

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the
Thirteenth ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief
Chengdu, China, 26-28 February 2014**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 20th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 2 July 2013, the Meeting of the 13th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) was held in Chengdu, China on 26-28 February 2014. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Myo Sat Aung, Director of International Communication Division, Department 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 Mr. Kenichi Katagiri from the National Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

2. All ARF participants except Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka attended the Meeting. Representatives of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

Agenda Item 1: Keynote Address

3. H.E. Mme. Jiang Li, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China, delivered the keynote address. She focused on the vulnerability of the Asia Pacific region to natural disasters and stressed the importance of closer regional cooperation on disaster relief for regional stability and sustainable economic and social development. She commended the ARF for being the most influential and inclusive multilateral security cooperation mechanism in the region and its progress into practical cooperation, and recalled China's past contribution in this area with the adoption of the ARF Guidelines on Disaster Relief Cooperation at the 6th ARF ISM on DR in Qingdao in 2006. She expressed hope that the Meeting would push forward the improvement of regional cooperation on disaster relief as well as further promote communication and cooperation among ARF participants, and offered several suggestions on deepening existing ARF cooperation in disaster prevention and reduction. The keynote address is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

Agenda Item 2: Opening Remarks

4. In her opening remarks, Ms. Chai Mei observed how the region has experienced countless natural disasters which greatly affected the people and their livelihood. ARF cooperation in this area is important in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters. She recalled the work of the ARF in this area and the many outcome documents which the ARF has produced. She outlined the agenda of the Meeting and expressed hope that the discussions will contribute to further cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

5. In his opening remarks, Mr. Kenichi Katagiri recalled the multitude of natural disasters which have affected countries in the region. In this regard, he emphasised that HADR is a priority area of non-traditional security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. He noted that the ARF ISM on DR should move towards more practical and effective

cooperation among ASEAN-related HADR activities under the regional frameworks; ARF, EAS and ADMM-plus.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 4: Administrative Arrangements

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

Agenda Item 5: Lessons Learned

5.1 Presentation by Myanmar

8. Mr. Win Htein Kyaw from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar briefed the Meeting on Myanmar's vulnerability to natural disasters and their efforts in disaster prevention and mitigation. He elaborated on Myanmar's national legislation on disaster management, the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction which aimed to implement both the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the policy and institutional arrangement of the National Disaster Management Committee, and Myanmar's contribution in ASEAN-related HADR activities, including as host of the AADMER Recovery Working Group Meeting and the ASEAN Tabletop Exercise for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2014. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

5.2 Presentation by China

9. Mr. Li Yigang from the National Earthquake Response Support Services of China Earthquake Administration (CEA) briefed the Meeting on the lessons learned from earthquake emergency responses in China. He touched on major earthquakes which China has experienced throughout the years, and described how the aftermath of the Xingtai Earthquake in 1966 prompted the establishment of China's earthquake response system. He elaborated on China's emergency command and management institution as well as the structure of the CEA's emergency response system. He informed the Meeting on the Chinese International Search and Rescue (CISAR) team which was established in 2001 and has participated in various disaster relief operations worldwide. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

5.3 Presentation by the Philippines

10. The Meeting noted the briefing by Mr. Daniel Espiritu from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines on the lessons learned from Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). He elaborated on how the severity of the typhoon paralysed the local government in the affected areas and caused significant delays in the mobilisation and deployment of first responders. He outlined the Philippine national government's subsequent response efforts including the declaration of a State of National Calamity and the mobilisation of national agencies into five clusters for early recovery and rehabilitation, namely 1) food and water relief; 2) shelter and reconstruction; 3) peace and order; 4) livelihood, employment and commerce; and 5) social services including health and education. He informed the Meeting on the contributions from external

partners including assets and personnel from several ARF participants in the relief operations. He highlighted several lessons learned and recommendations from the Typhoon Yolanda relief and response efforts including identification of sites for safe and fortified evacuation centres, developing a more robust mainstream communications system, organisation and pre-positioning of trained first responders, identification of logistic hubs for pre-positioning of assets, manpower and relief goods, strengthening of public-private partnership in recovery and reconstruction efforts, and enhancement of standard operating procedures (SOPs), including on emergency health services protocol, management of casualties, and documentation and monitoring of donations. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 7**.

