



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

THE COLUMN

THE AHA CENTRE NEWS BULLETIN

VOL.85 | SEPTEMBER 2023



4TH OAOR

One ASEAN One Response Roadshow

HIGHLIGHT

The 4th OAOR:

- Fostering a Strong Bond of Humanitarians and Stakeholders from Different Sectors

MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

Monthly Disaster Review and Outlook for September 2023

PARTNERSHIP

SDC's Support to the AHA Centre: Enhancing Capacities of the AMS and AHA Centre through the Secondment Programme

THE COLUMN

85

THIS ISSUE:
THE 4th OAOR:
FOSTERING A STRONG BOND OF HUMANITARIANS
AND STAKEHOLDERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS



2

02 | HIGHLIGHT

The 4th One ASEAN One Response Roadshow (OAOR) was held in Penang, Malaysia on 4 September 2023, with more than 150 participants involved. The roadshow is a platform for the exchange of related questions and the challenges on the adoption of the OAOR vision with relevant stakeholders, particularly in Malaysia.



12

06 | MONTHLY DISASTER OUTLOOK

10 | INSIGHT

12 | PARTNERSHIP

14 | AHA CENTRE DIARY

16 | THE OTHER SIDE



14

AHA CENTRE

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance
on disaster management



16

100% NO PAPER

eDocument

thecolumn.ahacentre.org



EDITOR'S NOTE



HELLO READERS,

Welcome back to the 85th volume of The Column, your reliable source of updates on disaster management in ASEAN.

This edition's Highlight puts the spotlight on the 4th One ASEAN One Response Roadshow in Malaysia, which served as a platform for sharing among national, regional, and international stakeholders.

5 years since Typhoon Mangkhut (Ompong) struck the Philippines, we recall ASEAN's response and support to the Government of the Philippines in the moments leading up to the disaster and in its aftermath in Insight. Our Partnership section looks into the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, which supports capacity-building of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) through a Secondment Programme that gave the opportunity for NDMO staff to work together with the AHA Centre in Jakarta.

In the AHA Centre Diary, we report on the Workshop on the Lessons Learned from Humanitarian Operations for the Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria, which brought together representatives of the ASEAN Member States and experts from ASEAN Dialogue Partners to share lessons learned from their humanitarian operations during the disaster.

The Other Side delves into the Second ASCEND Benchmarking Visit to the Republic of Korea facilitated by the Korean National Fire Agency, where participants from the ASEAN Member States had the opportunity to learn and exchange knowledge with various disaster management institutions in South Korea.

We hope you enjoy the read!



EDITOR IN CHIEF
Krishna Putra Tanaja

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

MANAGING EDITOR
Moch Syifa

CONTRIBUTORS

Dipo Summa, Gladys Respati, Grace Endina, Jasmine Alviar,
Lawrence Anthony Dimailig, Moch Syifa, Nadhif Achyansyah,
Sadhu Zukhruf Janottama

EDITOR
Gladys Hesti, Widi Respati

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Yohan Andreas

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Fauzi Primassalam

PUBLISHED BY
The AHA Centre



THE 4TH OAOR: FOSTERING A STRONG BOND OF HUMANITARIANS AND STAKEHOLDERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS

The 4th One ASEAN One Response Roadshow (OAOR) was held in Penang, Malaysia on 4 September 2023, with more than 150 participants involved. The roadshow is a platform for the exchange of related questions and the challenges on the adoption of the OAOR vision with relevant stakeholders, particularly in Malaysia.



It is important to raise awareness of the operationalisation of One ASEAN One Response among the stakeholders in the ASEAN region as they must have a firm grasp of the regional mechanisms and their respective roles. By having the same understanding, this will help enable seamless coordination, resource optimisation, and effective response strategies across different levels.

The Executive Director of the AHA Centre Mr. Lee Yam Ming emphasised that OAOR is designed as a knowledge sharing among the stakeholders from the national, regional and international levels. Understanding that during the emergency responses, good coordination from different sectors is essential.

