CPX) and Field Training Exercise (FTX).

Written by: Moch Syifa, Gladys Respati | Photo credits: AHA Centre

With the goal of testing and evaluating ASEAN's emergency response and disaster management mechanisms, ARDEX is a full-scale simulation exercise that aims to enhance regional coordination and strengthen disaster resilience. The event, scheduled to be held from 31 July to 4 August 2023 at the Sultan Agung Stadium in Bantul, is expected to mark another significant milestone in the ASEAN calendar. Supported by the European Union through EU-SAHA, ARDEX-23 is poised to reinforce national and regional preparedness while facilitating a collaborative response to disaster emergencies.

ARDEX-23 holds significant importance in strengthening national, regional, and international coordination to achieve disaster resilience. Through the comprehensive testing, practising, reviewing, and evaluating of ASEAN's emergency response and disaster management mechanisms, including the SOPs for the Coordination of EMTs, MNCC, and the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (AMRG on

HADR), this regional exercise aims to enhance coordination capacity and preparedness. ARDEX exercises, which are conducted regularly every two years, have become key events in the ASEAN calendar and continue to contribute to the region's disaster resilience efforts.

WITH ARDEX-23 ON THE HORIZON, THE AHA CENTRE, BNPB INDONESIA, ASEAN MEMBER STATES, AND STAKEHOLDERS ARE GEARING UP TO PREPARE FOR THIS VITAL REGIONAL EXERCISE. AS ARDEX CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, IT REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPAREDNESS AND COLLABORATION IN EFFECTIVELY HANDLING DISASTER EMERGENCIES IN THE ASEAN REGION AND BEYOND.



Planners and referees of ARDEX-23 during the Opening Ceremony of the Final EPT Meeting and Referee Training in Yogyakarta.

1 Executive Director of the AHA Centre Mr. Lee Yam Ming (Centre) discussed the plan for CPX and FTX during the site visit.

2 Referee training was held with the aim to have the same understanding and to standardise the evaluation process during the actual ARDEX.



MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE

MAY 2023

GENERAL REVIEW OF MAY 2023

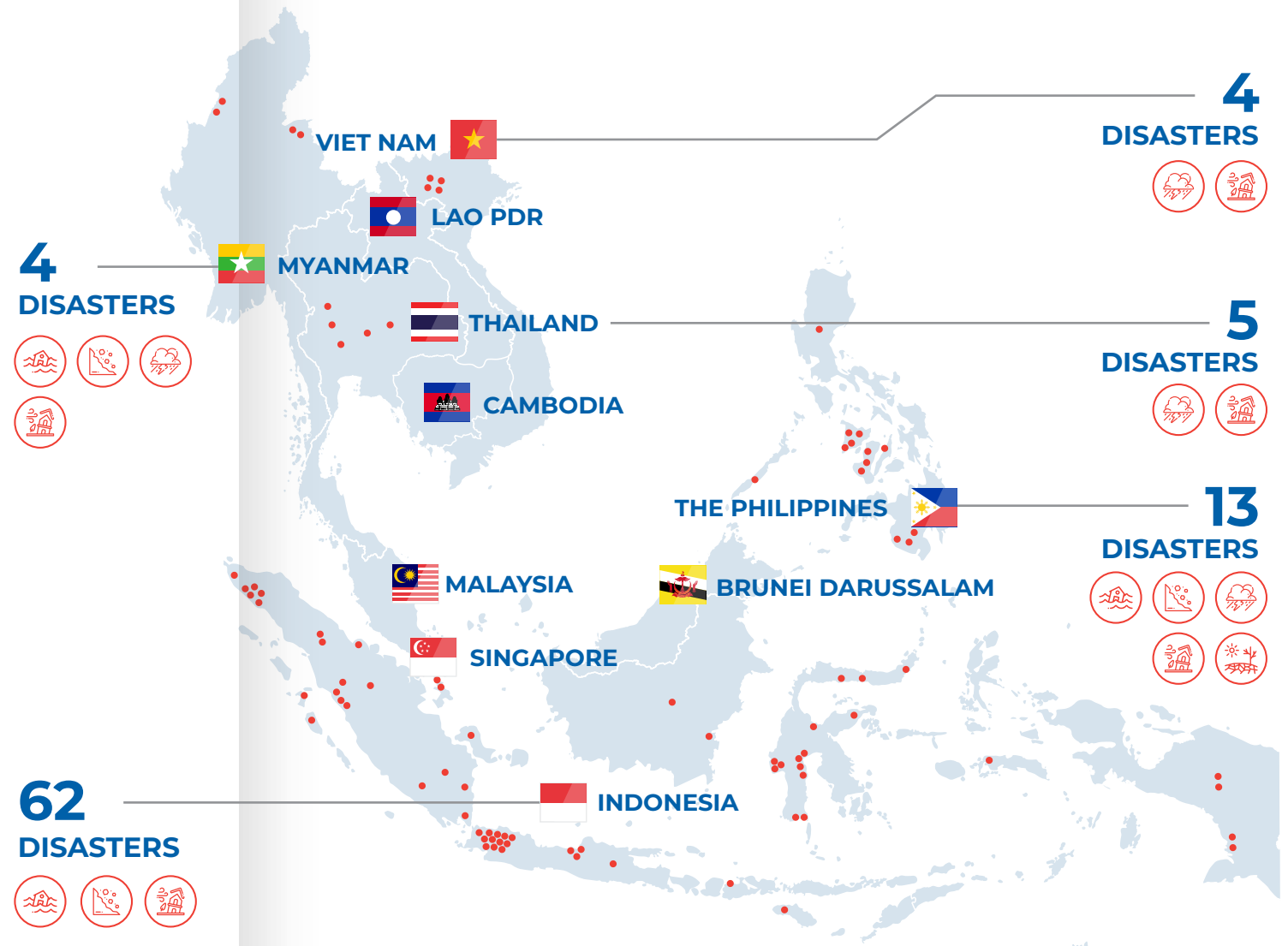
For the month of May 2023, a total of **88** disasters were reported. The ASEAN Member States that were affected are Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Most of the disasters (70%) occurred in Indonesia but only accounted for 8% of the affected persons (around 154,000). Notably, Myanmar accounted for most of the affected persons despite reporting only 1 disaster event—Tropical Cyclone MOCHA with 63% of the total reported affected persons for the month of May. The share of the disaster-affected people for the other ASEAN Member States are as follows: (1) Philippines-11%, (2) Thailand-18.12% and (3) Viet Nam-0.03%. May 2023 saw disasters **affecting 284 per 100,000 people*** and **displacing 137 per 100,000 people* in the region**, which were 3 times and 15 times higher respectively compared to the previous month.

Most of the disasters that have occurred in May 2023 are floods (51%) and is consistently the most recorded type of disaster for May of the previous year and May on a five-year average (2018-2022). The reported disasters in the region for May 2023 in comparison to the historical data (average for May 2018-2022) indicates that there were about **1.4x more reported disasters; 4.8x more people affected; 66x more people internally displaced; 7x more houses affected to some extent; 27x more lives lost; and 3.5x less people suffering injuries;**

Geophysically, **24 significant earthquakes** (Magnitude ≥ 5.0) were reported by Indonesia's Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG), Thailand Meteorological Department (TMD), and the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Mount Semeru (Alert Level III), Anak Krakatau (Alert Level III), Ili Lewotolok (Alert Level II), Dukono (Alert Level II), and Ibu (Alert Level II) in Indonesia and Taal (Alert Level 2) and Kanlaon Volcanoes (Alert Level 1) were reportedly tectonically active (erupting lava or releasing gas or generating seismic activity) throughout the month of May 2023.

*computed based on 2023 population data from worldometers.com



283 / 100,000 AFFECTED BY DISASTERS	137 / 100,000 DISPLACED DUE TO DISASTERS
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Written by: Keith Paolo Landicho, Sadhu Zukhruf Janottama, Lawrence Anthony Dimailig

ANALYSIS

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), compared to the average value from 2001-2022, during May 2023, less to near-average rainfall was experienced in Mainland Southeast Asia but more to near-average for the Maritime Continent. The largest difference (driest condition) from the average rainfall was observed over southern Myanmar and southern Thailand. Despite these dry conditions detected over Myanmar, a MAJOR disaster was caused by Tropical Cyclone MOCHA in its western and northwestern regions. As shown in Figure 1.a and 1.b, despite majorly exhibiting drier conditions, the areas within the track of cyclone MOCHA exhibited drier than normal conditions.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), Southwest Monsoon conditions are expected to be established from June 2023 and persist until August 2023. These conditions traditionally bring rain often resulting in widespread and persistent shower activities in the northern ASEAN region. Over the southern ASEAN region, the Southwest Monsoon seasons is characterised by drier conditions compared to other times of the year, as the monsoon rain band typically lies further north from the Equator.

