



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.84 | AUGUST 2023

ARDEX-23

**STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S
COLLECTIVE RESPONSE
CAPACITY**

HIGHLIGHT

ARDEX-23:
Strengthening ASEAN's
Collective Response
Capacity

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review
and Outlook for August 2023

PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening the Institutional Capacity
of the AHA Centre for ASEAN Disaster
Capacity Building Programmes

THE COLUMN ⁸⁴

THIS ISSUE:
ARDEX-23:
STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S COLLECTIVE
RESPONSE CAPACITY



2

02 | HIGHLIGHT

Hundreds of disaster management and humanitarian actors from 10 ASEAN Member States and other countries gathered in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to witness the biggest disaster emergency response simulation exercise in the region, namely ARDEX.

06 | MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK



12

10 | INSIGHT

12 | PARTNERSHIP

14 | AHA CENTRE DIARY



14

16 | THE OTHER SIDE



16

AHA CENTRE

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EDITOR'S NOTE



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

HELLO READERS,

Greetings from the Home of One ASEAN One Response! In this 84 volume, we're delighted to share with you the special edition of The Column highlighting ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) 2023 held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Our Highlight presents the actual ARDEX-23 which was co-organised by the Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority or BNPB Indonesia and the AHA Centre. Located in Yogyakarta, over 180 exercise planners, players, referees, and observers from the ASEAN Member States and the AHA Centre participated in ARDEX-23, together with 500+ participants from the local and national levels. This edition of Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook provides an overview of the disasters and outlook occurred for the month of September 2023.

In our Insight section, we bring to you a brief article about the Opak Fault located in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In 2006, Opak Fault triggered a M6.5 earthquake with the epicentre located in Bantul, Yogyakarta, which caused thousands of people died. According to the scientific evidence, Opak Fault is still active and causes Yogyakarta is prone to earthquake and tsunami.

Partnership takes centre stage as we explore one of the AHA Centre's newest project supported by New Zealand namely Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the AHA Centre for ASEAN Disaster Capacity Building Programmes. This partnership focuses on strengthening AHA Centre's institutional capacity to provide world-class disaster management courses and capacity building programmes.

In preparation for ARDEX-23, ASEAN-ERAT members from the ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, and the AHA Centre participated in a refresher course in Yogyakarta. This course aimed to provide knowledge on the ASEAN-ERAT mechanism in the event of a large-scale disaster and to prepare the members before deploying to ARDEX-23.

Last but not least, our The Other Side section introduces Mr. Mati Raidma from Estonia who also involved in ARDEX-23 as a facilitator for the Referee Training. Mr. Raidma has previous experience working with ASEAN on several issues.

Please enjoy this special edition and stay healthy!

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ARDEX-23 : STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S COLLECTIVE RESPONSE CAPACITY

Hundreds of disaster management and humanitarian actors from 10 ASEAN Member States and other countries gathered in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to witness the biggest disaster emergency response simulation exercise in the region, namely ARDEX.

ARDEX is the only regional exercise platform that tests and validates disaster management tools to improve preparedness and readiness for One ASEAN One Response. The results of the 3-day exercise acted as the catalyst for improvements and changes to many of these processes, including updating and refining the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP). ARDEX-23 also presented the opportunity to engage bodies from both outside the direct disaster management scope, as well as outside the region, to further understand and increase implementation capacity of ASEAN disaster management process and practice, a particularly important element for efficient responses to large-scale disasters.

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong highlighted three important points aspects of ARDEX. First, ARDEX is crucial as it showcases that ASEAN is abillitye to operate collectively as one in the event of a large-scale disaster in the region. Second, ARDEX is also vital for to testing all the components and elements in the ASEAN SOPs, including the role of the ASEAN Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator or SG-AHAC. "Lastly, ARDEX is indeed useful in demonstrating the ASEAN solidarity to our global partners. It offers our partners the opportunity to witness the ASEAN collective response as well as to understand the ASEAN disaster management mechanism," he said during the opening ceremony of ARDEX-23.