“One ASEAN One Response envisions to foster a strong bond of humanitarians and stakeholders from different sectors, to respond to disasters as One with increased speed, scale, and solidarity,”

*-Mr. Lee Yam Ming
The Executive Director of the AHA Centre
during the opening speech*



One ASEAN One Response (OAOR) Roadshow in Malaysia is one of the platforms for raising awareness of the operationalisation of One ASEAN One Response among stakeholders. It also serves as a knowledge sharing platform among different stakeholders.

Written by: Moch Syifa | Photos by: NADMA Malaysia, Penang State Government

One ASEAN One Response itself is an open and inclusive platform using ASEAN's mechanisms at its core. Therefore, having divers and different stakeholders involved in this spirit will help increase the effectiveness of humanitarian response, particularly in the region.

Mr. Lee Yam Ming added that one of the tangible actions in operationalising One ASEAN One Response is during the conduct of ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX) 2023 held in Yogyakarta in August 2023. More than 180 players from the ASEAN Member States and over 500 national and local players joined the regional exercise to test the harmony of national, regional, and international mechanisms, including the ASEAN SASOP. “Malaysia also participated in the ARDEX-23 exercise and showcased not only their understanding of the regional mechanism but also their technical expertise in Search and Rescue operations,” he added.

Supported by the European Union Mission to ASEAN, One ASEAN One Response Roadshow in Malaysia was attended by various stakeholders, including partners from the United Nations. During the session, AHA Centre, ASEAN Secretariat, UN OCHA, and National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) of Malaysia had the opportunity to present their roles and mechanisms during the emergency situation.

One ASEAN One Response Roadshow is a regular event co-organised by AHA Centre and ASEAN Member States as a platform for knowledge sharing from different actors and stakeholders as well as familiarising the ASEAN mechanism during emergencies.



Over 150 participants from different stakeholders joined One ASEAN One Response in Penang, Malaysia, facilitated by National Disaster Management Authority (NADMA) of Malaysia.

- 1 During the OAOR Roadshow, stakeholders had the opportunity to share insights and knowledge related to disaster management in the national and regional levels.
- 2 Various stakeholders from different institutions in Malaysia participated in OAOR Roadshow.
- 3 NADMA Malaysia presented an overview of disaster management mechanisms in the country during the sharing session.



MONTHLY DISASTER REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

DISASTER MONITORING & ANALYSIS (DMA) UNIT, AHA CENTRE

SEPTEMBER 2023

GENERAL REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 2023

For the month of September 2023, a total of 111 disasters were reported. The number of reported occurrences was 42.49% less than the number of reported disasters in September of the last year. The ASEAN Member States affected for September 2023 were Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Most of the disasters (54.95%) occurred in Indonesia and accounted for 43.6% of the affected persons (around 670K persons), the highest number of affected persons for this reporting period. The share of the disaster-affected people for the other ASEAN Member States are as follows: (1) Indonesia – 43.62%, (2) Philippines – 28.07%, (3) Thailand – 14.16%, (4) Cambodia – 13.13%, (5) Viet Nam – 0.42%, (6) Myanmar – 0.39%, and (7) Malaysia – 0.21%. September 2023 saw disasters affecting **223 per 100,000 people*** and **displacing 5 per 100,000 people* in the region**, which was significantly lower (36% and 58%, respectively) compared to the previous month.

Out of the total reported disasters in September 2023, 48.65% was flood which mostly occurred in the northern hemisphere and consistently the most recorded type of disaster for the month of September of the previous year and September on a five-year average (2018-2022). However, due to the effects of El Niño, drought ranked as the second most reported disaster (29.73%), particularly in the southern parts of the equatorial line (Indonesia) for September 2023. The reported number of droughts (33) was 33x more than the reported drought in September of the previous year (1) and 15.5x more than the five-year (2018-2022) average for drought in September (2). While the reported disasters in the region for September 2023 in comparison with the historical data (average for September 2018-2022) indicates **1.5x more reported disasters, there were 2.7x less affected people, 4.2x less people internally displaced, 1.6x less houses affected to some extent, 13.4x less lives lost, and 281x less 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



223 / 100,000 AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

5 / 100,000 DISPLACED DUE TO DISASTERS

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 SEPTEMBER 2023

Geophysically, 22 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 September 2023.