For the next 3 months, (June-July-August 2023), an increased chance of below-normal rainfall is predicted for much of the southern ASEAN region, with highest likelihood over the southern Maritime Continent. ENSO neutral conditions are present but will likely transition into El Nino in the next few months. Warmer-than-normal temperature is predicted for much of the ASEAN region.



DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

■ BLUE | MAY 2023

■ RED | MAY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE*

	BLUE MAY 2023	RED MAY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE*
Drought	1	-
Flood	45	40
Landslide	14	5
Storm	9	6
Volcano	-	1
Wind	19	11
TOTAL	88	63

Cambodia	-	3
Indonesia	62	44
Myanmar	4	-
Malaysia	-	2
Philippines	13	6
Thailand	5	6
Viet Nam	4	2
TOTAL	88	63

*(covering the period of Weeks 18-21 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)
Values in column are rounded-off to whole figure

DISCLAIMER

The AHA Centre's estimation is based on data and information shared by National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) and other relevant agencies from ASEAN Member States, international organisations, and news agencies. Further information on each recorded significant disaster, description, and detail of data and information are available at: <https://adinet.ahacentre.org/report/>

Note: The qualitative outlook is assessed for the region in general and based on the latest runs from models provided by the SEA RCC-Network LRF node. For specific updates on the national scale, the relevant ASEAN National Meteorological and Hydrological Services should be consulted.

Sources: ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet), ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS), ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB) – Indonesia, Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) – Malaysia, Department of Disaster Management (DDM) – Myanmar, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) – Philippines, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) – Thailand, Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) – TMD, Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG) – Indonesia, Pusat Vulkanologi dan Mitigasi Bencana Geologi (PVMBG) – Indonesia, Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) – Philippines, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) - Philippines

REGIONAL TALLY

MAY 2023

MAY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

	MAY 2023	MAY IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE
Number of recorded significant disasters	88	63
Number of affected people	1,952,564	403,419
Number of internally displaced people	945,997	14,251
Number of damaged houses	310,763	46,631
Number of casualties	162	6
Number of injured people	161	46
Number of missing people	1	-

(covering the period of Weeks 18-21 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)

AHA CENTRE PODCAST SERIES: AT THE CROSSROADS

The AHA Centre, with support from *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)*, worked to broaden its communications and outreach, including on social media. One of the results of this cooperation was a series of podcasts released in mid-2021 as part of the AHA Centre's 10th Anniversary celebration. The podcast series entitled "AHA Centre at the Crossroads" involved discussions with the AHA Centre's founders, builders, colleagues and partners, and discussed the AHA Centre's 10-year journey from inception to transition. The guests described their experiences in working together with the Centre and expressed their hopes for the future in the next decade of action.






Written by: Moch Syifa

The first season is already airing and accessible at the AHA Centre's Spotify channel – AHA Centre at the Crossroads. Meanwhile, the second season focused on sharing experiences from members of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) as ASEAN's rapid response team and was released in February 2023.





In the second season, four ASEAN-ERAT members from Thailand, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia shared their experiences of becoming ASEAN-ERAT members, particularly when they were deployed to the disaster affected countries. Being deployed to different countries has always been a challenge for them. Not only conducting rapid needs assessment in the affected areas, but the ASEAN-ERAT members also need to understand the culture and other social aspects.

The AHA Centre Podcast has become an alternative channel for the AHA Centre to communicate to its partners and stakeholders on various topics in this digital era.