The Special Region of Yogyakarta was chosen as the location of ARDEX-23 as this region previously experienced a 6.5M earthquake in 2006 caused by the Opak Fault. By having ARDEX-23 in Yogyakarta, it is expected to also enhance the local and national capacity in the preparedness and response in case of a large-scale disaster hit in the area. "Yogyakarta also has its local wisdoms and experiences in managing disasters. This [ARDEX] will be a good opportunity to share these experiences with the ASEAN Member States," added Head of the Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB) Lieutenant General TNI Suharyanto in his opening speech.



The opening ceremony was attended by the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendi, Head of BNPB Indonesia Lieutenant General TNI Suharyanto, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community H.E. Ekkaphab Phantavhong, representatives from the 10 ASEAN Member States, partners, and participants from local and national levels.

Written by: Mochi Syifa, Gladys Respati | Photo by: AHA Centre

Through ARDEX, he added, Indonesia and the ASEAN Member States is able to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and good practices on disaster management. It is also expected to build a foster coordination between civil and military entities in responding to disasters and to build solidarity under the spirit of One ASEAN One Response.

ARDEX-23 was conducted on 1-3 August 2023 with a combination of both strategic and tactical components, with the simulation exercise including indoor tabletop exercise (TTX) discussions between decision makers, in parallel with outdoor command post exercises (CPX) and joint field training exercises (FTX) for humanitarian responders. The scenario of ARDEX-23 is a 6.6 magnitude earthquake with the epicentre in Bantul, Yogyakarta. Over 180 players, planners, referees, and observers from 10 ASEAN Member States and partners of the AHA Centre participated, and with more than 500 participants from local and national levels involved in the exercise.

ARDEX-23

- Held in Yogyakarta, 1-3 August 2023
- Scenario of M6.6 Bantul earthquake
- 180 participants from ASEAN Member States and partners of the AHA Centre
- 500+ participants from local and nantional levels
- Second ARDEX hosted by Indonesia after ARDEX-18 in Cilegon, Banten 2018



Co-organised by BNPB Indonesia and the AHA Centre, ARDEX-23 is a regional platform to test and enhance disaster management mechanisms and SOPs in ASEAN, which involved ASEAN Member States and partners.

1

Tabletop Exercise (TTX) is one of the crucial components in ARDEX-23 which participated by all ASEAN Member States and relevant partners.

2

ASEAN-ERAT members were also deployed to ARDEX-23 as they played their role in supporting the affected Member States during emergency response.



MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE

AUGUST 2023

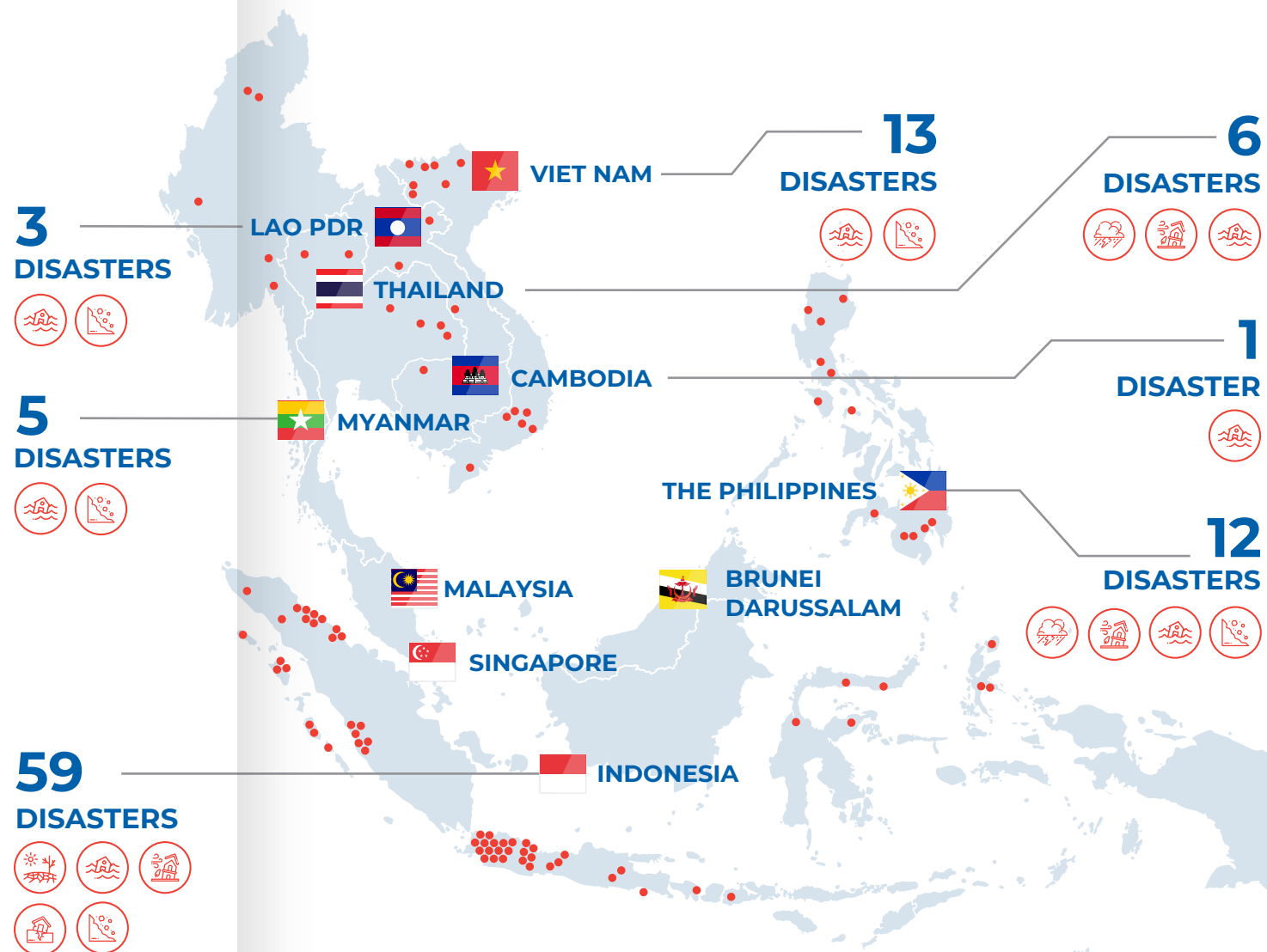
GENERAL REVIEW OF AUGUST 2023

For the month of August 2023, a total of 99 disasters were reported. The ASEAN Member States that were affected are Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Most of the disasters (59.6%) occurred in Indonesia and accounted for 42.66% of the affected persons (around 1M persons) the second-highest number of affected persons for August 2023. The Philippines accounted for most of the affected persons despite reporting only 12 disaster events – the Effects of Southwest Monsoon enhanced by Tropical Cyclone SAOLA, Tropical Cyclone HAIKUI, and Tropical Cyclone YUN-YEUNG with 46% of the total reported affected persons for the month of August 2023. The share of the disaster-affected people for the other ASEAN Member States are as follows: (1) Philippines-47.32%, (2) Indonesia-42.66%, Lao PDR-3.99%, Myanmar-3.04%, Cambodia-2.53%, Viet Nam-0.35%, and Thailand 0.1%. August 2023 saw disasters **affecting 347 per 100,000 people* and displacing 11 per 100,000 people* in the region**, which were almost 2 times lower respectively compared to the previous month.

