

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report**  
**15<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief**  
**Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 25-26 February 2016**

## **Introduction**

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Kuala Lumpur on 6 August 2015, the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 25-26 February 2016. The Meeting was co-chaired by U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, Ms. Chai Mei, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, and Ms. Reiko Odoko from the National Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

2. All ARF participants except Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka attended the Meeting. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), American Red Cross Society and Myanmar Red Cross Society were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

## **Agenda Item 1: Keynote Address**

3. H.E. Dr. Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Chairman of National Disaster Management Working Committee, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, delivered the keynote address. She welcomed all participants to the Meeting which has the theme of “Building a Better Response”. She underlined the purpose of the Meeting which is to strengthen the regional disaster relief measures and mechanisms and to build up the partnership amongst states and humanitarian actors. She emphasised that no country can stand alone in handling large-scale disasters on their own and that there have been many success stories in disaster relief and recovery through multi-lateral cooperation. She informed the Meeting that the Disaster Management Training Center (DMTC) was established in December 2015 and that the National Strategic Plan for Social Protection has been in effect since 2014. Furthermore, the Myanmar Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has also been operational which would facilitate inter-agency cooperation. She invited all participants to contribute actively to the discussions and to support the One ASEAN One Response. The keynote address is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

## **Agenda Item 2: Opening Remarks**

4. In his opening remarks, U Soe Aung underscored that disaster relief and response are the main drivers in saving lives in the event of natural calamities. Early warning systems must reach local communities on the onset of disasters. He shared some important lessons learned from the recent floods in Myanmar and the role of the

Disaster Management Centre (DMC) in providing rapid deployment of responders and relief to the affected areas. He observed that the development of situation reports and post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) would improve the government's efforts. He expressed the aspiration that the sharing of lessons learned and experiences during the Meeting would contribute to improving government policies and strategies in disaster relief and response operations.

5. In her opening remarks, Ms. Chai Mei emphasised the role of the ARF as the most inclusive and influential platform for official multilateral dialogue and cooperation on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and reaffirmed China's continued support for the ARF process. She highlighted the fact that the Asia-Pacific region is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world with floods, typhoons, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis and droughts affecting lives and livelihoods. As such, the ARF ISM on DR has become an important platform to draw the experiences of ARF participants and to strengthen coordination and long-term cooperation on disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response. She expressed China's interest in working more closely with other ARF participants and in sharing knowledge and experience in disaster management.

6. In her opening remarks, Ms. Reiko Odoko recalled the large-scale disasters which have occurred in the region such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015. Taking these into consideration, she underlined that deepening cooperation in the area of non-traditional security issues is the key for securing peace, stability and prosperity of the region. She highlighted Japan's hosting of the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR in Tokyo in February 2015 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai in March 2015 and recalled the successful conduct of the ARF DiREx 2015 in Malaysia. She expressed hope that the discussions during the Meeting could develop into substantial collaboration such as on civil-military coordination.

### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda**

7. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

### **Agenda Item 4: Administrative Arrangements**

8. The Meeting adopted the Administrative Arrangements which appear as **ANNEX 4**.

### **Agenda Item 5: Lessons Learned**

#### **5.1 Lessons learned from 2015 flood response operation in Myanmar**

9. Mr. Win Htein Kyaw, Director of Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, shared the lessons learned from the 2015 flood response operations in Myanmar. He highlighted Myanmar's vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly fire, earthquake, flood, drought, landslides, and tropical storms. He provided an outline of the National Institution for Disaster Management of

Myanmar and the national legislation including the Disaster Management Law of 2013 and the Disaster Management Rules of 2015. He also shared the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) and the National Disaster Management Centre with its newly-established Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). He underscored the risks incurred from the 2015 nation-wide flooding and offered several observations and recommendations including the instrumental role of disaster relief exercises and drills in identifying structural barriers and testing the operability of standard operating procedures (SOPs); effective civil-military cooperation can save more lives and provide emergency relief; increase public awareness on early warning and evacuation procedures; and cooperation with the private sector in information sharing and communications. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

## **5.2 The EU in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief**

10. Ms. Clementina Cantoni from the EU's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) presented an overview of the EU's humanitarian aid approach and the civil protection mechanism as well as the work of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). She highlighted the EU's civil protection mechanism responses during 2015 including for the earthquake in Nepal. She also highlighted the newly-established European Medical Corps which is a framework for mobilising medical and public health experts and teams for preparedness or response operations inside and outside the EU. Her presentation is attached as **ANNEX 6**.

