



CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT

16TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON DISASTER RELIEF

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 April 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting was held in Bangkok on 3 April 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Suriya Chindawongse, Deputy Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Ms. Hyunjoo Oh, Deputy Director General, Development Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from all ARF Participants except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) were also present. The list of participants is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

WELCOMING REMARKS

3. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Chindawongse underscored the vulnerability of the Asia Pacific region to disasters and recalled the devastating impact of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which led to, among others, the reactivation of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR). He emphasised the importance of maximising existing guidelines and tools for HADR such as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (AADMER), the ARF General Guidelines for Disaster Relief Cooperation and the ARF Voluntary Model Arrangement for the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief as well as in other mechanisms including the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). He expressed confidence that the discussions would contribute to strengthening

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) cooperation and to updating the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief.

4. In her welcoming speech, Ms. Oh mentioned the collaborative experience between the Republic of Korea and Thailand, such as co-hosting the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2013, and expressed her willingness to promote regional cooperation serving as the co-chair in the intersessional year 2017-2018. She appreciated the regionally cooperative responses to disasters through DiREx and ISM on DR developed by ARF members. Ms. Oh outlined the topics of the meeting and invited all participants to contribute their views on making the region less vulnerable and more resilient to disasters.

5. Mr. Suporn Ratananakin, Disaster Manager Specialist, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand, recalled the establishment of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) which aimed to create a more resilient society and highlighted the DDPM's roles namely to develop robust disaster relief policy at the national and provincial levels; as a hub of disaster relief knowledge and expertise; and as an operational agency which provides disaster response and relief to local governments as needed. He outlined the DDPM's engagement with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), AHA Centre and other partners under AADMER and highlighted the DDPM's support for ARF activities particularly in hosting the ARF DiREx 2013 in Cha-am, Thailand.

AGENDA ITEM 1: LESSONS LEARNT FROM PAST DISASTERS AND POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO THE FUTURE

6. Mr. Arun Pinta, Director of International Cooperation Division, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Thailand, presented on the lessons learnt from the recent flooding which heavily affected the southern part of Thailand between December 2016 and February 2017. In total, 12 provinces were affected with 99 fatalities and economic loss up to THB 1.2 billion. He outlined the response, relief and recovery efforts of the Thai government with assistance from the AHA Centre, Myanmar, China, United States, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sri Lanka, the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Some lessons and recommendations were identified as follows: the need for risk assessment in a rapidly changing environment; better tools for flood forecast and warning; community-based flood monitoring and response; and online tools. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 2**.

7. The Meeting noted the presentation on the structure and operations of the Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) and Korea's experiences of the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance during Typhoon Haiyan in the

Philippines. The KDRT combines the efforts of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Safety and Security, and the Ministry of Health and Welfare. The Ministry of National Defense (MND) also provides transportation of KDRT personnel and relief goods. During Typhoon Haiyan, the KDRT responded to the call for assistance in the relief, recovery and reconstruction phases, including in urban search and rescue (SAR), coastal operations, and epidemic prevention activities. Some main findings were identified, i.e. 1) cooperation with the local community and their capacity; 2) awareness of logistics challenges, such as in identifying the challenges to reach remote areas; 3) engagement in appropriate coordination and collaboration in order to maximise the efforts of the international responders. The Meeting also took note of the deployment of the MND and the Korean Armed Forces during Typhoon Haiyan whose mission, among others, was to support restoration of public facilities and to provide medical support and quarantine activities. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 3**.

8. Mr. Li Qun from the Department of Disaster Relief of Ministry of Civil Affairs of China presented on the lessons learned from natural disaster relief efforts in China during 2016. He underscored the increase in losses caused by typhoons, rainstorms and floods and tornadoes and hail in the past year. Based on the lessons learned, the government approved the National Five Years Plan on Comprehensive Disaster Relief and Reduction (2016-2020). He observed that tornadoes were not common in China but the increase of tornado incidents were very likely caused by changes in the climate. The presentation highlighted the government's efforts in providing relief, recovery and reconstruction to affected peoples, including in providing resettlement options for those who lost their homes due to disasters. He identified some lessons learned, including establishing and improving the disaster relief systems and mechanisms; social mobilisation in disasters; creating a financial guarantee which is an important support for rebuilding homes. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

9. Mr. Phillip Gibson, Special Envoy on Disaster Management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, presented on the key lessons from the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, including: the importance of recovery which is an essential element in disaster risk reduction; the role of the private sector in recovery, particularly in avoiding disruption of the economy and maintaining the flow of business and commerce in the aftermath of a disaster; the role of insurance companies in taking on risk; establishing connections with international partners; and consular cooperation and assistance in situations where foreign nationals are affected.