Most of the disasters that have occurred in August 2023 were floods (46.5%) which is occurred in the northern sides of the equatorial line and is consistently the most recorded type of disaster for August of the previous year and August on a five-year average (2018-2022). However, due to the effects of El Nino, droughts are the second-highest disaster report (28%) for August 2023, especially in the southern parts of the equatorial line (Indonesia). The reported disasters in the region for August 2023 in comparison to the historical data (average for August 2018-2022) indicates that there were about **1.3x more reported disasters; 1.6x more people affected; 1.7x less people internally displaced; 1.9x less houses affected to some extent; 2.4x more lives lost; and 1x equal people suffering injuries.**

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



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/>



GEOPHYSICAL CONDITION FOR AUGUST 2023

Geophysically, **30 significant earthquakes** (Magnitude ≥ 5.0) were reported by Indonesia’s Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG) and the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) for the period of August 2023.

Mount Semeru (Alert Level), Ili Lewotolok (alert Level), Ibu (Alert Level), and Dempo (Alert Level) in Indonesia and Mayon (Alert Level 3), Taal (Alert Level 1), and Kanlaon Volcanoes (Alert Level 1) were reportedly tectonically active (erupting lava or releasing gas or generating seismic activity) throughout the month of August 2023.

As of 18 September PHIVOLCS maintained the Mayon Volcano Alert Level at Alert Level 3 (Increased Tendency Towards Hazardous Eruption). Mayon Volcano remains in a relatively high level of unrest as magma is at the crater and hazardous eruptions are possible within weeks or days. According to NDRRMC, as of 16 September 2023, 9.9K families (38.4K persons) have been affected and 13.6K persons remains internally displaced in 21 evacuation centres. The NDRRMC with other relevant-agencies/stakeholders have provided 7.7M USD worth of assistance to those affected.

*computed based on 2023 population data from worldometers.com

ANALYSIS

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), compared to the average value from 2001-2022, during August 2023, below-average rainfall was experienced in the central and southern parts of the Mainland Southeast Asia, and southern half of the Maritime Continent, while a mix of below-to above-average rainfall was experienced over the rest of the ASEAN region. The largest positive (wetter) anomalies were recorded over parts of western Myanmar, the largest negative (drier) anomalies were recorded over parts of Cambodia and southern Sumatra, parts of the Maluku Islands and southern Papua as shown in Figure 1. Particularly for the wetter conditions in the Philippines as shown in Figure 1, a MAJOR disaster was caused by the Effects of Southwest Monsoon enhanced by Tropical Cyclone SAOLA, Tropical Cyclone HAIKUI, and Tropical Cyclone YUN-YEUNG.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), Southwest Monsoon conditions were observed in August 2023 and are expected to transition to the inter-monsoon period in the latter part of October 2023. These conditions traditionally bring light and variable winds and increased shower activities in the equatorial region as the monsoon rain-band shifts southwards into the region.

For the next 3 months, (September-October-November 2023), an increased chance of below-normal rainfall is predicted for most of the southern ASEAN region, extending to include the Philippines. El Niño conditions are predicted to strengthen and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is likely to develop in September 2023. Both El Niño conditions and positive IODs tend to bring drier conditions to parts of the ASEAN region. Above-normal temperature is predicted for most of the ASEAN region for September-October-November 2023.



DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

■ BLUE | AUGUST 2023

■ RED | AUGUST IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE*

Drought	28	3
Earthquake	1	1
Flood	46	50
Landslide	14	13
Storm	4	5
Wind	6	6
TOTAL	99	78

Cambodia	1	1
Indonesia	59	46
Lao PDR	3	2
Malaysia	-	1
Myanmar	5	3
Philippines	12	12
Thailand	6	6
Viet Nam	13	7
TOTAL	93	78

(covering the period of Weeks 31-35 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)
*Values in column are rounded-off to whole figure

REGIONAL TALLY

AUGUST 2023

AUGUST IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

Number of recorded significant disasters	99	78
Number of affected people	2,378,560	1,520,114
Number of internally displaced people	73,644	127,357
Number of damaged houses	29,653	56,917
Number of casualties	73	30
Number of injured people	20	23
Number of missing people	12	12

(covering the period of Weeks 31-35 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)

Written by: Sadhu Zukhruf Janottama, Lawrence Anthony Dimallig



GET TO KNOW ABOUT

OPAK FAULT

Several geological studies have revealed that Southeast Asia is prone to earthquakes. This is inseparable from the fact that Southeast Asia is at the crossroads of three tectonic plates: the Pacific Ocean/Philippine Ocean Plate to the east, the Indo-Australian Plate to the south, and the Eurasian Plate to the northwest.