## **5.3 Lessons learned in earthquake disaster mitigation and preparedness in China**

11. Mr. Wang Manda, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of the China Earthquake Administration presented on China's emergency response teams, the international deployment of Chinese search and rescue (SAR) teams and the lessons learned from the 2015 Nepal earthquake. He shared the approaches for earthquake disaster mitigation and preparedness in China, namely earthquake monitoring and prediction, earthquake preparedness and earthquake response. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 7**.

## **5.4 Japan's Framework for Emergency Relief and Japan's Response to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake**

12. Mr. Hideaki Matsuo, Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan in Yangon delivered a presentation on Japan's framework for emergency relief. He touched on the Japanese government's focus on ensuring human security and development of a humanitarian aid policy. He emphasised the current challenges facing the region, namely prolonged and complex humanitarian crises; frequent and large-scale natural disasters; and diversified humanitarian assistance. He explained that Japan's disaster assistance is divided into three avenues, namely the deployment of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams; the distribution of emergency relief goods; and the provision of emergency grant aid. He elaborated on the composition of JDR teams as well as the rules and procedures in the deployment of the teams. He described Japan's recent experiences in responding to the Nepal earthquake in 2015 and to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

## **5.5 Building a nation resilience to disasters**

13. Mr. Yopi Wardhana, Deputy Director for Humanitarian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia shared Indonesia's experience in building national resilience to disasters. He highlighted the recent major disaster incidents in Indonesia which prompted the government to reform the national disaster management system from responsive to preparedness. He elaborated on the legislation, institution and policy building blocks for the new national disaster management system. He outlined several lessons learned including the importance of putting people at the centre of disaster risk reduction and management; having clear and specific regulations on disaster management; developing partnerships with multiple stakeholders; local capacity building to cope with disasters; and local wisdom and knowledge as a coping mechanism to deal with disasters. He informed the Meeting that Indonesia is striving to establish itself as a regional centre of excellence for disaster risk reduction. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

## **5.6 Open Discussion**

14. The Meeting discussed whether food security is factored in as an element in disaster response and relief, why man-made disasters seem to be less highlighted, how to strengthen synergy of existing regional mechanisms and maximise existing centres on disaster management, and the means to increase the utilization of everyday information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve situational awareness.

15. The Philippines shared several lessons learned as follows: 1) no country can ever fully be prepared for disasters; 2) no country can respond to disasters alone; 3) the region faces massive natural disasters regularly; and 4) there was an overflow of goodwill in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda and the challenge was to mobilise the flow of resources effectively.

## **Agenda Item 6: One ASEAN One Response**

### **6.1 Presentation on Achievement of AADMER and Anticipated Regional Activities for the Post-2015 Disaster Relief (Chair of the ACDM)**

16. There were no discussions under this agenda item.

### **6.2 Presentation on One ASEAN One Response (AHA Centre)**

17. Mr. Janggam Adithyawarma from the AHA Centre delivered a presentation on One ASEAN One Response which is the vision of embracing various stakeholders in ASEAN to respond jointly to disasters together as one. He outlined the steps of this vision starting from the establishment of the AHA Centre in 2011, the need for all stakeholders in ASEAN to respond to disasters together as one, and the coordination of disaster relief and response beyond ASEAN Member States through relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF and the East Asia Summit (EAS). He highlighted the work of the AHA Centre in responding to disasters in the region, in training and

deploying ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) members, and in coordinating field disaster operations through the Joint Operation and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA). He shared to the Meeting the current discussions on developing an ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) as well as the longer-term vision which sees ASEAN providing disaster relief and response beyond the region. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