SEASON 1

	<p>EPISODE 1:</p> <p>Conversations Between the AHA Centre's Leaders, Part 1: Red Ferrari and Tesla Model X</p>		<p>EPISODE 4:</p> <p>Conversations with a Humanitarian Giant, the IFRC: Part 2</p>
	<p>EPISODE 2:</p> <p>Leaders' Conversation Part 2 with Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall</p>		<p>EPISODE 5:</p> <p>Transitions: The Intersecting Past and Future</p>
	<p>EPISODE 3:</p> <p>Conversations with a Humanitarian Giant, the IFRC: Part 1</p>	<p>The "AHA Centre at the Crossroads" podcast series is available on Spotify.</p> <p>▶ Click each episode to listen</p>	

SEASON 2

	<p>EPISODE 1:</p> <p>Becoming ASEAN-ERAT with Palida Puapun from Thailand</p>		<p>EPISODE 3:</p> <p>ASEAN-ERAT in Action with Siti Masnur Juraini from Brunei Darussalam</p>
	<p>EPISODE 2:</p> <p>The ASEAN-ERAT Mission with Jose Angelo Mangoang from the Philippines</p>		<p>EPISODE 4:</p> <p>The ASEAN-ERAT of Tomorrow with Adiratna Wira Adnan from Malaysia</p>



BUILDING RESILIENCE OF WOMEN AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING



Global Affairs Canada

Affaires mondiales Canada

Background of the Project

The project 'Improving ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance Capacity in Multi Hazard' – funded by the Government of Canada (Global Affairs' Canada) – launched in April 2022, will run for five years, from 2022 – 2027.

One of the guiding principles of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021 – 2025 is on Gender and Inclusion. This principle inculcates a whole-of-society approach in disaster management that leaves no one behind by recognizing the key roles and unique needs of the communities, especially those that are most affected during disasters, including women and other vulnerable groups. As one of the implementors of the AADMER Work Programme 2021 – 2025, the AHA Centre proposed this project to further expand the capacity of ASEAN Member States and Local Partners through a multi-sectoral approach to systematically integrate such gender and protection considerations into disaster management.

Through this project, the AHA Centre supports ASEAN Member States and Local Partners to recognize and set the priorities for indicators and targets related to protection, gender, and inclusiveness (PGI). This project believes that building resilience of women, and other vulnerable groups within the national and regional resilience will help in addressing and mitigating socio-economic impact of the disasters.



Participants from the ASEAN Member States exchange knowledge on their experiences related to Protection, Gender, and Inclusiveness at the Exchange Forum held in February 2023

Written by: Pwint Mon Swe, Htet Wai Zin, Lawrence Anthony Dimallig

The Project adopts the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and formulated the ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in the ASEAN Region. Subsequently, a new AADMER Technical Working Group on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (TWG-PGI) was established in 2021 to support the mainstreaming of the gender and social inclusion guiding principles throughout the disaster management efforts in the region.

Main Components of the Project

The Project has three main components, among others, (i) Enhanced Regional Coordination Mechanism to respond to multiple types of disasters, which integrates PGI, Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability measures; (ii) Improved Knowledge of ASEAN responders in addressing the needs and interests of vulnerable groups during emergency periods; and (iii) Improved disaster management and emergency response practices in ASEAN Member States.



Upcoming activities of 2023

As of February 2023,

the Canada Project had its first series of activities—Exchange Forum on ASEAN’s Practices on Data Disaggregation in Disaster Management: A Way Towards Protection, Gender, and Inclusiveness (PGI), and the 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of the Project, which were held in Da Nang, Viet Nam on 22-24 February 2023. The PGI Exchange Forum is designed to help participants exchange knowledge on PGI experiences, which will be a key principle for the achievement of this project. The PGI Exchange Forum and the 1st PSC Meeting were held back-to-back with the 5th Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (TWG-PGI), and 5th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation (ACDM WG P&M).

Starting Quarter 2 of 2023 (April – June),

the project aims to conduct Consultation and Desk Review on expanding the existing New Risk Scenario. This activity falls under the outcome of “Enhancing Regional Coordination Mechanism to respond to multiple types of disaster which integrates PGI, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability measures”. Within this activity, the project aims to develop a new Disaster Risk Scenario Study, adding to the three existing scenarios in the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP). The new Disaster Risk Scenario will focus on Transboundary Flood within the Mekong sub-region. Additionally, the scenario will integrate PGI, Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability as part of the Project’s key thematic areas.