5.4 Presentation by Japan

11. Mr. Hideya Sato, Deputy Director for Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, delivered his presentation on Japan's contribution to international disaster relief operations. He outlined Japan's framework for emergency relief and assistance to countries affected by natural and man-made disasters which includes the provision of emergency relief aid, goods, and personnel. He elaborated on Japan's contribution to the Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts including the deployment of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams to the Philippines. He underscored several best practices derived from the experience including the need for close coordination with the government of the affected country, the importance of seamless transition from emergency relief to early recovery, facilitating a smooth hand-over from relief personnel to local authorities, the need for security measures offered to relief personnel by the local authorities, cooperation by military aircraft to civilian medical team, and caring for women and girls in special needs. He also noted a number of security, logistic, and coordination challenges which serve as important lessons learned in future disaster relief operations. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

Agenda Item 6: Early Warning and Assessment of Risks

6.1 Presentations on early warning and risk assessment

6.1.1 Presentation by China

12. The Meeting noted the briefing by Mr. Fang Weihua from the Academy of Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management of the Beijing Normal University on integrating science, technology and finance in the coordination on regional disaster governance. He highlighted the complexity of the disaster system and the trans-boundary impact of natural disasters. He utilised the concept of risk governance to identify efficient disaster response methods and develop the capacity of reducing hazard, reducing exposure of the population to hazard, and reducing overall vulnerability to disasters. He elaborated on the development of a national database which takes into account information on hazard intensity, population exposure, and vulnerability reduction and has enabled risk mapping for various disasters such as earthquakes, typhoons, storm surges, drought, landslides, snow storms, and forest fires. He highlighted the use of computer-based modeling to calculate potential losses caused by natural disasters. He suggested that the data from this modeling could be utilised as a basis to set up a regional catastrophe and emergency response fund. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

6.1.2 Presentation by UN-SPIDER

13. Mr. Shirish Ravan from the Beijing Office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) briefed the Meeting on the role of space-based information in disaster risk reduction. He described several space-based technologies on disaster management such as satellite meteorology, communications, and global navigation satellite systems, and stressed the increasing access to and availability of geospatial information which is useful in predicting weather extremes and providing early warning. The information could also be used to generate risk and vulnerability maps. He emphasised how space-based information will play a critical role in the implementation of priority areas of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA); this is achieved through capacity-building efforts and support provided by the UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory team, knowledge management via the UN-SPIDER website at www.un-spider.org, and establishment of regional support offices and national focal points around the world. He informed the Meeting of the annual UN-SPIDER conferences of which the most recent was held in Beijing in October 2013, as well as the participation of UN-SPIDER in the ASEAN regional workshop on emergency response mechanisms later this year in cooperation with AHA Centre. Mr. Ravan's presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

6.2 Presentations on information sharing, quick mapping, and zonation management of ocean disasters

6.2.1 Presentation by China

14. Mr. Shi Xianwu from the National Marine Hazard Mitigation Service of China's State Oceanic Administration delivered a presentation on marine disaster risk assessment and zoning in the coastal areas of China. He highlighted several marine disasters such as storm surges and tsunamis which affected the population of China and their livelihoods. He elaborated on marine disaster risk assessment and zoning which is set along four levels, namely county, city, provincial, and national. These assessments have led to the generation of zoning maps which point out more vulnerable areas as well as provide data for accurate disaster relief and response. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

6.2.2 Presentation by Chinese industry executives

15. The Meeting took note of the presentation from Beijing Jinguangtong on equipment which they have developed for use in disaster relief operations, particularly the emergency broadcast communication system. The system has been used by several provinces in China in providing early warning to the population and in coordinating relief and recovery efforts during disasters. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX 12**.

