

The Asia Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC MADRO)

The APC MADRO concept grew out of an International Seminar held in New Delhi in 2005 which considered emerging Challenges for Armed Forces specifically in disaster management and discussed the requirement for a better elaborated framework for Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations.

APC MADRO 2006: In the wake of the Indian Ocean Tsunami further urgent discussions on the requirement for better guidance for Military Commanders and their Staff who might be involved in Disaster Relief Operations led to the first APC MADRO (2006) co-hosted by the Singapore Defence Force and UN OCHA in Singapore. This first conference established modus operandi, endorsed outline aims and goals for the APC-MADRO and called upon UN OCHA and regional partners to conduct a preparatory guideline needs assessment and gap analysis table for discussion at the APC-MADRO 2007.



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APC MADRO 2007: In the 2007 APC MADRO co-hosted by the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and UN OCHA in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, participants discussed the assessment and gap analysis of existing regional guidelines conducted as recommended following the previous conference by OCHA and regional partners. Participants concluded that a gap existed and recommended the development of guidelines for the 'Facilitation of Foreign Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations in the Asia-Pacific Region' to complement other regional initiatives.

APC MADRO 2008: In the 2008 APC MADRO co-hosted by the Australian Government and UN OCHA in Canberra, Australia, participants were presented with a working draft of the guidelines which had been prepared by OCHA and regional partners and circulated for comment and/or amendment prior to the event. Participants carefully studied the guidelines to best determine and recommend how they might be most effectively developed. Participants recommended that the draft be re-circulated to all participating countries for national comments, amendment and presentation at the APC-MADRO 2009..



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APC MADRO 2009: In the 2009 APC MADRO co-hosted by the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE DMHA) and UN OCHA in Honolulu, Hawaii, participants developed a final draft of the 'Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations' which incorporated all of the remaining concerns, issues and amendments raised by participating nations. Participants recommended that all participating nations should then seek official endorsement of finalised guidelines at the national level in preparation for final endorsement at the APC-MADRO high-level event in 2010.

APC MADRO 2010: This year the APC MADRO will be held in Thailand, at the Amari Watergate Hotel, on the 14th and 15th of October. It is very much hoped that the Thai Royal Armed Forces will host the event which is being jointly organised by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE DMHA – Hawaii) and the Asia-Pacific Civil Military Centre of Excellence (APCM COE - Australia).



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APC MADRO 2010 Objective

Having worked in close cooperation with over 30 regional countries/partners in conferences in and co-hosted by Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and the United States of America, we seek in the last APC MADRO 2010 to obtain **final national approval and endorsement** of the 'Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations'.

These non-binding guidelines, which have been developed to compliment other existing and emerging regional guidelines, will significantly contribute to ensuring effective and principled foreign military assistance to disaster relief operations with Asia and the Pacific.

Invitations have been sent to all ARF members through their Permanent Missions in Geneva – should you have any questions about the event please contact OCHA's Regional Civil Military Coordination Officer, Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa at rhodesstampa@un.org



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APC-MADRO Development 'ROAD MAP'