### **6.3 Open Discussion**

18. The Meeting discussed the ways and means in which non-state stakeholders could interface with state agencies and the AHA Centre. The Meeting noted the query on the role of the ASEAN Secretary-General as ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC). The ASEAN Secretariat responded that the role of SG-AHAC is activated in an event of a major natural disaster or pandemic upon the request of the affected ASEAN Member State or with the consent or without the objection of the affected ASEAN Member State upon the offer of assistance made by the ASEAN Secretary-General.

19. The Co-Chairs informed the Meeting that the current co-chairmanship will expire in this inter-sessional year. On that note, the Co-Chairs encouraged ARF participants to consider taking up the co-chairmanship of the ISM on DR for the next cycle.

### **Agenda Item 7: Development for Disaster Relief**

#### **7.1 Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Preparedness and Response**

20. Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Deputy Head of UNOCHA Office in Myanmar, delivered a presentation on emergency preparedness and response in Asia and the Pacific, the regional overview of humanitarian civil-military coordination, and the activities of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific. He highlighted that the majority of disaster relief funding went directly to food, health, shelter / non-food items (NFIs) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). He shared the definition of civil-military coordination in the United Nations context as “the essential dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in humanitarian emergencies necessary to protect and promote humanitarian principles, minimise inconsistency and, when appropriate, pursue common goals.” He touched on the Oslo Guidelines and the Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations (APC-MADRO) as reference for UN civil-military coordination. He also shared some lessons from civil-military coordination during the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in 2015 and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015. He elaborated on the establishment of the RCG on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific and the outcomes of its first session which was held in Bangkok in December 2015. The Meeting took note of the RCG work plan for 2016-2017 and the convening of the second session in Manila in October/November 2016. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

## **7.2 National Civil-Military Coordination System in Myanmar**

21. Col. Nay Myo Hlaing of the Myanmar Army delivered a presentation on the Myanmar Armed Forces' role in disaster relief and response, namely SAR operations, humanitarian assistance, health care and medical assistance, transport of supplies and personnel, relief and rehabilitation works, and security tasks. He outlined the national mechanism in disaster management which provides the framework for civil-military coordination and cooperation in Myanmar. He provided case studies of the armed forces' participation in domestic disasters and suggested that given time, the Myanmar armed force have had the experience and capability to contribute to disaster response operations outside the country. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 12.**

## **7.3 National Civil-Military Coordination System in China**

22. Col. Zhao Meng from the Ministry of National Defence of China presented on China's military-civil coordination mechanism in disaster prevention and relief. She highlighted the establishment of a joint command structure in accordance with the state structure with local military involvement at the local level and the monthly inter-agency consultation on disaster preparedness at the national level. She elaborated on the joint civil-military academic courses, trainings and exercises and described the joint civil-military command system during disaster response operations. Her presentation is attached as **ANNEX 13.**

## **7.4 National Civil-Military Coordination: Domestic Response (United States)**

23. Mr. Michael Sashin from the Center for Excellence on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA) presented on civil-military coordination in domestic and foreign disaster responses. He referred to the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 which prompted a change in US federal laws in that the federal government could provide assistance to local/state government without prior requests for assistance. He also outlined the procedures for foreign disaster response by US civilian and military agencies which is bilateral in nature and coordinated by the United States Agency for International Development/Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 14.**

## **7.5 Open Discussion**

24. The Meeting discussed the challenge of coordination with local government during a disaster event. Some participants suggested that effective on-site coordination mechanisms in one country could be utilised by another country to improve its own mechanisms.