Mounts Ibu (Alert Level II), Semeru (Alert Level III), Dukono (Alert Level II), Ili Lewotolok (Alert Level II) in Indonesia and Mayon (Alert Level 3), Taal (Alert Level 1), and Kanlaon (Alert Level 1) in the Philippines were reportedly tectonically active (erupting lava or releasing gas or generating seismic activity) throughout the month of September 2023.

ANALYSIS

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the Southwest monsoon conditions persisted over the region in September 2023. ASMC noted that the prevailing low-level winds blew mainly from the southeast from the south of the equatorial line and turned to blow from the southwest or west over areas north of the Equator. Dry conditions prevailed over many parts of southern ASEAN region as the area remained under the traditional dry season. Isolated showers were recorded over parts of northern Sumatra, Malaysia, and

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), the Southwest Monsoon conditions that prevailed in September 2023 are expected to continue into the month of October. It is expected that during this period, the prevailing winds over the ASEAN region are blowing mostly from the southeast or southwest. Northern ASEAN region may experience rainy weather while drier conditions may be expected in the southern part of the region. Towards the end of October 2023, the weak or variable winds may be experienced as the inter-monsoon period sets in. Meanwhile, increased shower activities over most of the equatorial region may be expected as the monsoon rain-band migrates southwards towards the equator.

As of 1 October, PHIVOLCS maintained the Mayon Volcano at Alert Level 3 (Increased Tendency Towards Hazardous Eruption). According to PHIVOLCS, there have been volcanic earthquakes, rockfall events, and pyroclastic density current events still within the 4-km radius from the crater. Volcanic sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions averaged 1392 tonnes/day for September 2023 and hazardous eruption within weeks could still be possible. According to NDRRMC’s report on 11 October, a total of 9,876 families or 38,396 persons were affected. Of which, 52 families (195 persons) remain displaced inside 1 evacuation centre. The NDRRMC with other relevant-agencies/stakeholders have provided 7.9M USD worth of assistance to those affected.

**computed based on 2023 population data from worldometers.com*

northeastern Kalimantan. Over the northern ASEAN region, the weather was generally wet as the traditional wet season prevailed. The average daily rainfall and mean winds in the region for September 2023 are illustrated in Figure 1. Moderate to heavy rainfall concentration over the northern and northeastern parts of Thailand and north, northwestern, and central provinces of Cambodia, especially those in low-lying areas and near river systems, may have contributed to the flooding events that affected 69K families in these areas.

For the next 3 months, (October-November-December 2023), an increased chance of below-normal rainfall is predicted for most of the southern ASEAN region, extending to include the Philippines. Meanwhile, an increased chance of above-normal rainfall is also predicted over parts of Mainland Southeast Asia over this period. El Niño conditions are predicted to strengthen over the next few months and persist at least until the start of 2024 and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is now present and likely to persist during October-November. El Niño and positive IODs may bring drier conditions to most parts of the region. Above-normal temperature is predicted for most of the ASEAN region for October-November-December 2023.

