

ARF WORK PLAN FOR DISASTER RELIEF 2009-2011:

A Review of its Implementation and Proposed Recommendations for the Subsequent Work Plan

1. The ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief 2009-2011 was adopted at the 16th ARF in Phuket on 23 July 2009, by the ARF Ministers. Adoption of the Work Plan was a culmination of discussions on issues relating to emergency preparedness, disaster relief, rehabilitation and recovery. The purpose of having such a Work Plan was to assist in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional capacity building exercises and training activities in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response; allow for the creation of a compilation of shared experiences and lessons learned; maintain and build on existing ARF government efforts in capacity-building endeavors, technical support and information exchange; complement and coordinate with existing regional and international initiatives; and strengthen existing networks.
2. This paper provides a review of the implementation of the 2009-2011 Work Plan, and provides recommendations for the development of the subsequent Work Plan (2012-2014).

A. Status of Implementation

3. A total of 23 activities covering five priority areas were listed in the Work Plan. However, many of the original activities listed in the Work Plan were not ARF-driven activities. These activities have been or would have been implemented under other arrangements or mechanisms. The activities seem to address different needs and lack focus. It even includes recurrent meetings that are not necessarily ARF initiated.
4. Therefore, as of the time of this review, only two ARF-driven activities were considered as implemented out of the originally proposed. However, eight additional activities were added along the way and were implemented during the period covering 2010-2011. They cover a number of areas such as legal/regulatory framework; preparedness and response; post disaster needs assessment; and security implications of climate change. Most of the completed activities fall under Priority Area #1 Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Identification, Reduction, and Prevention in Selected ARF Sub-Region(s). Only one activity was implemented under Priority Area #2 Improving Government Emergency Response, Relief and Early Recovery.
5. A table listing the Implementation Activities of the ARF Work Plan 2009-2011 appears in Appendix 1.

B. Challenges in Implementation

6. As reported on an annual basis, many of the activities that were initially proposed have not been implemented. One main reason is the absence of Lead Countries for the particular Priority Areas. Out of the total number of five priority areas only three countries volunteered to lead in two areas. It is therefore important that for the 2012-2014 Work Plan, the activities listed in the Work Plan will have designated countries to take the lead in the implementation.

7. The Work Plan was initially conceived to cooperate and collaborate on disaster relief activities at the regional level. However, the priority areas were broadened to include the whole spectrum of disaster management. Most ASEAN Member States have disaster management programmes implemented with national as well as bilateral and multilateral donor funding under their development programmes.

8. A variance has also occurred with regard to the timing or sequence in the adoption of the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief 2009-2011 vis á vis the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015. The first was adopted in 2009 while the latter in 2010. The preparations of the draft ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief in 2008-2009 had only the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management (ARPD) 2004-2010 for reference, which at the time was becoming obsolete as the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) was drafting the AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015.

9. The AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015 is quite comprehensive in that it has sections dedicated to the various phases in disaster management as well as implementation modalities, monitoring and evaluation. Preparedness and Response, among others, fall in the strategic part of the Work Programme.

10. There was an expectation that the ASEAN lead shepherd countries for the different strategic components and building blocks under the AADMER Work Programme would co-lead in the corresponding priority areas of the ARF Work Plan. However, the structure of the ARF Work Plan 2009-2011 does not correspond to the structure of the AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015. For example, "Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Identification, Reduction, and Prevention in Selected ARF Sub-Region(s)" was identified as Priority Area #1 under the ARF Work Plan 2009-2011, but under the AADMER Work Programme, these areas fall in two strategic components, i.e. "Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning", and "Prevention and Mitigation".

11. There are indications that although ARF participants consist of ASEAN Member State participants, representatives dealing with disaster related issues did not necessarily come from the National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) who serve as focal points and members of the ACDM. ACDM being the lead ASEAN sectoral body dealing with disaster management are therefore unaware and uninvolved in decisions made at the ARF disaster-related fora. There appears to be a disconnect between the ARF and the ACDM. It was only recently that ACDM Focal Points are being invited to participate in meetings of the ARF ISM on DR.

12. Looking at the various issues that have been tabled at ARF-related meetings on disaster, they can be summarised into the following:

- i. the Aceh Tsunami, Pakistan Floods and other disasters in the region triggered the eagerness of ARF participants to come up with a regional collaborative mechanism that can effectively react and respond to disasters in the region thereby assisting the affected countries in saving lives;
- ii. with such an objective, elements of a collaborative mechanism have been introduced by different ARF participants with a view to be, familiarised, understood, adapted, agreed and collectively adopted;
- iii. as such, the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting for Disaster Relief (ARF ISM on DR) has been discussing disaster-related issues like, legal platform for providing assistance; coordination of response activities; civil and military coordination in disaster response; collective standby arrangements of experts and supplies; post disaster needs assessment; etc.

C. Moving Forward

13. Cooperation in humanitarian assistance has become a topic of discussion at all levels of ASEAN engagements among Member States themselves as well as with their Dialogue Partners and friends. The following paragraphs will highlight some of the important decisions pertaining to issues in regional disaster management and coordination in disaster response and relief activities. One theme that appears to come up in the various fora is the need to streamline and synchronise work and activities in disaster management, especially disaster preparedness and response.