10. Mr. Manuel R. Nivera, Jr. from the Office of Civil Defense of the Philippines shared the Philippines' experience and lessons learnt from Typhoon Haiyan. He elaborated on the response, recovery and rehabilitation efforts of the Philippine government. He identified some lessons learned as follows: 1) disaster risk reduction

by strengthening of local governance and enhancement of institutional mechanisms, policies and programmes; 2) disaster prevention and mitigation through pre-disaster risk assessment, end-to-end monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems; 3) disaster preparedness including by building up local disaster preparedness and response policies, plans and systems; 4) improvement on integrated and coordinated search, rescue and retrieval systems; 5) disaster rehabilitation and recovery through systems and procedure on urban displacement and need to improve and adhere to international standards on human settlement. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

11. Ms. Adelina Kamal, Acting Executive Director of the AHA Centre, presented on the AHA Centre's new offices at the BNPB building and the expanded Emergency Operations Centre. She underscored that the AHA Centre has responded to a total of 15 disasters in 6 countries in the region, and Typhoon Haiyan remains the biggest emergency response that the AHA Centre has responded since its establishment in November 2011. Based on the lessons learned from the response to Haiyan, the AHA Centre has published a book to capture the various lessons, findings and recommendations which have been implemented in the adoption of the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan, the inclusion of Chapter VI on Facilitation and Utilisation of Military Assets and Capacities to the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) Transformation Project), the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Secretary-General as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC), and the adoption of the ASEAN Armband Guidelines. The lessons were also highlighted in the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response which was signed by ASEAN Leaders in November 2016. Her presentation is attached as **ANNEX 6**.

12. The Meeting noted the observation that disaster response should be as local as possible and as international as necessary, and that assisting countries should focus on building up local and regional capacity and capabilities, particularly when international assistance is not requested/required or when assistance is requested through existing international organisations. The Meeting also took note of the suggestion to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation on disaster management, prevention and forecasting between ASEAN and its external partners.

AGENDA ITEM 2: BUILDING SYNERGIES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF DISASTERS

13. Mr. Nguyen Ky Anh, Director for Sustainable Development Directorate, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department of the ASEAN Secretariat presented an overview of ASEAN HADR framework. The presentation highlighted the

development of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 including its Priority Programmes, and the work of the ACDM and its five Working Groups. He outlined the existing ASEAN-related HADR mechanisms and ASEAN's efforts to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination through the Technical Working Group on Civil Military Coordination (TWG on CIMIC) and the Joint Task Force on HADR. He touched on the latest developments in HADR under the ACDM and the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) and emphasised the way forward through building synergies between the priority areas of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017 and the ACDM Working Groups. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

14. Ms. Jiraporn Sudanich, Director of the Political and Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, briefed the Meeting on the lessons learnt from the ARF DiREx 2013 which was conducted in Cha-am from 7-11 May 2013. The objectives of the ARF DiREx 2013 corresponded with the priority areas under the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2012-2014, particularly on risk assessment, monitoring and early warning as well as on interoperability and coordination in HADR operations. She emphasised that efficient disaster relief would require close cooperation and coordination among countries in the region and close coordination between the military, civilian, non-government and other relevant stakeholders. She underscored the importance of building capacity in preparedness, response and relief; and saving lives. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

15. COL Borworn Wongsangchantra, Director of the Disaster Relief Division, Office of Policy and Planning of the Ministry of Defense of Thailand, provided an overview of defence cooperation on HADR under the ambit of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus. He emphasised that military assets are not only involved in addressing traditional security challenges but also increasingly in addressing non-traditional security challenges. He informed the Meeting on the upcoming ASEAN Military Capacity Building for International HADR to be held at J Park Hotel in Chonburi Province on 22-26 May 2017. He underscored the readiness of the ASEAN defence sector in supporting the One ASEAN One Response strategy.

