

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT**  
**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DISASTER RELIEF EXERCISE (ARF DiREx) 2013**  
**INITIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE/SITE SURVEY (IPC/SS)**  
**BANGKOK & CHA-AM, THAILAND, 14-16 JANUARY 2013**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The ARF DiREx 2013 Initial Planning Conference (IPC) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-16 January 2013. The Conference was co-chaired by Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Ms. OH Young Ju, Deputy Director-General, Development Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea.
2. Representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam attended the Conference. Representatives of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

**OPENING SESSION**

3. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Arthayudh Srisamoot gave an overview of the IPC, at which the participants would be informed of the objectives, exercise preparation plan, scenario and venue of the ARF DiREx 2013. He stressed the need for better coordination of disaster management policies and measures, as well as the provision of appropriate, adequate, need-based and timely regional and international humanitarian assistance. He also highlighted the importance of capacity building, ranging from the sharing of expertise and best practices to technical assistance, infrastructure development, and technology transfer.
4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Anusorn Kaewkangwan, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand, underscored the importance of the ARF DiREx 2013 as a venue to test existing disaster relief mechanisms in the region. The current exercise would build upon the outcomes of the previous ARF DiREx exercises held in 2009 and 2011.
5. Ms. OH Young Ju addressed the impact of disasters on countries in the region and the need to broaden regional partnership in disaster relief operations. The ARF DiREx was a quantum leap forward in HADR cooperation, particularly in advancing civil-military collaboration and coordination. She expressed hope that the Conference would provide a venue for fruitful discussions on the preparations for the ARF DiREx 2013.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

6. The Conference adopted the Agenda which appears in **ANNEX 2**. The Conference approved the Programme of Activities which appears in **ANNEX 3**.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: OVERVIEW OF ARF DIREX 2013**

7. Mr. Pongsatorn Sirisakorn of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand presented an overview of the ARF DiREx 2013 Executive Committee and Planning and Coordination Working Group. He highlighted the lessons learned from the ARF DiREx 2011, namely the need to strengthen interoperability of civil-military coordination at the strategic, operational and tactical levels, the exercise to be more realistic and effective, the need to coordinate the Table Top Exercise (TTX) with the Field Training Exercise (FTX), and strengthening the functions of the AHA Centre. The ARF DiREx 2013 would consist of TTX and FTX components with the objectives of, among others, testing the existing ASEAN, regional, and international SOPs/protocols/tools, as well as those of the affected nation, and advancing ARF participants' ability to rapidly provide coordinated disaster relief. He proceeded to elaborate the time table, scenario and conduct of the ARF DiREx 2013. He provided a brief overview of the Field Information System Tool (FIST) and informed the Conference of the On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) which would be hosted by UNOCHA and Australia, to be convened prior to the ARF DiREx 2013. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.
8. Ms. Adelina Kamal from the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division of the ASEAN Secretariat presented an overview on HADR mechanisms in ASEAN and ARF. She elaborated the key HADR mechanisms of ASEAN and ARF, including the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the AHA Centre, the ARF Strategic Guidance on HADR, and the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2012-2014. She emphasized the role of AADMER as the main policy backbone in regional HADR operations and stressed the importance of testing the interface between ASEAN and ARF HADR mechanisms. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.
9. Mr. KIM Yong Sang from the National 119 Rescue Service of the Republic of Korea briefed the Conference on the outline of the After Action Review (AAR) process of the ARF DiREx 2013. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.
10. Ms. Bacharee Puengpak from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand briefed the Conference on the preparations in the Support Division, which covered the logistics and administrative aspects of the ARF DiREx 2013. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.
11. The Conference noted the request by the EU that issues concerning consular cooperation during emergencies be discussed in the TTX within a dedicated item, as well as the concept paper circulated by New Zealand which proposed the inclusion in the TTX of a simulation of affected foreign nationals during a disaster for the purpose of testing consular responses. The Australian delegation likewise proposed the inclusion of a consular element in the TTX.
12. Mr. Choempol Pichayachai from the Ministry of Interior of Thailand presented an overview of the TTX which is one of the main components of the ARF DiREx 2013. The TTX would follow the group discussion approach. The TTX would address the practical issues of large-scale multi-national disaster response based on relevant regulations and coordination mechanisms. The TTX was expected to, among others, identify gaps and formulate recommendations for the further development and improvement of relevant strategic issues and products. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.
13. Mr. Said Faisal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre, briefed the Conference on the AHA Centre and its operations since its official launch in November 2011. He highlighted the mandate, organisational structure and scope of operations of the AHA Centre, as well as its current focus in the areas of disaster monitoring and emergency response. He informed the Conference on several important tools, namely the Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) and the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADInet) which had enabled the AHA Centre to provide effective monitoring and response in actual disasters such as

the recent earthquake in Myanmar and the Typhoon Pablo/Bopha in the Philippines. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