In Quarter 3 of 2023 (July – August),

the project intends to organize consultation workshops to validate the New Risk Scenario. Within the same quarter, the project further aims to conduct Capacity Building on PGI, focusing on the exchange of experiences among ASEAN Member States through cross-learning.

In the last Quarter 4 of 2024 (October – December),

the project aims to deploy experts from the Member States to other Member States as part of Capacity Development Support.



The project was launched in a Signing Ceremony at the AHA Centre on 23 June 2022



The 1st Project Steering Committee Meeting was held on 24 February 2023 in Da Nang, Viet Nam

Canada’s Support

The Project Management Team has been recruited in Jakarta, Indonesia, and have begun their work alongside the Disaster Monitoring & Analysis Team (DMA) in the AHA Centre. The Team is currently made up of a Project Officer and Project Assistant, who will implement the project’s activities and strategy with support from the Government of Canada and experts from the AHA Centre’s partners, including UNWOMEN, LACER, and SDC.

This forms an exciting journey for the AHA Centre and the ASEAN Member States to ensure this initiative further contributes to the envisions of AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025. The AHA Centre, through the Canada-funded project, looks forward to working closely with the Government of Canada, NDMOs, ASEAN Member States, The ASEAN Secretariat, and AHA Centre partners, to integrate PGI, CCA, and ES into the efforts of increasing capacity, enhancing standby arrangement with new disaster scenario, and further increasing collaboration and partnership will increase resiliency of multiple types of disasters within AMS and Local Partners.

THE ASEAN-ERAT LEVEL 3 (TEAM LEADER) PILOT COURSE



Equipping Leaders for Effective Emergency Response

The ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course was held in Bogor, Indonesia, from 8 to 15 May 2023 with the support of the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Hosted by the Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), the Pilot Course was attended by 11 experienced ASEAN-ERAT Members from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Viet Nam, and the AHA Centre.



Strengthening the ASEAN-ERAT System for Disaster Response

Since its establishment in 2008, the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) has been deployed to numerous emergency response missions across seven countries in the region. The team has played a pivotal role in providing leadership and coordination services during emergencies, contributing to ASEAN centrality in times of crisis.

In order to strengthen the ASEAN-ERAT system for disaster preparedness and response in line with the ASEAN Vision 2025, the ASEAN-ERAT personnel capacity-building has been focused at three levels: In-Country Team (Level 1), Specialist (Level 2), and Team Leader (Level 3). To achieve this, the AHA Centre has conducted several advanced courses, including rapid needs assessment, information management, humanitarian logistics, humanitarian civil-military coordination, and early recovery assessment.

Written by: Gladys Respati, Madiatri Silalahi, Anggaripeni Mustikaswiri | Photo credit: AHA Centre



ASEAN-ERAT put their skills to the test during the 48-hour Simulation Exercise (SIMEX)

The ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course marks a significant milestone in the continuous strengthening of ASEAN-ERAT. As the frequency and severity of natural disasters in the region increase, the need for a well-trained and capable response team becomes ever more crucial. Thus, the ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 course aimed to develop experienced humanitarian response leaders with strong leadership skills who can assume authority and lead ASEAN response operations on the ground.

A customised course curriculum for Team Leaders was developed to address the specific needs and context of the ASEAN-ERAT. The curriculum focuses on teaching nine essential leadership traits, including Command and Control, Knowledge in Disaster Management, Negotiation Skills, Presentation Skills, Communication, Coordination, Reporting to the AHA Centre, and Financial Management.



Building Skills and Testing Leadership

At the Closing Ceremony of the ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 Pilot Course, Executive Director of the AHA Centre Mr. Lee Yam Ming congratulated the participants for being the first batch of ASEAN-ERAT Members to be trained as future Team Leaders. He expressed his hope that participants would continue to lend their strength to the ASEAN-ERAT within and beyond the ASEAN region. "Not only by responding to the call for deployment and leading ASEAN-ERAT in the field, but by also guiding and nurturing future ERAT Team Leaders and Members as role models and mentors," he added.