16. The Meeting took note of the presentation from the Shanghai VSAT Network Systems Co., Ltd (SVC) which is part the non-profit Shanghai Strategy for Disaster Reduction and provides equipment and services during disaster relief operations. The equipment provided include one-way and two-way satellite communication systems, terrestrial fibre optic data network, multifunctional emergency command and communications system, and internet access. During the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, SVC quickly established ground presence and communications infrastructure which enabled the dissemination of critical information on the earthquake to the rest of the country and assisted in the further mobilisation of relief assets and personnel. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX 13**.

6.3 Open discussion

17. The Meeting underscored on the importance of cooperation and coordination in early warning and took note of the suggestion to further develop information-sharing on early warning between ARF participants. On this note, participants were encouraged to take advantage of the ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (DRMS) as an important platform for information-sharing on early warning.

18. The Meeting emphasised the importance of developing a unified incident command system in the event of disasters and strengthening community management in order to increase the resilience and preparedness of affected populations.

19. The Meeting discussed whether there were lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan of which existing regional mechanisms could better address. The Philippines highlighted the need to accurately identify countries' disaster relief assets and encouraged assisting countries to mobilise these assets accordingly based on the intensity and requirements of the disaster.

20. The Meeting noted the experience of the population of rural areas in Bangladesh in preparing for annual floods, where the arrival of prolonged rainfall was observed through the movement of insects away from their natural habitat. Such indigenous knowledge should also be taken in consideration in developing disaster response methods.

21. The Meeting took note of the initiative from Russia on the establishment of a network of crisis centres which would greatly facilitate information-sharing on early warning.

Agenda Item 7: Military-civil coordination

7.1 Presentations

7.1.1 Presentation by Indonesia

22. Mr. Dupito Simamora from the Coordinating Ministry of Political, Legal and Security of Indonesia briefed the Meeting on the implementation of military-civil cooperation on the Mentawai Megathrust Disaster Relief Exercise 2013-2014. He highlighted Indonesia's high vulnerability to natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and the need for coordinated military-civil response. He elaborated on the scenario of the Exercise and its objective to strengthen disaster preparedness through information-sharing, to enhance international cooperation for overcoming gaps and bottlenecks, and to strengthen interoperability among stakeholders in the region. He also elaborated on the emergency management system which is being tested in the Exercise and invited ARF participants to observe the Field Training Exercise component which will be conducted in March 2014. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 14**.

7.1.2 Presentation by China

23. Sr. Col. He Qiwei, Deputy Chief of Operations of the Chengdu Military Command, briefed the Meeting on military-civil coordination in HADR. He highlighted the

efforts of the Chengdu Military Command in providing disaster relief assistance during recent earthquakes in Sichuan province. Military personnel, both active and reserve, conducted search and rescue missions, delivered medical aid, and assisted in recovery and reconstruction efforts. He informed the Meeting of several joint HADR exercises between China and Australia and the United States. He elaborated on the main practices of military-civil coordination in HADR, namely 1) joint command under the leadership of the local government to streamline decision-making and deployment of limited resources; 2) deployment of coordination groups to enhance situation awareness, share information and coordinate operations; 3) joint military-civil consultation and coordination meetings to discuss major issues and address challenges; and 4) development of integrated logistics system to support both military and civil personnel effectively. He underlined the key points of military-civil coordination, i.e. the need to enhance military-civil disaster information sharing, establish interconnected military-civil command platforms as well as between national and provincial governments, regular sharing of HADR pre-plans between military and civilian agencies, regular military-civil consultations during major events, and establish mechanisms for joint military-civil exercises. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 15**.

7.3 Open discussion

24. The Meeting discussed the lessons learned from the Typhoon Haiyan response efforts from the perspective of military-civil coordination. The review of the relief efforts underscored the need for a stronger multi-sectoral response particularly between military and civilian agencies.