14. Col. Sungkom Piamviriyawong from the Royal Thai Armed Forces briefed the Conference on the FTX. He elaborated the scope of the FTX which would encompass, among others, search and rescue, medical assistance and evacuation, and decontamination. Dr. Songkiat Lektrakul from the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand presented on medical activities and medical contribution under the FTX, which would involve the coordination of international organizations and examination of medical treatment and delivery system. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.
15. Mr. Lee Min Kyu from the National 119 Rescue Service of the Republic of Korea briefed the Conference on the SAR exercise methodology and types of specific exercise such as building collapse, chemical leakage, rock slide, maritime incident, and air operation. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: WORKING GROUP CONSULTATIONS**

16. Participants were divided into four planning working groups, namely TTX, FTX, AAR, and Planning and Coordination/Support.
17. Mr. Said Faisal presented the report of the TTX Planning Working Group consultations. The TTX WG decided on the design and format of the TTX, the topics and questions, and the composition of TTX participants. The Conference was informed that the TTX would be divided into: 1) briefing and 3 hour academic session; 2) one full day table top exercise; and 3) optional site visit. The TTX WG defined the main objectives of the TTX as to test/identify gaps and challenges of existing standard operating procedures and protocols of the affected country, ASEAN, ARF Member States and international humanitarian community (UN, IFRC, NGOs, etc.) at the strategic level and civil-military coordination response to large-scale natural disasters. The presentation and concept paper appear as **ANNEX 12**.
18. Mr. KANG Youn Ho from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea presented the overview of the FTX. The FTX exercise structure shall incorporate all the relevant SOPs, but instead of examining them (which would be the mandate of the TTX), the FTX will focus on tactical ground exercise and on-site civil-military coordination. Mr. Kang elaborated on the preconditions of the exercise, explained the exercise process, and the structure of operation, comprising the main command and coordinating bodies of the FTX. The Conference also took note of the site survey attended by some participants on 15 January 2013 in the planned locations for the FTX in Phetchaburi Province. The presentation and site survey note appear as **ANNEX 13**.
19. The EU Delegation/ DG ECHO announced that they will play an active role in the exercise by deploying some modules and assets to the FTX within the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
20. Mr. KIM Yong Sang presented the outcome of the AAR WG consultations. He presented the timeline of and work process of the AAR, and the selection process of AAR WG, which should comprise specialists in SAR, medical assistance, ICT, and at least one member who had participated in DiREx 2011. Each country could nominate AAR WG members to the Co-Chairs. The presentation and note appear as **ANNEX 14**.
21. Ms. Bacharee Puengpak informed the Conference of the decision by the Support Division to establish a single channel of communication for logistics matters, which should be addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The Conference took note of the

questions regarding hotel accommodation, transportation, VIP arrangements, national secretariat offices, procedures on entry and exit of SAR canines which would be addressed in due course.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: OTHER MATTERS**

22. The Closing Session was co-chaired by Ms. Busadee Santipitaks, Deputy Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Ms. Oh Young Ju, Deputy Director-General, Development Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea.
23. The Conference took note of the preparation of the Final Planning Conference (FPC) of the ARF DiREx 2013, to be held on 1-3 April 2013 in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand.
24. The Co-Chairs informed the Conference that the ARF DiREx 2013 was scheduled for 7-11 May 2013 and kindly requested the participants to submit the relevant forms indicating their interest in personnel and asset contribution to the ARF DiREx 2013 Secretariat at the earliest opportunity and preferably no later than 15 March 2013. The Administrative Arrangement and relevant forms appear as **ANNEX 15**.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

25. The Conference thanked the Co-Chairs for the effective chairmanship and productive discussion and expressed gratitude to the Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.

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