Participants of the ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course themselves found the course to be a great opportunity to gain new skills and prepare for the realities of leading a team on the field. "The best thing is that there is a lot of emphasis and focus on the soft skills element of leadership," said Ihsan Fauzano, an ASEAN-ERAT Member from Indonesia who participated in the Pilot Course. "We learned communication, negotiation, decision making, team dynamics, delegating. And for the last 3 days, we learned stress management and time management during the Simulation Exercise."

Dr. Janaki Rani, an ASEAN-ERAT Batch 8 member from Malaysia, added that the training of ASEAN-ERAT Team Leaders is crucial to ensure a successful mission. "The outcome of the mission would be better when we train leaders who are capable of handling the entire team, produce good reports, and can give good information that helps the AHA Centre and affected Member States to make good decisions, leading to an effective disaster response," said Dr. Janaki.

The ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course represents a significant step in strengthening the ASEAN-ERAT's ability to respond effectively to natural disasters. By developing competent and experienced team leaders, ASEAN-ERAT aims to enhance its coordination and leadership services during emergencies. The course not only equips participants with essential skills and knowledge but also fosters a network of capable leaders who will guide and nurture future ASEAN-ERAT team members. With continued support from partners and a commitment to continuous improvement, ASEAN-ERAT is well-positioned to meet the challenges posed by the increasing occurrence of natural disasters in the region.



11 ASEAN-ERAT Members successfully completed the ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course



Watch the highlights of the ASEAN-ERAT Level 3 (Team Leader) Pilot Course:

<https://youtu.be/qqeeFc5qa3Q>





INTERNSHIP STORY:

AULIA DARA NUR ARIFIN

My name is Aulia Dara Nur Arifin (Dara), and I first discovered the AHA Centre many years ago when I was a fresh graduate looking for a job. Being involved with a humanitarian or development organisation has always been my goal, so I bookmarked the AHA Centre's vacancy page, and it has remained there ever since.



Years passed, and after a somewhat life-altering decision to resign from my previous job and enrol for a master's degree in Social Welfare, I visited that page again and was delighted to find a vacancy for an internship with the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) Project, which I applied for in a heartbeat.

Long story short, I received an acceptance email during one of my classes, which luckily was online; otherwise, I would have to excuse myself to express my excitement. Thus began the 6-month-journey of my internship at the AHA Centre.

Previously working in a profit industry and being out of touch with a humanitarian environment made me wary, and I questioned myself numerous times if I could be of help to the project, especially since it focuses on the certification process for disaster management, an area I was eager to learn about but was far from understanding. I was very glad this thought was immediately shattered as the team, consisting of Mas Andrew, Excel and Kak Haura, guided me thoroughly.

They not only introduced the project and my responsibilities and tasks within this internship, but also explained how a regional organisation/project operates, maintain its relationship with Member States and other stakeholders, as well as how they carry out their mission through various projects within the AHA Centre.

Not long after I joined, I was greeted with ASCEND's first project, which was the first Assessor Training in Viet Nam, exposing me firsthand to a regional project's preparation prior to an event. Although I didn't attend the training myself, I had a very strong sense of belonging as I was included in every step of the event, an amenity I continued to feel throughout my internship period. Soon after this event concluded, I was greeted with the project's next event, which was the Benchmarking Visit to the Republic of Korea. Even though the logistical and administrative work were similar to the previous event, the objective was different, and I got to be more involved in the development of its handbook to facilitate the visit.



Written by: Aulia Dara Nur Arifin, ASCEND Intern

Upon completing the Benchmarking Visit, I was again greeted by the project's final big event of the year, the ASCEND Certification Trial Simulation and Evaluation Workshop. It was around this time that my understanding of the project and its objectives became more solid. The prior activities, such as the Assessor Training, the development of the toolbox and its competency standards, as well as the continuous efforts to improve the process through discussions with relevant parties, served as significant steps for this event. My responsibilities grew more diverse, and I was glad to carry out different tasks and become more involved in its logistical and administrative work, which proved to be a crucial process to ensure smooth implementation. I was very delighted and proud to end my internship with such an inspiring event and had the chance of working alongside hard-working, kind, and supportive people.