Agenda Item 8: Humanitarian assistance stockpiles, emergency response, and management

25. Mr. Li Cheng from the Office of Disaster Relief of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China delivered a presentation on China's disaster relief material reserves. The Ministry of Civil Affairs established disaster relief material reserves in 1998 during the Yangzi River floods. He emphasised that the high instances of natural disasters in China necessitated an expansion of material reserves to provide critical life support to affected populations quickly and efficiently. The Chinese Ministry of Finance allocates an annual fund for disaster relief material reserves which has since been standardised to facilitate production and delivery. He elaborated on the transportation and storage infrastructure for the disaster relief material reserves and explained how this infrastructure is also developed by local governments at the municipal, county, and provincial level. He informed the Meeting that the Ministry of Civil Affairs has developed an internet-based information management system on disaster relief material reserves which is used by the national and local governments, and emphasised how this system has enabled the Ministry to determine the material reserves of local governments in time during disaster events. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 16**.

26. Mr. Giuliano Porcelli from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Mr. Bernard Jaspers-Faijer from the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (DG ECHO) jointly briefed the Meeting on the European Union's contribution in multinational HADR cooperation. Mr. Porcelli explained the collaboration between the two bodies in which the EEAS provides coordination at the strategic level while DG ECHO provides immediate disaster relief, humanitarian assistance as well as long term follow-ups. He elaborated on the EU's approach to humanitarian aid which focuses on providing assistance to affected populations while

remaining neutral and independent of any political affiliations. He informed the Meeting of the EU's support to ASEAN and ARF on developing crisis response capability, including through participation in the ARF Disaster Relief Exercises in 2011 and 2013, support for the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre, and direct support for ASEAN Member States in the field of crisis response such as in Myanmar and Philippines. Mr. Jaspers-Faijter then informed the Meeting on the work of DG ECHO and outlined the principles, partners, and activation mechanism of EU humanitarian aid. He highlighted the EU's assistance to the Philippines for Typhoon Haiyan and how the experience and lessons learned during the ARF DiREx 2013 enabled the EU's first responders to mobilise and deploy to the disaster site in less than 6 hours after receiving the request for assistance from the Philippine government. The EU's presentation is attached as **ANNEX 17**.

27. The Meeting took note of the briefing by the Institute of Care-Life which develops earthquake early warning systems (EEWS). The 2008 Wenchuan earthquake provided a grave reminder of the need for EEWS, and the ICL has developed EEWS in China which covers an area of 570,000 sq km and provides early warnings to the public through various means including computers, cell phones, television, radios, and special receivers for schools and other densely populated areas. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX 18**.

8.3 Open discussion

28. The Meeting took note of India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which is currently the world's largest dedicated force for disaster relief operations with over 11,500 personnel fully trained in urban, flood and mountain SAR operations and medical first-response.

29. The Meeting took note of the importance for not only close relationship/seamless handover between military action to civil action, but also the coordination capability of host /affected country's government and armed force.

Agenda Item 9: Damage assessment, recovery and reconstruction

30. Ms. Yuan Yi from the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC) briefed the Meeting on natural disaster loss assessment and post-disaster reconstruction in China. She outlined the objectives of loss assessment which are to learn about damages and economic losses caused by disasters, to launch national and local emergency plans, and to formulate plans for disaster recovery and reconstruction. In the wake of disasters, the different levels of government conduct loss assessment through on-the-spot investigation and statistical compilation. She highlighted the use of remote-sensing technology in disaster monitoring and assessment, including earth observation satellite and unmanned aircraft. Her presentation appears as **ANNEX 19**.

31. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Mr. Daniel Espiritu on the recovery and reconstruction efforts after Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). He provided an overview of the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRMC) which covers four thematic areas, namely prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation and recovery. He elaborated on the Reconstruction Assistance for Yolanda (RAY) programme and the post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) for Typhoon Yolanda. The Typhoon Yolanda PDNA covers five broad sectors, namely infrastructure, livelihood, social, resettlement, and cross-sectoral, and outlines the areas

on which the government needs to focus their efforts. The PDNA is scheduled to be completed by the second week of March 2014. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 20**.