## **Agenda Item 8: Readiness to Response**

### **8.1 ARF DiREX 2015 Experience Sharing (Challenges and Opportunity) (Malaysia and China)**

25. The Meeting noted the briefing by Malaysia and China on the outcomes of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) 2015 which was held in Kedah, Malaysia from 25-28 May 2015. The Exercise focused on testing civil-military coordination in disaster relief to create synergy and synchronise efforts for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and built upon the recommendations from the previous ARF DiREx in 2011 and 2013. The overarching scenario of the ARF DiREx 2015 was a super typhoon affecting the northern part of peninsular Malaysia and was divided into three components, namely Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR). The Exercise saw the engagement of various assets, vehicles and personnel from 18 ARF participants as well as from regional and international organisations. The Exercise was also the first occasion where the ASEAN armband was worn by ASEAN participants as a sign of ASEAN responders operating together as one. The Meeting noted the recommendation for the next Co-Chairs of the ARF DiREx to be identified as early as possible to enable sufficient preparations and for the Co-Chairs to work more closely with the diplomatic missions in the region including to simulate consular assistance during disasters. The Meeting noted that a commemorative book on the ARF DiREx 2015 is being prepared and will be circulated to all ARF participants in due course.

### **8.2 Disaster Management in Japan: Case Study from the Kanto Flooding Case 2015**

26. Mr. Hideaki Matsuo, firstly delivered a presentation on Japan's efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction through the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN WCDRR in March 2015. The Conference adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Sendai Declaration as well as the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction. In the second part, he referred to the case study on vertical collaboration between central and local governments and horizontal (interagency) collaboration during Typhoon 18<sup>th</sup> in September 2015 which caused flooding in Joso City, Ibaraki Prefecture. He highlighted some challenges on intergovernmental disaster management, i.e. difficulties in getting different agencies to work together; how to achieve "shared-governance" approach; and existing SOPs may not be applicable in the case of large-scale disasters. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX 15**.

### **8.3 Readiness to Response at Local Level (Myanmar)**

27. U Khin Maung Win from the Chin State Government presented on readiness to response at the local level. He highlighted the vulnerability of Chin State to natural disasters, particularly floods and landslides and the difficulties in providing assistance to the affected population due to the mountainous terrain and limited infrastructure. He offered recommendations for readiness to response, including capacity building for the local community through awareness, training and drills/simulations; developing state-

level disaster response and contingency plans; and ensuring financial, human and material resources for response. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 16**.

#### **8.4 Readiness to Response at Local Level (Thailand)**

28. MG Permsak Robchangwad, Director of the Office of Civil Affairs, Office of Policy Planning of the Ministry of Defence of Thailand delivered a presentation on Thailand's concept on military task force standby list for HADR operations. He elaborated on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Disaster Relief Plan 2015 which outlines, among others, the MOD Disaster Relief Centre and the involvement of military assets in humanitarian assistance operations. He described Thailand's efforts to streamline and expedite its internal coordination to respond to requests for assistance from external partners in the event of a disaster. The Meeting took note of the ASEAN Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination Workshop which will be convened in Bangkok from 28 March – 1 April 2016. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 17**.

#### **8.5 2015 Flood and Landslides Response, Relief and Recovery of RCRC and Lessons Learned (Myanmar Red Cross Society)**

29. The Meeting noted the presentation by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) on their efforts in providing response, relief and recovery during floods and landslides in Myanmar during 2015. Some lessons learned from these efforts were highlighted, including the lack of experience of the kind of heavy level of flooding and landslides; the low readiness level of the affected states in setting up humanitarian coordination; gaps in the early warning system; and the need to emphasise safety procedures for local first responders. The Meeting also noted the deployment of the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) during the 2015 floods and the lessons learned from the deployment. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX 18**.

#### **8.6 Open Discussion**

30. The Meeting noted the query on the difficulties of applying existing SOPs during large-scale disasters. The Philippines commented that, in the case of Typhoon Haiyan, the scale of the disaster caused a complete breakdown of communications which affected the activation of existing SOPs. The Meeting also noted the recommendation to streamline the activities of existing ASEAN HADR mechanisms.

