



CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
17TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON DISASTER RELIEF

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 4 April 2018

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK) on 4 April 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Hyunjoo Oh, Director General, Development Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK and Dr. Suriya Chindawongse, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from all ARF Participants except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre), the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were also in attendance. The list of participants is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

WELCOMING REMARKS

3. In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Oh underlined that disaster management is one of the most pressing areas for regional cooperation in the ARF, recalling the major natural disasters the Asia Pacific region have gone through so far since the 16th ARF ISM on DR in Bangkok and referring to Korea's unprecedented earthquake and harmful smog experience which created public awareness among Korean people on the need to establish a more effective safety management system. In this regard, Ms. Oh highlighted the role of the ISM on DR as an invaluable platform to promote regional cooperation by sharing experiences and exploring ways to jointly address challenges in disaster management. Ms. Oh further explained the nature of Korea's proposed revisions to the ARF ISM on DR Work Plan by reflecting on the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction (DRR) as well as

other global considerations that position DRR at the core of sustainable development.

4. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Chindawongse recalled the devastating impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and highlighted how such event revived the ARF mechanism in responding to natural disasters and instigated ASEAN's milestone in disaster management. Dr. Chindawongse further highlighted; (i) that there are currently a number of ASEAN-led mechanisms working on disaster management, such as the ARF, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), the East Asia Summit, and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and while overlaps between these institutions may be unavoidable, there is a necessity for enhanced coordination to rationalise efforts to optimise resources in these initiatives; (ii) to underscore ASEAN Centrality in the coordination across ASEAN sectoral bodies working on disaster management; and (iii) to improve the tools on the grounds, including standard operating procedures, pre-disaster arrangements as well as the possible advancement of the AHA Centre as a coordinating body for regional response in the Asia Pacific.

SESSION 1: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

5. Ms. Adelina Kamal, Executive Director of the AHA Centre briefed the meeting on the establishment, mandate, function and mechanisms of the Centre. The Meeting noted that the AHA Centre has responded to 19 disasters in seven countries in the region, as well as five preparedness missions in five ASEAN countries since its establishment in November 2011, in which out of the 19 disaster response, two missions were in response to human-induced disasters, i.e. in Marawi City, Philippines and Rakhine State, Myanmar. The tools of the AHA Centre namely the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (SASOP), the Web Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), the Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS), the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), the Disaster Emergency Logistic System of ASEAN (DELSA), the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), the Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA), the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX), and the AHA Centre Fund were highlighted in the presentation. The Meeting was also briefed on AHA Centre's strategy to operationalise the One ASEAN One Response Declaration, to phase the full operationalisation of the Declaration by stages as well as opportunities of testing the One ASEAN One Response mechanism in non ASEAN simulation exercises such as the EAS TTX and ADMM Plus Staff and Communications Exercise. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 2**.

6. Mr. Michael David Sashin from the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management (CFE-DM), United States, updated the Meeting on the latest development in the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (EWG on HADR) under the co-chairmanship of Malaysia and the United States for the period of 2017-2019. The Meeting took note of the adoption of the Work Plan of the EWG on HADR that aims to operationalise the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group (AMRG) on HADR as well as to synergise ADMM-Plus HADR initiatives into the broader ASEAN Disaster Relief and Emergency Response framework. The Meeting further noted the proposed timeline of events for the EWG on HADR which follows the AJDRP, including the upcoming Table Top Exercise (TTX) scheduled in Malaysia in July 2018 under the scenario of the Metro Manila earthquake and the Staff Exercise/Communication Exercise scheduled in July 2019 under the scenario of the Mentawai Megathrust. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 3**.

7. Ms. Teresa Conolan, Regional Director for North Asia, Department of Home Affairs, Australia, briefed the Meeting on the EAS Rapid Response Toolkit which was initiated by Indonesia and Australia. The Meeting was updated that the Tool Kit was finalised in 2015 and subsequently tested in November 2016 in Ambon, Indonesia. The toolkit comprised of the following; (i) National Focal Points, which serves as the first point of contact for formally requesting, receiving or offering assistance in the event of natural disasters; (ii) Guidance for Rapid Disaster Response, which serves as a guiding tool for decision makers in affected countries, assisting countries and transit countries; and (iii) EAS Country Disaster Response Arrangements, which serves as an inventory of each EAS members' disaster capabilities as well as their sending and receiving arrangements. The Meeting took note that plans to enhance awareness and understanding of the application of the EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit will be convened through the 2018 International Disaster Assistance Workshop on 8-10 May 2018 in Perth, Australia. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