16. Mr. Hans Guttman, Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), outlined the work of the ADPC in promoting regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction, and in engaging countries on response preparedness. He noted the need to find synergies between the global framework, such as the Sendai Framework, and voluntary commitment made during the World Humanitarian Summit. He also suggested including the usage of sex- and age-aggregated data in risk assessment with the view to save lives.

17. Mr Simon Moffat from Emergency Management Australia briefed the Meeting on the recent developments in the EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit. He

emphasised the main focus of the Toolkit which is to streamline the flow of international response efforts. Although the Toolkit was developed under the EAS, he emphasised that the Toolkit is very much aligned with Priority Area 2 of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. He elaborated on the specific tools, namely: 1) National Focal Points (NFPs); 2) Guidance for Rapid Disaster Response for the affected countries, assisting countries and transit countries; and 3) Country Disaster Response Arrangements, comprised of inventory of each country's disaster capabilities and arrangements for receiving and sending assistance. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

18. Mr. Mike Sashin from the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management (CFE-DM) updated the Meeting on the latest developments in the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on HADR which will be co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States for the period of 2017-2019. He shared the outline of the draft Work Plan on the EWG on HADR which focuses on, among others, testing and refining the ASEAN Standard Operating Procedure on Multinational Coordination Centre (SOP on MNCC); integration with support mechanisms and platforms including the AHA Centre, the Joint Operation Coordinating Centre for ASEAN (JOCCA), the Disaster Emergency Logistics System of ASEAN (DELSA), and the UNOCHA's Humanitarian-Military Operations Coordination Centre (HuMOCC) and On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC). The Meeting noted the proposed timeline of events for the EWG on HADR including the conduct of an exercise in 2019. He encouraged potential Co-Chairs of the next ARF DiREx to consider this timeline and suggested for the coordination between the two exercises to be complementary to each other while being mindful of the differences in their respective objectives. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

19. Several participants recalled the success of the ARF DiREx in 2013 and in 2015 and looked forward to the convening of the next ARF DiREx. The Meeting noted the suggestion that the ARF DiREx could focus on testing the civil-military cooperation and coordination aspect of SASOP.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EFFECTIVE TOOLS, CAPACITY-BUILDING APPROACHES AND PROGRAMS IN THE AREA OF EARLY WARNING, AND ENHANCING CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION IN THE AREA OF RESPONSE

20. COL Borworn Wongsangchantra presented on the ASEAN Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination Workshop (CMCoord) 2017 which is held at Sikhara Plago Resort in Chonburi Province from 3-7 April 2017. This is the second workshop held under this topic. He highlighted the objectives of the workshop, including to develop civil-military capacity for HADR in ASEAN and to outline different information sharing platforms and to discuss potential for interoperability on HADR mechanisms.

A total of 50 participants from several ASEAN Member States as well as external partners would be attending.

21. Mr. Kamol P.N. Sakolnakhon from the Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand presented on the Department's work on disaster forecasting using geo-monitoring satellites (GMS). He outlined the operations of the Himawari GMS, which was built by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and terrestrial radars in monitoring cloud movements and predicting rainfall density.

22. Ms. Viviana De Annuntiis from UNOCHA delivered a presentation on humanitarian civil-military coordination in Asia and the Pacific. She touched on the development of APC-MADRO and the establishment of the Regional Consultative Group on humanitarian civ-mil coordination in Asia and the Pacific (RCG on CM Coord). The discussions on the RCG focused on capacity assessment, response modalities, and coordination structure. The Meeting noted the publication of Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Emergencies: Towards a Predictable Model. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DISASTER RELIEF TOWARDS DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

23. Mr. Phumin Silapunt, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM), presented on linkages between regional/global meetings on disaster management and the Bangkok Principles for the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. He highlighted the case study of the Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH) between NIEM and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which was endorsed by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) in December 2015. The Meeting noted that the training courses under the ARCH Project are in line with the Bangkok Principles and the Sendai Framework. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 12**.