### **Agenda Item 9: Progress of ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017 and Upcoming Activities**

#### **9.1 Overview**

31. The Co-Chairs provided an overview of the implementation progress of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2015-2017. Although there has been steady progress in the implementation of the Work Plan, as of now there are still no lead countries for Priority Areas 1 and 2. The Meeting took note of the Co-Chairs' proposal to align the lead countries of the Work Plan with the Co-Chairs of the ACDM Working Groups of the AADMER Work Programme and suggestion for ARF participants who have not yet



taken up the co-chairmanship or co-leadership in the ISM on DR to consider doing so as a means to enrich the discussions and experience sharing on HADR.

32. On Priority Area 3, Malaysia and the United States recalled the discussions on streamlining the multiple HADR exercises conducted by various ASEAN mechanisms during the ARF Workshop on Multi-Year Strategic Exercise Planning which was held in Kuala Lumpur in April 2015. The workshop achieved two of its three objectives to examine regional needs and to identify principles for exercise harmonization. To further our efforts on this subject, the co-chairs expressed interest in continuing the discussions with the guidance of the ACDM.

## **9.2 Upcoming Activities (China and United States)**

### **9.2.1 ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue**

33. China updated the Meeting on the preparations for the ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue which is scheduled to be held in Shanghai in late May 2016. The 7-day activity will focus mostly on technical exchanges, trainings and joint exercises and aims to invite approximately 200 participants from both policy officials and experts related to urban emergency rescue. The workshop also aims to establish a permanent mechanism for a biennial workshop between the ARF DiREx as well as provide technical support for the ARF DiREx. The briefing is attached as **ANNEX 19**.

### **9.2.2 ARF Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management**

34. Thailand updated the Meeting on the preparations for the ARF Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management which is scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 31 May – 1 June 2016. Topics to be explored in the workshop include government leadership in fostering effective stakeholder engagement on climate resilience; ways to build synergies among regional frameworks and international bodies; implications of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction towards AADMER; effective knowledge sharing platform for governments and stakeholders; interoperability and coordination in disaster relief operations; and harnessing the untapped potential of the private sector. The invitation package for the workshop will be circulated to all ARF participants in due course.

## **9.3 Open Discussion**

35. On the proposal to align of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief with the AADMER Work Plan, Singapore suggested that non-ASEAN ARF participants should take into consideration the current structure of the ACDM Working Groups in planning their activities under the ISM on DR and for the ASEAN Secretariat to work with ACDM on how to rationalise and synergise the five ACDM Working Groups overseeing the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 with the three Priority Areas of the Work Plan in order to ensure the leadership of these areas. The Philippines supported the suggestions and highlighted ASEAN's position on the need to link disaster risk reduction efforts with the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and on the nexus between and among disaster risk reduction, climate change and

sustainable development. In this context, the Meeting took note that the ASEAN Strategic Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda Affected Areas is scheduled to be launched at the sidelines of the 48<sup>th</sup> AMM/PMC/23<sup>rd</sup> ARF in Lao PDR later in the year. The good practices from the project could be replicated and further developed into an ASEAN disaster recovery toolbox.

## **Agenda Item 10: Regional Coordination**

### **10.1 Regional Humanitarian Coordination Centre (Singapore)**

36. The Meeting took note of the briefing on the establishment of the Changi Regional Humanitarian Coordination Centre (RHCC), its role in disaster response operations and the lessons learned from the RHCC's deployment in the Nepal earthquake. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 20**.

### **10.2 The UK-Japan Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar in Manila (EU and Japan)**

37. The meeting noted the briefing on the Seminar which was co-hosted by the United Kingdom and Japan and held in Manila on 20-22 January 2016. The Seminar highlighted the importance of community preparedness and resilience towards disasters. Some observations from the Seminar include challenges in coordinating regional bodies and initiatives to deliver regional priorities and establishing trust in building a community of responders. The co-organisers emphasised that the Seminar was not intended to duplicate existing discussions but to dig up needs for capacity building in this area. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 21**.