DISASTER COMPARISON IN NUMBERS

	■ BLUE SEPTEMBER 2023	■ RED SEPTEMBER IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE*
Drought	33	2
Earthquake	2	1
Flood	54	41
Landslide	11	12
Storm	4	5
Wind	7	11
TOTAL	111	72
<i>(covering the period of Weeks 36-39 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)</i>		
<i>*Values in column are rounded-off to whole figure</i>		

Cambodia	3	2
Indonesia	61	45
Malaysia	7	2
Myanmar	3	1
Philippines	20	9
Thailand	5	5
Viet Nam	12	8
TOTAL	111	72

Written by: Jasmine Alviar, Sadhu Zukhruf Janottama, Lawrence Anthony Dimailig

REGIONAL TALLY

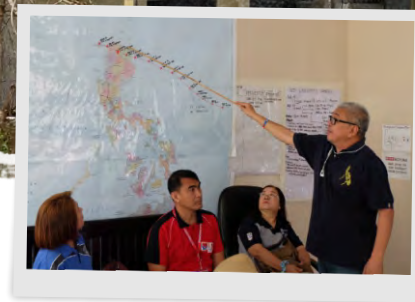
	SEPTEMBER 2023	SEPTEMBER IN FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE
Number of recorded significant disasters	111	72
Number of affected people	1,533,807	4,201,891
Number of internally displaced people	31,744	135,252
Number of damaged houses	92,663	149,993
Number of casualties	35	472
Number of injured people	8	2,248
Number of missing people	9	279

(covering the period of Weeks 36-39 in 2023 and 2018-2022 average)

REMEMBERING TYPHOON MANGKHUT

(OMPONG)

On 15 September, Typhoon Mangkhut (locally known as Ompong) made landfall in Cagayan Province, the Philippines, unleashing devastating winds and torrential rains. In its wake, over 2.5 million people were affected, 50 lives lost, and hundreds injured. Homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods across eight provinces and seven cities/municipalities were severely affected. Typhoon Mangkhut, with a diameter surpassing that of 2013's Typhoon Haiyan, caused damages estimated at over USD 6 million.



Pre-emptive actions by the Government of the Philippines, such as early evacuations and the provision of essential supplies played a large part in reducing the number of casualties and mitigating the disaster's impact. The AHA Centre's involvement was also instrumental, both in the preparation for and response to Typhoon Mangkhut. Working closely with the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the AHA Centre tracked the typhoon's progress as it moved towards the Philippines.

An In-Country Liaison Team (ICLT) arrived in the Philippines hours after the typhoon's landfall, standing by at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the NDRRMC to provide support to national relief efforts. Three ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Information Management Specialists were also deployed to support the NDRRMC with data analysis, data visualisation, and report writing.

Written by: Gladys Respati | Photos by: AHA Centre

The AHA Centre mobilised relief items worth over USD 275,000, including 30 tonnes of rice, four generator sets, and 2,000 rolls of tarpaulins, which were formally handed over to the NDRRMC in a meeting on 24 September 2018.

Five years later, the ASEAN response to Typhoon Mangkhut reminds us of the importance of preparedness, resilience, and unity in the face of calamities. ASEAN's unified approach stands testament to the collective strength and solidarity of the ASEAN Member States in the spirit of "One ASEAN One Response."

 **2.5 MILLION**
people were affected

 **50**
lives lost

 **USD 6 MILLION+**
estimated damages

 **USD 275,000+**
relief items mobilised



SDC'S SUPPORT TO THE AHA CENTRE:

ENHANCING CAPACITIES OF THE AMS AND AHA CENTRE THROUGH THE SECONDMENT PROGRAMME

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a steadfast supporter of the AHA Centre since 2017. In the first collaboration, SDC and the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) supported preparations for the 2018 ARDEX, in particular by deploying experts to support scenario development and referee training. Following the success of this initial collaboration, SDC and the AHA Centre then signed a new Memorandum of Intent (MoI) that is much broader in scope.

Phase I of the collaboration was implemented in 2020-2021. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the commitment between SDC and the AHA Centre to enhance collaboration remained strong. This led to the continuation of the second phase of the MoI, with covered a longer period in order to achieve more strategic objectives and allow greater flexibility in implementing activities.

The MoI for the second phase was signed during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) on 2 August 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. This MoI outlined a two-year collaboration between the AHA Centre and SDC, spanning from 2022 to 2024. One of the components in this collaboration is capacity development through the implementation of a secondment programme for the ASEAN Member States and AHA Centre staff.