8. Ms. Gwendolyn Pang, Head of East Asia Regional Delegation, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) provided an overview of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement that comprises the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the IFRC and the National Societies of the Red Cross. Ms. Pang further briefed the Meeting on the following points: (i) the auxiliary role of the National Societies to Governments; (ii) IFRC's strategy in enhancing community resilience; (iii) RCRC's tools and methodologies in disaster management; (iv) IFRC Global Response Tools; (v) IFRC's contributions to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2016-2020 Work Programme, and (vi) IFRC's collaborations with the

AHA Centre. Ms. Pang also underlined the changing humanitarian landscape within and outside the region, and reiterated IFRC's commitment in supporting ASEAN in advancing towards addressing such issues. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

9. The Meeting exchanged views on the current development in the regional cooperation on disaster management and highlighted the following points:

- a. The Meeting took note of European Union's initiative to advance Disaster Response capacity inside the region and outside the region. The EU highlighted that the EU's internal strategy will aim to enhance preparedness for preemptive and early action. EU will continue supporting ASEAN through the upcoming project of the Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanism (EU SAHA). The EU also highlighted the capacity-building project of EUR 10 million supporting ASEAN member states 'Responding as One' initiative through a grant to the AHA Centre in the amount of EUR 8 Million and civil protection agencies of EU Member States;
- b. Indonesia briefed the Meeting on their preparation to convene a series of HADR exercises, namely the ARDEX 2018 scheduled in Indonesia on 4-8 November 2018 and the EAS International Disaster Assistance Workshop in Australia on 8-10 May 2018;
- c. The Meeting took note of New Zealand's concerns over the increasing disaster complexities in the Asia Pacific as well as their support to further enhance ASEANs capability to respond to the broader Asia Pacific region;
- d. The Meeting took note of ROK's suggestion for the ARF Participants to join the upcoming TTX under the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR in Malaysia in July 2018. During the discussion, the Meeting noted the diversity of existing disaster response initiatives and given the different natures and objectives between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, the Meeting was of the view that it may be more feasible to exchange lessons learnt from such exercise rather than attempting to integrate the exercises;
- e. The Meeting further observed the mounting HADR mechanisms and noted that synergies will be achieved by maintaining AADMER's centrality on disaster management initiatives in the region as well as referring to SASOP for the development of relevant SOPs.

SESSION 2: ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

10. Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Head, UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), UNISDR, briefed the Meeting on the Global Trends in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and shared UNISDR's strategy to implement the Global Capacity Development Strategy to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR through its priority areas, namely: (i) developing and strengthening DRR fundamentals; (ii) institutionalising DRR capacity; (iii) sharing and using risk information before and after disasters; (iv) establishing collaborative action for DRR at the national and local levels; (v) strengthening external support mechanisms; and (vi) advancing and expanding DRR capabilities. Mr. Bhatia also briefed the Meeting on UNISDR's capacity building activities, among others, through the Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) located in Incheon, ROK. The Meeting also noted the existing global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement and was informed of the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR scheduled in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 3-6 July 2018. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

11. Mr. Jin-Hong Sim, Chief Manager of the Safe-Net Project Division, Ministry of Interior and Safety, ROK, briefed the Meeting on ROK's Safe-Net framework. The Meeting took note of how Long-Term Evolution (LTE) communications technology was leveraged to enhance public safety and capacity toward potential disasters through coordination among 8 national institutions, namely the National Rescue Service, Police, Electrical, Medical, Gas, Coast Guard, Military as well as local Governments. The milestones, deployment plan, coverage expansion solutions as well as the Safe-Net project strategies and evolution scenario were also highlighted in the brief. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

12. The Meeting took note of the briefing from Mr. Qun Li, Ministry of Civil Affairs, China, on the overview of China's training course and capacity building on disaster relief activities in 2017, including the ARF Training Course on Capacity Building on Disaster Comprehensive Loss Assessment, Recovery and Reconstruction which was held in Wu Han, China from 31 October – 2 November 2017 and Co-Chaired with Lao PDR. The Meeting also noted on the adversities of disasters that occurred in China and on the measures undertaken by the Government of China in responding to natural disasters through investment on recovery efforts. The implementation of the capacity building and training activities under the ARF as well as the establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) to manage China's emergency response mechanism and improve public safety system were further highlighted in the brief. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