### **10.3 An Updated Report on the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (Japan)**

38. Mr. Kazumi Naganuma from the Ministry of Defense of Japan updated the Meeting on the activities of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (EWG on HADR). The briefing highlighted the main pillars of the EWG on HADR Work Plan and the schedule of activities of the EWG on HADR in 2016-2017, particularly the ADMM-Plus Military Medicine and HADR Exercise (AM-HEx) 2016 to be held in Thailand in September 2016. The briefing also highlighted three discussion topics of the EWG on HADR; namely: 1) draft template of the declaration by affected countries; 2) development of the SOP on the Multi-National Coordination Center (MNCC); and 3) best practices on the withdrawal and transition phase of HADR operations. The briefing is attached as **ANNEX 22**.

### **10.4 China's Cooperation with Regional Countries (China)**

39. The Meeting noted the briefing on China's cooperation with ASEAN in marine forecast and disaster relief through the National Marine Environmental Forecasting Centre (NMEFC). The briefing highlighted the NMEFC's capabilities and forecasting systems as well as cooperation with ASEAN Member States and other countries in the Asia-Pacific. The Meeting noted that China's State Oceanic Administration (SOA) will host an ARF workshop on marine disaster management in the third quarter of 2016.

The concept paper for the workshop will be circulated to all ARF participants in the near future. The briefing is attached as **ANNEX 23**.

40. The Meeting noted the briefing on the cooperative activities of of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) with regional countries. The briefing highlighted some recent activities, including the Workshop on Application of Spatial Information Technology in Major Natural Disaster Monitoring and Assessment under the EAS framework in Hangzhou in June 2015 and the China-ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Response Workshop in Cambodia in January 2016, as well as upcoming activities organised by the MCA in 2016, including the China-ASEAN Workshop on Science and Technology Innovation and Typhoon Disaster Response which is scheduled to be held in Nanning in September 2016. The briefing is attached as **ANNEX 24**.

### **10.5 Open Discussion**

41. The Meeting underscored the importance of not only providing timely response and relief but also developing community preparedness and resilience, in particular less-developed communities who are the most vulnerable to disasters. Countries need to improve coordination of the delivery of emergency relief and response measures to assist the affected country. In this regard, the AHA Centre plays a key role in coordinating ASEAN's disaster response in the region under One ASEAN One Response.

42. The Meeting welcomed the contributions from the Republic of Korea, India and Russia to disaster and SAR activities and operations in the region. The Meeting also welcomed the Republic of Korea's interest in co-chairing the next cycle of the ARF ISM on DR.

### **Agenda Item 11: Closing Session**

#### **11.1 Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs (Myanmar, China and Japan)**

43. In the closing remarks, the Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation to all participants for their views and suggestions during the discussions. The Co-Chairs reiterated that the scale of recent disasters have made it difficult for the affected country to respond and recover by itself. As such, ARF participants should strengthen their cooperation with each other. The Co-Chairs emphasised the importance of building a better response with the goal to minimise the suffering of disaster victims and to put people at the centre of every relief and response operation.

44. On the future direction of the ARF ISM on DR, the Co-Chairs offered the following observations:

- a. The ISM on DR should be a more proactive and informative forum to reach concrete cooperation between ARF participants as well as with other international organisations.
- b. The ARF should strive to uphold ASEAN centrality in its activities and support measures to build the capacity of ASEAN, including by strengthening the function of the AHA Centre.

- c. The ARF should seek more practical and effective approaches to promote synergy among regional security frameworks, particularly the ARF, the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ADMM-Plus. Information sharing between these frameworks have helped to avoid duplication of efforts.

45. The Meeting expressed gratitude to Myanmar, China and Japan for their effective co-chairmanship of the ISM on DR. They also thanked the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on DR.

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