32. Mr. Md. Abu Zafar, Director General for South East Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, delivered a presentation on Bangladesh's efforts in disaster risk reduction. He underscored the vulnerability of Bangladesh to cyclones and floods and the history of Bangladesh's approach to disaster management. The aftermath of the 1991 cyclone prompted a shift from a reactive response to a comprehensive approach in disaster management. The development of a national Disaster Management Bureau in 1993, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework in 2000, and the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management in 2007, and the National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015 underlined Bangladesh's efforts to the comprehensive approach with the goal to reduce risk and losses to the affected population. He also outlined the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) which has become an effective and world-renowned organisation for its effectiveness in cyclone emergency response His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 21**.

33. The Meeting enquired on the national inter-agency coordination process during Typhoon Haiyan recovery efforts. In response, the Philippines described how the loss of communication and transportation infrastructure in the immediate aftermath of Haiyan proved to be a major obstacle in coordinating response efforts, and

Agenda Item 10: Preparation of DiREx 2015 and coordination of regional mechanisms

10.1 Preparation of DiREx 2015 by Malaysia and China

34. The Meeting noted the briefing by Malaysia and China on the preparations for the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) 2015. The focus of the DiREx 2015 will be on testing civil-military coordination efforts and creating synergy towards the effective implementation of AADMER as the common platform for regional disaster management. The Co-Chairs highlighted some specific challenges which will be addressed in the ARF DiREx 2015, including strengthening the effective utilization and quick deployment of the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT), the effective operationalisation of the AHA Centre to enhance regional cooperation and ensure ASEAN's collective response; management of mass casualties in the immediate aftermath, management of international humanitarian aid, addressing special needs of the population including setting up special medical facilities, management of consular assistance to foreigners, coordination and information-sharing between foreign embassies in the affected country, media management and control of information outflow, and coordination of local and international volunteers with HADR authorities. The location of the ARF DiREx will be at the campus grounds of the Northern Malaysia University in Kedah state. The proposed scenario will be a super-typhoon impacting the northern part of Malaysia with possible simulations of urban and maritime SAR, industrial accidents, collapsed structures, flood evacuation, and oil spills. The Co-Chairs indicated that the ARF DiREx 2015 will be held on 1-6 February 2015, with the Initial Planning Conference held in August/September 2014 and the Final Planning Conference & Site Survey held in November/December 2014. In addition, a special commemorative publication on the ARF DiREx 2015 is being planned which will include exercise photos, write-ups and recommendations of the Exercise, and selected HADR documents. The publication is scheduled to be launched at the sidelines of the 22nd ARF in 2015.

10.2 Briefing on the coordination on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) by the UNOCHA

35. Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall, Head of the UNOCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, updated the Meeting on the latest developments of UNOCHA's work in the context of HADR coordination. He recalled the lessons learned from the Table Top Exercise (TTX) of the ARF DiREx 2013 and emphasised the importance of carrying over these lessons into future exercises. He suggested that the planning for these exercises involve the following key stakeholders: the national government and its supporting and relevant agencies; representatives of assisting countries; regional organisations; the international humanitarian community; the military; the private sector; and members of the academic community. He stressed the need to come up with coherent exercises between various mechanisms in the region in order to maximise the utilisation of limited resources. On the broader view of ASEAN-UN relations on HADR, he informed the Meeting that in a few weeks several UN agencies will meet with the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan on Disaster Management. He also informed the Meeting on the launching of the Guide for Disaster Managers on International Response Tools and Services which was a result of the 5th Regional Humanitarian Partnerships Meeting held in in November 2013. His presentation appears as **ANNEX 22**.