If I had to describe my internship experience using one word, it would be FUN. The word itself is often associated with an easy-going picture of life, but for me, through what seemed like a roller coaster ride and quakes (literally) of lessons and experiences, I was able to enjoy every second of it and still crave more. Balancing my studies with my internship was challenging, but the ASCEND Project Management Team (PMT) made it easy and was very supportive as they provided me with the flexibility to attend and focus on both without jeopardising the other. This was also the word I used to describe ASCEND's fifth Project

Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting, an occasion I was honoured to be involved in and attend, which provided me with knowledge on how regional forums are conducted, and I was also very impressed to learn a new language. English was spoken – however, I realised how communications used within this setting is always geared towards positivity and encouragement, a significant tool to achieve collective development and progress, which resulted in fruitful discussions and inputs.

People go through different experiences to understand and find meaning in the work they do, and for me, this internship brought it back from a deep slumber. It was here that I discovered how my studies are not just a shortcut to improve someone's social welfare or achieve a better quality of life. It is an elaborate and comprehensive process of planning, identifying issues and potentials, designing growth and development strategies, and having a well-thought-out implementation and evaluation and monitoring process of its activities and objectives to achieve social welfare as its ultimate goal. For the ASCEND project, the goal is improving people's lives by providing competent experts and professionals to facilitate disaster management activities. It has shown me that social change takes time because the goal is the development of human capital through capacity building, a valuable investment for the people, which I was very fortunate to be able to witness and experience through my internship for the ASCEND Project at the AHA Centre.



FROM SEOUL TO SEJONG : AN ENJOYABLE INTERNSHIP IN SOUTH KOREA



November 2022 marked the end of my internship with the ASCEND (ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management) project at the AHA Centre. I completed my internship while studying for a Master's degree in the Civil Society Leadership program at Ajou University, Suwon, South Korea. It is one of the scholarship programs held by KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) under the 2021 Technical Cooperation Program of the Government of the Republic of Korea. Spending almost two years of studying and simultaneously interning in South Korea has been a valuable opportunity to experience what it feels like to work in Korea.

Interning at the AHA Centre feels like I am coming home. I joined as an ASEAN-ERAT member in 2017 and have been deployed on humanitarian missions by the AHA Centre. I have also been involved in some of the ACE programme activities, as a facilitator during the Red Cross Red Crescent Induction Course, and have been invited to join some of the international events. Therefore, when I saw the internship opportunity with the ASCEND project, I immediately applied for it.

The distance of more than 5,000 km between Jakarta, Indonesia and Suwon, South Korea, has made the internship more interesting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, having online meetings is no longer a new activity for everyone. I am very much grateful for all the support given to me by the immediate supervisor and other colleagues in the ASCEND program. The working environment is friendly and supportive.



Anne at the ASEAN Benchmarking Visit to the Republic of Korea held in September 2022

Written by: Andreane Tampubolon, ASCEND Intern

Assisting in the ASCEND Benchmarking Visit to South Korea from 26 to 30 September 2022 was also part of the internship. During the visit, participants from the ASEAN Member States came to Korea to gain in-depth knowledge of how the Republic of Korea responds in emergency situations. We also had the opportunity to learn how the Korea National Fire Agency operates. Again, the visit gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge during the internship. The field visits were one of the most exciting things, since it gave me the chance to participate in offline activities after Covid-19 restrictions. Visiting places from Sejong to Seoul during the Benchmarking Visit was particularly thrilling, especially places that I may not have been able to visit as a student. For example, visiting the KNFA Fire Academy, Seoul Emergency Operation Center, and many more. Seeing the working places related to emergency response in Korea provided me with insights into how South Korea has transformed from a developing country to a progressive developed country.

Again, this internship has given me a broader perspective on working in an international environment, especially in South Korea. However, I do feel something is still incomplete, since my Korean language skills are still limited. Otherwise, I believe I could have contributed more to this internship. As I mentioned earlier, I have had several experiences working with the AHA Centre in Indonesia and on international missions. This internship has added even more value, and it feels like I was being prepared to return to work again after graduation in January 2023.

“ Thank you, AHA Centre, the ASCEND Project, and the ASEAN Korea Cooperation Fund, for this valuable opportunity. I am very much looking forward to having more working opportunities with the AHA Centre. ”

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ABOUT ASEAN

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

ABOUT THE AHA CENTRE

The AHA Centre is an inter-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.