

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ARF WORKSHOP ON EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
BEIJING, 23-27 NOVEMBER 2014**

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 21st Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in September 2014, the ARF Workshop on Earthquake Relief and Emergency Response was held in Beijing and Yunnan, China, on 23-27 November 2014. The workshop was co-chaired by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of Malaysia and the Government of New Zealand.

2. 40 representatives from 12 ARF Participating Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat took part in the Workshop. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

3. With the aim to strengthen disaster relief capacity of regional countries, share experiences and improve regional cooperation on disaster relief and emergency response, the Workshop focused on early warning of earthquake disaster, emergency response and management, information sharing for quick disaster assessment, damage assessment, recovery and reconstruction.. The major part of the Workshop was held in Beijing on 23-25 November 2014, followed by a field trip to Yunnan on 26-27 November 2014. The program is attached as Annex 2.

II. Opening Ceremony - Welcome and Opening Remarks

4. Mr. Zhang Lizhong, Counsellor of Department of Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, made an introduction to the background and significance of this Workshop, China's responses to natural disasters in recent years, the challenges of disaster response confronted by member states of ASEAN Regional Forum, and the expectations of this Workshop. This conference was hoped to help further intensify the technical communication, assistance and cooperation between member states in their response to natural disasters.



Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN Regional Forum – workshop on disaster relief and emergency response

5. Mr. Zhu Fangfan, Section Director of Foreign Affairs Department, China Earthquake Administration, introduced China's earthquake warning system and look forward towards strengthening cooperation with regional countries in this field.

6. Ambassador Phillip Gibson, Special Envoy Disaster Risk Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, delivered a speech on the importance of sharing practical experiences in Disaster Risk Management and the value of regional cooperation.

7. Mr. Rodzi Md. Saad, Secretary of Sabah State Security of the National Security Council, Malaysia, delivered his speech and commented on the timing of such a workshop is crucial especially when the international community has placed such importance on Disaster Management. He mentioned that natural disasters that has been inflicting the region are critical reminders of the importance of nations to work together, as partnership with all stakeholders at every level is important. He also raised the point that the ARF has pursued cooperation in the area of disaster management since 1997 and wishes for it to continue its efforts.

III. Presentations

8. In Session 1 *Early Warning*, Researcher Wen Ruizhi from Institute of Engineering Mechanics, China Earthquake Administration, made an introduction of the overall schematic design of China earthquake warning system, the current progress and possible application in the future. He also described the work undertaken by Chinese government and private enterprises in this regard.

9. Mr. Wan Azli Wan Hassan, Director from National Earthquake and Tsunami Center of Malaysian Meteorological Department Director explained that Malaysian government came to realize the risk of tsunami and built a tsunami warning system

with foreign aid after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004. He made a detailed presentation of the current construction and application of the system.



Malaysia National Tsunami early warning system by Wan Azli Wan Hassan, Senior Director, National Earthquake and Tsunami Centre, Malaysian Meteorological Department, Malaysia

10. In Session 2 *Emergency Management and Response*, Mr. Peterschemann Benjamin, deputy director from Emergency Management Australia (EMA), introduced the seismic hazards in Australia and the development of search and rescue capacity, including the projects, team building and training carried out for such an end.

11. Mr. Qu Guosheng Researcher from China International Search and Rescue Team (CISAR), based on seismic hazards that China has suffered in recent years and experience it has thus gained in disaster response, presented an analysis of major issues that developing countries should pay attention to in the development of their emergency response capacity.

12. In Session 3 *Search and Rescue*, Mr. Alvin Teck Kai, Director from Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), introduced the challenges Singapore was faced with in disaster response, the development of search and rescue capacity, and the rescue cases at home and abroad as well as the experience and lessons it thus learned.

13. Mr. Chen Hong, Deputy Chief of Institute of Crustal Dynamics, China Earthquake Administration, made a detailed presentation of the efforts China has made to build up its rescue capacity for earthquake disasters, especially those devoted to the assessment work of UN heavy-duty rescue teams and successful experience it thus gained.

14. In Session 4 *Disaster Losses Assessment and Recovery*, Sun Botao, head of Institute of Engineering Mechanics, CEA, taking Lushan and Ludian earthquakes for example, introduced how to assess the losses caused by earthquakes in China,

including the management system, specific methods of work and typical cases of building destruction.

15. Ms Sarah Stuart-Black, Director from New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM), introduced New Zealand's emergency management system and discussed future opportunities to build and strengthen infrastructure.

16. Mr. Ahrepha Wardoode, Deputy Director from Disaster Management Department, Sri Lanka National Disaster Recovery Service Center, made an introduction of the functions of Sri Lanka Emergency Response Management Center and the corresponding emergency management system, and cases of disaster response.

17. Mr. Rodzi Md. Saad, Secretary of Sabah State Security of the National Security Council, Malaysia. Rodzi made a detailed introduction of the systems, laws and regulations, cases and experience of recovery and restoration.



Resilient New Zealand – Communities understanding and managing their hazards, Sarah Stuart-Black, Acting Director of the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, New Zealand

18. On the workshop, the representatives had a discussion concentrating on the above 4 topics, with successful experience, existing problems and future cooperation and aid in disaster response all fully communicated and exchanged. After the workshop, some representatives visited China's National Earthquake Emergency Rescue Training Base.

IV. Filed Trip to the Earthquake-stricken Area in Ludian

19. On Nov. 26-27, 17 representatives made a field trip to the earthquake-affected area in Ludian and post-earthquake reconstruction. On the earthquake site, the delegation visited the Longquan Middle School at Longtoushan Township, where

buildings were toppled down and severely damaged by the earthquake. The delegation were shown round the classroom environment and evaluated the earthquake-resistance degree of the classrooms. Then they went to the most severely damaged earthquake ruins at Longtoushan Township. They expressed the expectation that Longtoushan Township and Zhaotong City could resume their original looks after post-quake recovery and restoration.



Field trip in Longtoushan Town, Ludian County

20. The delegation also paid a visit to the post-earthquake resettlement at Longquan village, Longtoushan Township, Ludian County. They were shown round the victims' camps, psychological support station and temporary kitchens. The delegation applauded the efforts made by Chinese government for the resettlement of earthquake victims.

V. Major achievements of the Workshop

21. The participants agreed that short as it was, this workshop covered the hot issues in disaster response of recent years, especially in earthquake response, including earthquake early warning, disaster losses assessment, and rescue technical development. It effectively intensified the communication and exchanges of experience in disaster reduction and response among the ARF participants, and is conducive to the regional disaster reduction capacity building. The participants recognized the necessity of intensifying the communication and cooperation in disaster response, especially earthquake response, such as: technical communication in early warning and losses assessment, cooperation in professional rescue team training, disaster assistance and linkage mechanism building.