10.3 Briefing on the progress of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on HADR by China

36. Lt. Col. Cheng Kai from the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defence briefed the Meeting on the progress of the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR. He informed the Meeting on the main work of the EWG on HADR under Viet Nam and China's co-chairmanship, including the setting up and drafting of the concept paper and work plan for 2011-2013 and the implementation of the work plan through the convening of regular EWG on HADR meeting and the successful conduct of the inaugural ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine (HADR and MM) Exercise in 2013, which involved a range of assets and personnel from the ADMM-Plus countries. He highlighted the achievements of the Exercise, including the participation of all ADMM-Plus countries with a total of 3,230 participating personnel and the setting up of effective command and control mechanisms and standard operating procedures. He offered some suggestions for the way ahead, i.e. continue the sharing of expertise and information, promote further joint training and exercises, develop regional storage facilities, and create synergy among the various regional HADR mechanisms. At the end of the presentation a short video was played which displayed the highlights of the Exercise. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 23**.

10.4 Briefing by Japan on Work Plan Proposal 2014-2016 for ADMM-Plus HADR EWG

37. Lt. Col. Pathana Bouttichak, Deputy Chief of the Office of General Staff Department of Lao PDR and Capt. (Navy) Katsuya Yamamoto, Chief International Policy Planning Section of Japan Joint Staff briefed the proposed work plan on the ADMM-Plus HADR EWG for 2014-2016. The second cycle of the EWG needs to identify concrete objectives and the necessary means to accomplish them. The three pillars of the EWG on HADR were reaffirmed, namely swift response, shared assessment and seamless support, and smooth handover to reconstruction players. The EWG on HADR is planning several exercises including a HADR TTX in 2015 and a combined HADR and MM

Command Post Exercise/Field Training Exercise (CPX/FTX) in 2016. The presentation is attached as **ANNEX 24**.

10.5 Briefing on Rapid Disaster Response within the East Asia Summit by Australia

38. Mr. Jonathan Ball, Director of Humanitarian Operations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, briefed the Meeting on the rapid disaster response within the EAS. He outlined disaster management initiatives within the EAS framework including the joint Indonesia-Australia paper on enhancing regional disaster response cooperation and the EAS Workshop on Disaster Response which was held in Darwin in September 2013. He informed the Meeting on the establishment of a central repository of information for EAS disaster response which is located at <http://www.emknowledge.gov.au>. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 25**.

10.6 Presentation on the synergy and coordination between existing ASEAN HADR mechanisms (ASEAN Secretariat)

39. Mr. Larry Maramis, Director for Cross-Sectoral Cooperation of the ASEAN Secretariat, briefed the Meeting on synergy and coordination between ASEAN-related HADR mechanisms. He discussed the shifts in the international humanitarian landscape where new and emerging stakeholders are playing a greater role in humanitarian assistance and regional governments and organisations are taking the lead in disaster preparedness and response. He touched on the post-2015 humanitarian system where new technologies, growth of mobile financial transactions, and the increasing role of the private sector necessitates the development of a more inclusive HADR framework. In the regional context, the challenge is to develop a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to disaster preparedness and response. He recalled the discussions on synergy and coordination which was made at the 12th ISM on DR in Padang and updated the Meeting on new developments in ASEAN since then, including the adoption by ASEAN Leaders of the ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management which encouraged a more integrated coordination and synergy in HADR among ASEAN-related mechanisms in particular the ADMM/ADMM-Plus, ARF, EAS, and the newly-convened ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM). On this note, he informed the Meeting of the creation of a Joint Task Force to promote synergy and coordination among the above mechanisms as well as the development of terms of reference to formalise the role of the ASEAN Secretary-General as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator. He then outlined ASEAN's response efforts to Typhoon Haiyan and underlined the core elements of multi-sectoral response taken from the experiences of Typhoon Haiyan. He offered several suggestions for the ISM on DR to take forward in future meetings. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 26**.

40. Thailand and the Republic of Korea briefed the Meeting on the lessons learned from the ARF DiREx 2013 and suggestions for future Exercises, such as establishment of close linkages between TTX and FTX, awareness of national laws of the affected country as well as understanding of the international humanitarian guidelines, and development of a comprehensive after action review report. The experience gained during the ARF DiREx 2013 was crucial in expediting the mobilisation and deployment of international assistance to the Philippines for Typhoon Haiyan. The Meeting took note of the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) which will be hosted by Thailand on 22- 26 June 2014.