Opak Fault refers to a subsurface fault beneath the Opak River, 30 km southeast of Yogyakarta, and is covered by deposits of the young Mount Merapi, located in Bantul regency, southeast of Yogyakarta, within the southern Mount Merapi area. Early concerns about the existence of the Opak Fault arose when Dr. S. W. Visser reported an earthquake in Yogyakarta in 1867, with its epicenter located near the Opak River. It is also thought to have caused the formation of the Yogyakarta Basin, where the city of Yogyakarta is located.

The Opak Fault has an average depth of 55-82m, while its displacement ranges from 5-10m. Opak Fault is a normal fault that runs from southwest (SW) to northeast (NE); the west of the Opak Fault shows an uplift movement, while the east of the Opak Fault shows a subsidence movement. The fault runs through the Yogya Lowlands and the Wonosari Plateau, with old andesite rocks (OAF) as structural elements. This fault system also includes the Semilir Formation and the Nglanggran Formation to the east of Opak.



There is a significant surface deformation along the Opak Fault, which could be driven by the postseismic effect following the 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake or by aseismic creep. This long-term surface deformation can also affect various aspects of earthquake-affected land, including infrastructure and environmental damage.



The earthquake in Yogyakarta on 27 May 2006 was one of the worst disasters experienced by the people of Yogyakarta and Indonesia. Over 5,700 people were killed, 37,927 were injured, 240,396 homes were destroyed, and local infrastructure and economic activities were severely affected.



Located in the southern part of Java, Yogyakarta is prone to experiencing moderate to high-magnitude earthquakes ($M > 6.0$) with return periods of 50–100 years, making it one of Indonesia's most seismically active cities. Of the 12 earthquakes in Yogyakarta from 1804-2006, three earthquakes, including the 2006 earthquake, were related to the movement of the Opak fault.



More recently, on 30 June 2023, Yogyakarta was hit by an earthquake measuring 5.8 (USGS) or 6.4 on the magnitude scale, although it only caused minor damage. This could also be attributed to the public's preparedness and the strong structural integrity of buildings – lessons learned following the 2006 earthquake.

Written by: M. Nadiyah Achyansyah

The position of the fault plane that cuts through the soil layer with a thickness of about 50 cm - 5 m indicates that this fault is active. Furthermore, the Opak Fault, which is still active, is increasingly showing signs of increased seismic activity based on BMKG monitoring. Communities around the Opak Fault often feel small earthquakes, or what they call "lindu".

In addition, several areas traversed by the Opak Fault have high liquefaction potential. This is due to the geological environment in the form of alluvium deposits, groundwater table conditions, the path of the active Opak fault zone, and the Bantul basin (Bantul Graben).

Sustainable and resilient countermeasures are needed to deal with various potential disasters in a region historically prone to earthquake disasters, both in Yogyakarta and Southeast Asia. Therefore, the scenario of a 6.6 magnitude earthquake caused by the Opak Fault for the 2023 ASEAN REGIONAL DISASTER SIMULATION EXERCISE (ARDEX) offers a valuable opportunity for local and regional humanitarian actors to prepare for and respond to such a scenario, enhancing their readiness to mitigate the impact of such disasters effectively. The AHA Centre is pleased to participate in ARDEX-23, the ASEAN region's biggest disaster and emergency response simulation exercise.