13. Ms. Pannapa Na Nan, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of the Ministry of Interior, Thailand, updated the meeting on the establishment of the DELSA satellite warehouse in Chai Nat, Thailand, which was developed to promptly respond to disasters in the ASEAN region. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

SESSION 3: EMERGING ISSUES AND COMMON CHALLENGES

14. Mr. Nidhirat Srisirojanakorn, Humanitarian Affairs Analyst, Regional office for Asia and the Pacific, UNOCHA briefed the Meeting on the global and regional trends in disaster management in the Asia Pacific as well as its implications for humanitarian action. Extreme poverty and inequality, financial and economic crises, food crisis, water scarcity, energy security, migration, population growth and demographic shift, urbanisation, health pandemics and infectious diseases, climate change, among others, were noted to be the foreseen trends of global challenges. The Meeting noted UNOCHA's observation that despite the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, the growing regional capacity has resulted in a decrease of vulnerabilities. In this connection, the Meeting further noted UNOCHA's observations on the emerging principles of emergency response in the Asia Pacific where: (i) national capacity and leadership are enhanced; (ii) humanitarian response are localized; and (iii) the role of international organisations are shifting. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

15. Ms. Mihyung Park, Head of Office of the IOM, ROK, briefed the Meeting on IOM's work on disaster management, which highlighted on the complex and diverse element of human displacement. On this note, Ms. Park briefed on IOM's approach to the migration aspect of crisis by further explaining on: (i) Migration Crisis Operational Framework; (ii) Migrants in Countries in Crises Initiative; (ii) Displacement Tracking Matrix; and (iv) Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations. Ms. Park's presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

16. Mr. Takeshi Fujinami, Deputy Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, briefed the meeting on the linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and DRR as well as Japan's efforts in mainstreaming DRR. The Meeting also took note that the monetary and economic losses caused by disasters have driven the Government of Japan to invest more in DRR rather than emergency response. In light of this, it was further noted that Japan has subsequently streamlined DRR in priority development sectors namely; health, urban planning, transportation, energy, governance and education sectors. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 12**.

17. Ms. Nor Aini Binti Mohd Nordin, Principal Assistance Secretary, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia, briefed the Meeting on developments in the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group (AMRG) on HADR. The Meeting noted the Terms of Reference on Military Representative to the AHA Centre, which had been finalised and agreed upon at the 2nd AMRG on HADR held in Kuala Lumpur in August 2017, and had subsequently been tabled at the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Working Group (ADSOM-WG) in Singapore in January 2018 for consideration. The AMRG on HADR SOP is still being developed and will be tested during the 3rd Cycle of EWG on HADR, which is currently co-chaired by Malaysia and United States. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 13**.

18. The Meeting took note of the presentation from Mr. Tan Keng Meng, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Defence, Singapore on the perspective of the Regional Consultative Group for Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in the Asia Pacific (RCG). Mr. Tan provided an overview of RCG activities under the chairmanship of Singapore in 2017 that comprised of ways to enhance coordination architecture in disaster response, updates on regional civil-military coordination policies, sharing of best practices and lessons learnt from HADR exercises, as well as the development of RCG country specific disaster preparedness work plans. The Meeting further noted that the chairmanship of the RCG has been handed over to Bangladesh and activities throughout 2018 have been tabulated for ease of reference. Mr. Tan's presentation appears as **ANNEX 14**.

19. Col. Borworn Wongsangchantra from the Ministry of Defence, Thailand, briefed the Meeting on the principles and mechanisms of civil-military coordination as well as military engagement in disaster relief operations, which comprises of direct assistance, indirect assistance and infrastructure support. Col. Wongsangchantra further highlighted that improving the attitudes of the humanitarian civil-military coordinators are equally important to enhancing their knowledge and skills in efforts to strengthen civil-military coordination. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 15**.

20. The Meeting exchanged views on the current challenges in civil-military coordination and underscored that that confidence building through continued dialogue, streamlining of HADR terminologies, setting of standards as well as, attitude modification of military and civilian actors, were essential in addressing the challenges of effective civil-military in HADR.

SESSION 4: REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE ARF WORK PLAN FOR DISASTER RELIEF

21. Ms. Jiraporn Sudanich, Director, Political and Security Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand briefed the meeting on the implementation of activities

under the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief 2015-2017. The Meeting took note that the implemented activities covered various dimensions including disaster preparedness and disaster relief.