10.8 Open Discussion

41. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of coordination between the ASEAN mechanisms in HADR and emphasised that ASEAN should continue to play a lead role in the coordination of its mechanisms. Some participants encouraged the mechanisms to continue the practice of cross-reporting between the mechanisms and for ASEAN to demonstrate stronger ownership of the AHA Centre. The Meeting noted the suggestions to conduct only one annual large-scale field exercise with other exercises in complementary and to place specific themes to the exercises with the ARF focusing on civil-military cooperation and coordination and the ADMM-Plus focusing on testing and improving the rapid disaster response capabilities of the military.

42. The Meeting noted the suggestion for ARF participants to identify the co-chairs for the ARF DiREx 2017 as early as possible to enable more robust and comprehensive preparations. Some participants expressed support for the inclusion of NGOs and IGOs in all disaster response exercises

43. The Meeting took note of the information South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Centre in New Delhi and the possibility of cooperation with the ARF on HADR issues.

Agenda Item 11: Update the ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan 2012-2014 and future direction

11.1 Update on Priority Area One (Australia)

44. The Meeting noted the update by Australia on its activities under Priority Area One, including the ongoing availability of the ARF DRMS, the ongoing programmes of the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR), provision of staffing and operational budget for the AHA Centre, and support for the ASEAN Secretariat. Australia also informed the Meeting that the schedule for the ARF Workshop on Consular Contingency Planning will be circulated to all ARF participants in due course.

11.2 Update on Priority Area Two (Singapore)

45. The Meeting noted the proposal by Singapore to conduct activities under Priority Area Two which will build on the outcomes of the proposed Joint Task Force to promote synergy and coordination among ASEAN HADR mechanisms. Singapore invited non-ASEAN ARF participants to co-lead Priority Area Two to move the cooperation forward.

11.3 Update on Priority Area Three (Malaysia and United States)

46. Malaysia and the United States recalled the discussions on coordination between ASEAN-related HADR mechanisms and informed the Meeting that the proposal for a workshop to discuss this issue has been developed. The workshop would bring together the relevant mechanisms including the ACDM, ADMM-Plus and is scheduled to be convened in the next inter-sessional year. On this note, the lead countries informed the Meeting that the concept paper for the workshop will be circulated through the ARF Unit in due course.

11.4 Suggestions for updating the ARF Work Plan

47. The Meeting noted the suggestions for ARF participants to assign a national focal point for disaster relief and for the ISM on DR to discuss international disaster relief law in conjunction with the recently developed UNOCHA's "Use of Military Assets in Disasters in Asia and the Pacific" and the UNOCHA/IFRC "IDRL Guidelines" and involve the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in future meetings and exercises.

11.5 Suggestions for future direction

48. The Meeting welcomed the ARF Workshop Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management which has been scheduled for 2014 and will be co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and the United States.

49. The Meeting took note of China's initiative on an Urban SAR Training Programme which is scheduled to be convened in the latter half of 2014. The training will be convened in Beijing and the focus will be on enhancing participants' capabilities in USAR. China extended an invitation for ARF participants to take part in the training programme.

Agenda Item 12: Closing remarks

50. The Co-Chairs expressed the view that the ARF ISM on DR should continue to be the primary forum to discuss relevant HADR issues as well as implement practical HADR cooperation in the region. The Co-Chairs also called for future ISMs on DR to continue the discussion on synergy and coordination among HADR mechanisms under the regional frameworks including EAS, ARF and ADMM plus and continue upholding and strengthening ASEAN centrality in regional HADR cooperation.

51. The Co-Chairs expressed appreciation to all speakers and participants for their views and active contributions in the discussions. The Co-Chairs also expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the excellent presentation and for supporting the successful conduct of the Meeting.

52. The Meeting expressed gratitude to Myanmar, China and Japan for their effective co-chairmanship. They also thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China for the hospitality and arrangements in hosting the 13th ARF ISM on DR.