24. Mr. Hiroatsu Satake, Deputy Director of National Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, presented on the procuring system of necessary supplies during disasters with a case study of the Kumamoto earthquake in 2016. He recalled the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995 and the Sendai earthquake in 2011, particularly the development of countermeasures to mitigate the impact of earthquakes and the "push-type" support in which the national government takes the responsibility of procuring the necessary supplies during natural disasters. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 13**.

25. Colonel Zhang Zhi from the Ministry of Public Security of China presented a retrospect of the ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue held in Shanghai on

10-14 July 2016 and offered the prospect of a follow-up workshop to be held in the inter-sessional year 2017-2018. The Meeting welcomed China's interest to conduct the follow-up workshop as well as the initiative to establish friendly cooperation between urban emergency rescue agencies in the region. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 14** and the concept paper for the follow-up workshop is attached as **ANNEX 15**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEXT STEPS: ARF DISASTER RELIEF WORK PLAN AND OTHER MEETINGS AND INITIATIVES

26. 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 Management of Marine Hazards with Cambodia and the ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue with Malaysia and the upcoming ARF Workshop on Earthquake Disaster Response and USAR Capacity Building with Myanmar. The activities have provided opportunities for ARF participants to enhance cooperation and build capacity. In this regard, the Meeting took note of the proposal for the ARF Workshop on Typhoon Disaster Risk Reduction and Damage Mitigation to be held in the inter-sessional year 2017-2018. The concept paper for the workshop is attached as **ANNEX 16**.

27. China presented on the background for the ARF Workshop on Earthquake Disaster Response and USAR Capacity Building which will be held in Beijing on 17-20 July 2017. The topics of the Workshop include national and international cases of emergency response and rescue; introduction of national USAR capability building; and discussions on requirements of USAR team building and development of national USAR system. Participants will also be invited to a field trip to the China National SAR Training Base. As a follow up to this Workshop, China proposed to conduct an ARF training on USAR capacity building in Beijing and Sichuan Province to be held in the first half of 2018. The concept paper for the 2018 workshop is attached as **ANNEX 17**.

28. Singapore presented on other initiatives to promote international cooperation and assistance in HADR through its chairmanship of the RCG on CM Coord in 2017. The presentation outlined the work plan for 2017, including the continued focus on response preparedness planning and support for the UN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards. The presentation also touched on the conduct of activities under other mechanisms, namely Exercise Coordinated Response held in Singapore in early 2017. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 18**.

29. The Meeting welcomed the proposals for new activities and noted that the proposals will be submitted to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in Ottawa for further

deliberations. On that note, the Co-Chairs encouraged ASEAN Member States to take up the co-chairmanship of these proposals with China.

30. The Meeting noted with appreciation the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, on 10 and 11 March 2016 in Bangkok, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The Meeting recognized the Bangkok Principles as important measures that could assist States to implement the health aspect of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, with a view to ensuring more systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management. The Meeting therefore noted the need to promote the implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework, including the Bangkok Principles, in accordance with the UNGA 71 resolution (A/RES/71/226) on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Asia Regional Plan or Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at AMCDRR 2016. The Meeting also welcomed Thailand's willingness to share experiences and good practices in implementing the Bangkok Principles among States and the interest of States to work with Thailand to explore cooperation in further detail.

31. The Meeting noted the suggestions for the lead countries of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief to advance the implementation of their respective priority areas and for the updated Work Plan to be aligned with the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2022 as well as the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management. The Co-Chairs welcomed the inputs to the Work Plan and informed the Meeting that the draft of the updated Work Plan would be circulated to all ARF participants in due course.

32. The Meeting also took note of the suggestion for the next ISM on DR to be convened for two days to allow ample time for in-depth discussions on all agenda items.

CONCLUDING SESSION

33. The Co-Chairs summarised the discussions during the Meeting and looked forward to continued cooperation under the ISM on DR in the future. The Co-Chairs thanked all participants for their active participation and contribution, and the Meeting expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their excellent and effective co-chairmanship. The Meeting also thanked the Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to all participants.