The secondment programme has two main objectives. First, to support the capacity development of both National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) and AHA Centre staff, particularly on disaster monitoring and analysis. This capacity development will be achieved through an increased understanding and better awareness



Five officials from ASEAN Member States concluded their two-week secondment programme at the AHA Centre under the support of SDC.

Written by: Moch Syfla | Photos by: AHA Centre

of the operational mechanisms in both the AHA Centre and the NDMOs for monitoring and analysing disasters and hazards. The second objective is to create better operational working relationships between the AHA Centre and the NDMOs, through increased familiarity with each other's operational structures.

This programme, set to continue until 2024, allows the AHA Centre to support four secondments from NDMOs to the AHA Centre annually, as well as four secondments from the AHA Centre to the NDMOs, for a maximum duration of two weeks each.

The first batch of the secondment programme was conducted on 16-27 October 2023, with participation from six NDMO staff coming from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Viet Nam. During this programme, the secondees worked together with Jakarta-based AHA Centre staff, in the Disaster Monitoring and Analysis (DMA) and Preparedness and Response (P&R) Units. They also had the opportunity to visit the ASEAN Secretariat and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of BNPB Indonesia.

Beyond the secondment programme, the collaboration also includes several activities, including other capacity building programmes. All activities under this collaboration will contribute to the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and the AHA Centre Work Plan 2025.



MoI Signing Ceremony between AHA Centre and SDC during the 17th Governing Board Meeting of the AHA Centre in Thailand.

A MILESTONE TOWARDS ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE BEYOND THE REGION

The AHA Centre, with the support of the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), organised a workshop on the Lessons Learned from Humanitarian Operations for the 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria on 18 and 19 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The devastating earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria on 6 February 2023 triggered an outpouring of international sympathy and support. A report from the United Nations News estimates that the earthquake resulted in more than 410,000 casualties, causing homelessness to 1.5 million people and more than USD 45 billion worth of damages. Considering the severity of the disaster's impact, on 7 February 2023, the Government of Turkey announced that it would welcome international aid. As of 9 February 2023, more than 100 countries, including several ASEAN countries, i.e., Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, also mobilised their personnel and logistics support to Turkiye and Syria.

Such large-scale international humanitarian operations are infrequent. It offers a glimpse of how the global humanitarian system can work to support communities affected by disasters. Therefore, the workshop aimed, first, for ASEAN to learn first-hand the dynamics, challenges, and best practices in helping an affected state that is geographically far from the region. Second, to identify critical lessons from emergency response operations in Turkiye and Syria that can enhance ASEAN's ability to respond as One beyond the region. This learning opportunity will shed light for ASEAN in manifesting One ASEAN One Response Declaration, which was signed in 2016 by the ASEAN Leaders, outlining ASEAN's ambition to respond as one within and beyond the region and is also contributing to the goal of ASEAN as a global disaster management leader by 2025.

The two-day workshop brought together experts from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, such as Japan, Australia, India, the United States of America, and New Zealand, to share learning points from their humanitarian operations in Turkiye and Syria. In addition, the workshop also brought representatives from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) who deployed humanitarian teams to Turkiye and Syria, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

The workshop's first day focused on bringing participants to understand the common operational picture, challenges, and best practices of the response through a keynote speaker from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presentations from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and partner organisations, and panel discussions. The panel discussions were divided into lessons learned and coordination at the strategic and tactical/field levels. Discussion on the strategic level was shaped around crucial decision points in sending assistance, collaboration and coordination with the affected government and other assisting governments, and resource allocation.

Meanwhile, the tactical/field level scope discussed operational challenges to mobilise resources, mainly the deployment and operationalisation of the USAR and Disaster Response teams and coordination among the teams from different countries on the ground.



The workshop served as a platform for knowledge sharing and discussed lessons learned from different experts who were deployed to Turkiye and Syria earthquake response.