22. Mr. Lin Zhang, Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Yuan Zhang, Project Officer, China Earthquake Administration, and Mr. Zhi Zhang, Colonel, Fire Department of the Ministry of Public Security, China provided an overview of the implementation of Priority Area 1 of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017, including the convening of the ARF Workshop on National Earthquake Disaster Response and USAR Capacity Building in July 2017 which was Co-Chaired with Myanmar. The Meeting also took note of the upcoming ARF Senior Training on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Capacity Building, which is scheduled to be held in Beijing and Chengdu, China, on 7-14 May 2018 and Co-Chaired by Singapore and China; as well as the 2nd ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Response which is scheduled to be held in July 2018 and Co-Chaired by Malaysia and China. The Meeting also took note of China's proposal to issue an ARF statement on enhancing disaster management cooperation with a view to call upon more countries to pay greater attention to disaster relief cooperation. China's presentation appears as **ANNEX 16**.

23. Mr. Byungseok Yoo, Director, Multilateral Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROK briefed the meeting on the revised and updated draft of the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief 2018-2020 and explained the progress so far and the rationale behind to revise and update, and proposed major changes as follows: (i) changing the title of the ARF Work Plan from Disaster Relief to Disaster Management; (ii) changing the titles of the Priority Areas to better reflect the scope of the activities; and (iii) the addition of Priority Area 4: Promote the linkage between DRR and sustainable development. In this connection, ROK has expressed interest to co-lead the proposed Priority Area 4. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 17**.

24. During the discussion, the Meeting highlighted several points as summarised below:

- a. With regard to the first proposed amendment, several ARF Participants were of the view that the alteration of the title of the Work Plan was not contradictory with the provisions of the ARF Hanoi Plan of Action, and supported for the Work Plan to be more inclusive and accommodating toward the global course in disaster management. Other ARF Participants were of the view that the Work Plan should not deviate from the mandate of the ARF as a platform for exchanging best practices on security issues. Consequently, the Meeting discussed whether the title of the ARF ISM on DR should correspond with the title of the Work Plan;

- b. On the third proposed amendment, several Participants supported inclusion of the linkage between DRR and sustainable development. One participant was of the view that, at this stage, it would be more feasible for the ARF to assess future activities in disaster relief and review whether engagement in DRR would be the forward direction of ARF. The Meeting also considered to incorporate the proposed DRR activities under existing Priority Areas in the Work Plan instead of proposing a new Priority Area;
- c. The Meeting discussed on the precedent of referencing other ASEAN framework activities e.g. ADMM-Plus in the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. To move forward with the discussion, the Meeting requested for the ASEAN Secretariat to provide information on whether there is a precedent of such referencing when a Work Plan is being drafted or updated;
- d. Noting that some ARF Participants would need to consult their respective capitals, the Co-Chairs requested that comments and inputs to the draft ARF Work Plan be submitted by 13 April 2018;
- e. On moving forward with these proposals, the Co-Chairs briefed the Meeting that when proposing activities under the respective Priority Areas, the co-leading countries should also be identified to ensure the sustainability of the Work Plan. On a query of ARF processes and procedures, the ASEAN Secretariat shared with the Meeting that consensus on the issue should first be reached among ARF Participants before the draft Work Plan could be submitted to the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD) and the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) for endorsement. Upon endorsement of the ARF SOM, the Work Plan will be submitted to the Ministers for adoption by the 25th ARF in August 2018.

25. No ARF Participants have indicated interest to Co-Chair the next cycle of ARF ISM on Disaster Relief.

CONCLUDING SESSION

26. The Co-Chairs thanked all Participants for their active contribution to the Meeting and looked forward to continued cooperation on disaster relief activities in the future. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for the effective co-

chairmanship and thanked the Government of ROK for their hospitality and excellent arrangements.

ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

27. Issues arising from the Meeting that need to be followed up are:

No	Key Decisions/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	ARF Participants to provide inputs to the draft updated ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2018-2020 for further discussion	13 April 2018	Co-Chairs of the 17 th ARF ISM on DR (Thailand and ROK) and ARF Participants
2.	Identification of the ASEAN co-sponsor for the ARF statement proposed by China	Prior to the 25 th ARF, August 2018	ARF Participants
3.	Identification of the Co-Chairs for the next cycle of the ARF ISM on DR	Prior to the 25 th ARF, August 2018	ARF Participants
4.	Submission of concept notes for the new proposed activities of the ARF Work Plan	Prior to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD, May 2018	Proponent of the Activities
5.	Information on the precedent of incorporating and referencing the initiatives of other ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the ADMM-Plus, in the Work Plans of the ARF	ARF ISG on CBMs and PD, May 2018	ARF Unit