Visit the web version of the article for the list of sources: <https://thecolumn.ahacentre.org/insight/vol-84-get-to-know-about-opak-fault/>



STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE AHA CENTRE FOR ASEAN DISASTER CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

AHA Centre Work Plan 2025 envisions AHA Centre as an enabler for ASEAN to become a global leader in disaster management by 2025.

The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management also outlines the expectations of ASEAN Member States for AHA Centre to “play a stronger role in facilitating capacity building to bring ASEAN Member States to regionally and globally recognized standards” as well as identifying AHA Centre’s potential to become “the network coordinator for regional centres for excellence for training and leadership in disaster management and emergency response and the engagement of the regional policy community” to nurture the next generation of leaders and thought leadership in ASEAN.

On 23 June 2022, Executive Director of AHA Centre, Lee Yam Ming and Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN, H.E. Stuart Donald Cave Calman launched AHA Centre’s partnership with New Zealand with a project titled “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the AHA Centre for ASEAN Disaster Capacity Building Programmes”. The partnership will focus on strengthening AHA Centre’s institutional capacity to provide world-class disaster management courses and capacity building programmes.



The 1st Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting was conducted online on 10 April 2023 to update the PSC members on the progress of the project. This included updates on impact study, roadmap, and Learning Management System (LMS).

Written by: Moch Syifa



Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN H.E. Stuart Donald Cave Calman (left) and Executive Director of the AHA Centre Mr. Lee Yam Ming during the signing ceremony at the AHA Centre office in 2022.



IMPACT STUDY

Assessing the impact of the previous and existing ASEAN’s capacity building programmes on ASEAN and ASEAN Member States capacity and to evaluate the sustainability of the the impacts



ROADMAP

Will serve a comprehensive, concrete, and practical strategy for enhancing ASEAN and ASEAN Member States capacities on disaster management for the period of 2023 - 2033



LMS

To maximise the impact and widen the coverage of the AHA Centre’s knowledge and outreach

ASEAN-ERAT REFRESHER COURSE: PREPARING THE TEAM TO BE DEPLOYED IN ARDEX-23



One of the important exercise players during the ASEAN Regional Disaster Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-23) is the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT). As one of the region's humanitarian actors, ASEAN-ERAT plays a significant role in supporting affected Member States during an emergency situation or in the event of a large-scale disaster.

In preparation for the deployment of ASEAN-ERAT to ARDEX-23, the AHA Centre organised the ASEAN-ERAT Refresher Course on 29-30 July 2023, with the aim to refresh knowledge and enhance the preparedness of ASEAN-ERAT members who will be deployed in the regional exercise. This 2-day course saw participation from ASEAN-ERAT members representing all 10 ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the AHA Centre.

Executive Director of the AHA Centre Mr. Lee Yam Ming highlighted the importance of the participation of ASEAN-ERAT members in ARDEX-23. It offers an invaluable opportunity for the Team to gain hands-on experience and learn in an environment that closely simulates real-life scenarios. "The course will also update ASEAN-ERAT members with the latest development of ASEAN disaster emergency response mechanism, tools, and recent deployment," said Mr. Lee Yam Ming during the opening ceremony of the course.

Furthermore, Mr. Lee Yam Ming mentioned that during the refresher course, ASEAN-ERAT members will also have the opportunity to interact with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), enabling them to learn about the interoperability between ASEAN-ERAT and UNDAC. In many disaster situations on the ground, ASEAN-ERAT and UNDAC frequently work together to provide support to the affected country. "This course will strengthen the common understanding that will contribute towards better interoperability between these organisations when working together within the region," he added.



Written by: Moch Syifa



With the support from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and European Union Mission to ASEAN, this ASEAN-ERAT Refresher Course is designed with 20% theory and 80% hands-on learning, to enhance the capacities of ASEAN-ERAT Members in performing tasks, especially during the Table-top Exercise (TTX), Command Post Exercise (CPX) and Field Training/Simulation Exercise (FTX) in ARDEX-23. On 3 August 2023, ASEAN-ERAT members participated in the real CPX with the scenario of a 6.6 magnitude earthquake in Bantul, together with other exercise players of ARDEX-23.