Written by: Grace Endina & Dipo Summa | Photos by: AHA Centre

On the second day of the workshop, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the AMS and ASEAN Dialogue Partners and partner organisations, respectively, took place in parallel, focusing on how ASEAN can realise the vision of responding beyond the region. The AMS group, comprising representatives of the NDMOs and national USAR agencies, focused on identifying current capacities and mechanisms of ASEAN and its AMS that can be used to advance the OAOR vision. The FGD with AMS continued with a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise, which guided the Group in identifying the strengths and weaknesses and broader opportunities and threats of realising ASEAN's mission beyond the region.

In parallel, the second Group with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and partner organisations focused on identifying possible support that the partners can provide should ASEAN extend its humanitarian assistance to other regions. This perspective is expected to complement the discussion in Group 1 so that ASEAN can have a balanced understanding of what needs to be prepared moving forward.

The workshop resulted in several strategic and technical recommendations for ASEAN to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study for ASEAN responding beyond the region. It further recommended exploring the development of a roadmap as part of the study for ASEAN to transform its capabilities for providing humanitarian support following a disaster outside the ASEAN region.



The workshop was supported by the Government of Japan through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

ASEAN MEMBER STATES EMBARK ON THE SECOND BENCHMARKING VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Second ASCEND Benchmarking Visit marked a collaborative effort between the ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea to bolster their emergency and disaster response capabilities. Taking place from 28 to 31 August 2023 in the Republic of Korea, this event offered 26 participants from the ten ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN-Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMT), and the AHA Centre a unique opportunity to learn from South Korea's exemplary practices in disaster management.



The four-day schedule was packed with informative and hands-on experiences in various benchmarking sites. First, the delegates visited the Fire Equipment Center in Eumseong County, where they had the chance to understand the critical role of the Fire Equipment Center in managing and inspecting fire equipment. The visit also included a briefing by the Korea Fire Institute, providing an overview of fire equipment management, followed by an exhilarating hands-on experience driving a fire vehicle simulator.

On the second day, the participants travelled to Busan and visited the Busan Fire Academy. The academy offered delegates a comprehensive introduction to its various operations, including the rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operations at sea during the maritime disaster response. An observation of a simulated exercise (SIMEX) on emergency response at sea ended the visit to the academy.

Still in Busan, delegates explored the Busan 119 Safety Experience Center, which features various facilities for safety training and simulations. Briefings on each facility and its functions were followed by active participation in programmes such as earthquake and cyclone simulations. This immersive experience provided insights into disaster preparedness and response strategies.



Officials from National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) of ASEAN, ASEAN-Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMT), and the AHA Centre had the opportunity to learn from South Korea's practices in disaster management.

Written by: Excel Botigan | Photos by: AHA Centre

The visit culminated with a trip to the International Fire and Safety Expo Korea 2023, where state-of-the-art fire technology and safety innovations from companies worldwide were on display. Delegates had the opportunity to observe cutting-edge fire and safety equipment, fostering connections with international partners and staying updated on the latest advancements in the field.

Similar to the first visit, the second ASCEND Benchmarking Visit was facilitated by the Korean National Fire Agency, which supports and contributes to the ongoing implementation and development of ASCEND. South Korea's commitment to sharing expertise and facilitating learning among its regional counterparts was evident throughout the visit. The event concluded with participants expressing gratitude to the Republic of Korea for its warm hospitality and invaluable insights. The commitment to ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing in the realm of emergency and disaster response was reaffirmed, promising a safer and more resilient future for all.



ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE



THE AHA CENTRE OFFICE

Graha BNPB, 13th Floor
Jl. Pramuka Kav. 38
Jakarta - 13120
INDONESIA



www.ahacentre.org



comm@ahacentre.org



AHA Centre



[@ahacentre](https://twitter.com/ahacentre)



[@ahacentre](https://www.instagram.com/ahacentre)



[@ahacentre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ahacentre)



AHA Centre

Supported by:



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.