LACER



MR. MATI RAIDMA

One of the crucial components in ARDEX 2023 was the involvement of referees. When all the SOPs and procedures were tested and exercised during ARDEX 2023, referees played an important role to ensure that the exercise was on the right track. Mr. Mati Raidma, an expert from Estonia, is one of the referees who were involved in ARDEX-23 since the beginning. The Column had the opportunity to speak with him on his experience in ARDEX-23.



You were involved in ARDEX in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, as a trainer during the Referee Training in May 2023. You also directly observed the conduct of the actual ARDEX in August 2023. If you may briefly share with us, how did you become involved in this simulation exercise?

"My first involvement with ASEAN was in February 2020 when I was involved in a meeting between the AHA Center and the civil protection authorities of two EU member states, the Swedish Civil Aid Agency (MSB) and the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). From there, the project "Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for Emergency Response" (LACER) began, which as one component belongs to the general EU program "Integrated Program in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Center and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms" (EU support to the AHA Center).

Right after that, I had the opportunity to participate as a LACER expert in the Referees Training for the ARDEX 2020 in Manila, Philippines and helped conduct the course. Unfortunately, ARDEX 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19.

This year, when the preparations for ARDEX 2023 started, I was invited to conduct the Referee Training again and I am very happy and proud about it. And then ARDEX itself - a large and complex exercise that visualised the principle "One ASEAN One Response" and brought this feeling to all the hundreds of participants."

If you may share with us, knowing that ASEAN is a disaster-prone region, how do you see disaster management sector in this region?

"The Disaster Management system in the ASEAN region is definitely in a phase of rapid development. The base, principles and structural logic have been created. The AHA Center, which has an important role to play in this, is doing its best and the progress is impressive.

In such fast processes, the bigger picture is also important. Getting to know the experience of other regions and participating in global networks gives new ideas and confidence in this development process. And at the same time share your valuable experience - that's how we make the world a safer place to live."

Written by: Mati Raidma, Moch Syifa



The main role of referees during ARDEX-23 is to ensure that the scenario is well implemented and all components are well tested.

Based on your observations during the exercise, what can participants learn from ARDEX 2023 and regional disaster management mechanisms?

"In Yogyakarta I saw the great commitment of the organisers, the resource-intensive preparation of the host country and the satisfaction of the participants - the opportunity to practice together, better understand each other and exchange experiences is especially important here.

Regional cooperation in disasters and adherence to agreed protocols is critical and can be trained in exercises - in a controlled and safe environment. ARDEX plays a unique role in this sense. It is very useful and instructive for the all participants to understand the complexity of the whole operation and the various coordinating bodies.

One of the main ideas of organising exercises is to test the functioning of the agreed procedures (SASOP in the case of ARDEX) and to find ideas and opportunities for development. The work of the Referee team was targeted to support the fulfillment of this task. I hope that the after exercise report contains several useful recommendations for the future."

Did you see any particular lessons learned that may distinguish this exercise compared to other similar disaster simulation exercises?

"The idea of comprehensiveness can distinguish ARDEX from other similar international exercises. It is great. At the same time, balancing the national and international proportions of the exercise, synchronising the simultaneous execution of CPX and FTX and thereby keeping all the different participants interested and active are very big challenges that I would recommend to analyse when planning the next exercises."

Could you also please share with us your first experience working in disaster management?

"My experiences in the field of disaster management are divided into two. Probably my first experience relates to the national level, where I have built and led the national system of the Estonian Rescue Service and the Disaster Management Agency in the 90's. Internationally, I have been a member of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC) since 2000, which has given me the opportunity to participate in coordination mechanisms for several natural disasters and in the organising teams of UN Earthquake Response Exercises (UN ERE)."

ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



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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.