14. The 10th ARF ISM on DR in Bangkok, September 2010 had substantial discussions and agreements on a variety of subjects in disaster management. It discussed how to enhance information exchange, coordination and synergy between disaster management efforts of ASEAN and the ARF and other international organisations and fora. It identified the role of ASEAN and ARF in the humanitarian and disaster relief architecture in the region. It discussed ways to develop further the building blocks of humanitarian assistance for disaster relief (HADR) cooperation in the region. It even looked into how to possibly synchronise standard operating procedures (SOPs) and Standby Arrangement and modalities between ASEAN and the ARF; and develop appropriate interface between the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme and the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief, including possible synchronisation of the two Work Plans.

15. The ASEAN Leaders at their 18th Summit in Jakarta, May 2011 reiterated the urgency to improve regional coordination in disaster preparedness and response thereby agreed to strengthen the existing arrangements such as the AADMER and the AHA Centre; and encouraged greater civilian and military coordination on humanitarian assistance in disaster relief. The Leaders also stressed the need to further strengthen existing disaster management cooperation under the various regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus

Three, the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ARF, and the ASEAN Defense Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) Plus.

16. At the 18th ARF in Bali, July 2011, the Ministers recognised the importance to develop a 'Whole of Government' approach to ensure the coordination between civilian and military officials dealing with disaster relief operations. They also encouraged the ARF to make efforts in pursuing synergy and coordination with other existing regional mechanisms on disaster management, including, inter alia, the ADMM Plus, EAS, and the AHA Centre, in terms of policy and guidance on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and to promote networking of centres and facilities with HADR capabilities in the region, including the WFP Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia, and the Utapao airport facilities in Thailand.

17. Again at the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali, November 2011 the ASEAN Leaders encouraged cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder participation, including greater civil-military coordination in emergency response operation. They also encouraged the various sectors and mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under the ASEAN Plus One, the ASEAN Plus Three, the EAS and the ARF, to synchronise their policies using the AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality.

18. At the First Meeting of the AADMER Conference of Parties held in March 2012 in Jakarta the Ministers re-affirmed that the AADMER should remain to be the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN, which is in line with the decision of the ASEAN Leaders for other sectors and mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under the ASEAN Plus One, the ASEAN Plus Three, the EAS, the ARF and the ADMM and the ADMM Plus, to synchronise their policies using the AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality.

19. The 20th ASEAN Summit held on 3-4 April 2012 in Phnom Penh also reiterated the importance of using AADMER and its existing mechanisms, notably the COP, ACDM and the AHA Centre, as the coordinating platform and cooperation arrangement for disaster management in the region."

20. With such guidance and directives from the ASEAN Leaders and Ministers of both ASEAN and Partners, as described above, there is a clear path that can be followed for moving forward the ARF agenda on disaster relief.

D. Recommendations

21. The following are suggested approaches and steps that the ARF ISM on DR could take in developing and moving forward with the ARF Work Plan for 2012-2014:

- i. Narrow down the area of cooperation for the ARF cooperation in disaster management to those that will contribute to greater coordination and collaboration in disaster preparedness and response, and will add values or complement existing

activities pursued in other ASEAN related mechanisms, particularly those under AADMER;

- ii. Build on the preparedness and response activities that are already listed in the AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015 and identify how any of these can be taken up under the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief for 2012-2014;
 - iii. It is suggested that the ARF Work Plan only lists down activities that are doable and achievable for implementation in a two-year period. In this regard, not more than six to eight activities should be listed in the Work Plan;
 - iv. ARF Co-Chairs to conduct consultations with the ACDM, particularly the ACDM Chair (Thailand) and Co-Chairs of the ACDM Working Group on Preparedness and Response (Malaysia and Singapore), in finalising the draft ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief for 2012-2014, to ensure synergy and complementarity with the ongoing ACDM's activities on preparedness and response under the AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015;
 - v. Following the above consultations, ARF Co-Chairs to circulate the draft ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief for 2012-2014 for comments and inputs to all ARF participants, before it is presented to the ARF Ministerial Meeting in July 2012, for the Ministers' adoption;
 - vi. As much as possible, the ARF Work Plan 2012-2014 for adoption in July 2012 should already list down the lead shepherd country/ies for each of the activity under the ARF Work Plan.
22. To further promote synergy and complementarity between the ASEAN's activities on preparedness and response under the AADMER Work Programme and the ARF's activities under the 2012-2014 ARF Work Plan, the following coordination modalities may be explored as part of the implementation period:
- i. Convene a regular dialogue or consultation between ARF and ACDM at the working level. In this regard, both sides should designate representatives such as co-chairs or lead shepherd countries to ensure that the dialogue or consultation is effective and focused.
 - ii. Convene a side session in the context of an ARF ISM on DR Meeting where a few agenda items can be dedicated to ARF-ACDM cooperation in disaster relief. In this regard, ACDM Chair and Focal Points can be invited specifically to attend the ARF-ACDM consultations and become part of the ASEAN Member State delegation. The agenda items can cover issues such as identifying synergy and linkages between the two work plans; exploring joint activities and exercises; addressing main challenges in ASEAN and the region with regard to preparedness and response; identification of capacity-building needs; implementation of aspects of AADMER Work Programme requiring the involvement of ARF participants; etc.

23. The ARF Work Plan 2012-2014 should be reviewed and updated continuously. In this regard, the updating and review of the ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief may also involve the ACDM as part of the consultations.

24. To ensure that the draft Work Plan will be ready for adoption by the Ministers in July 2012, it is suggested that actions suggested in paragraphs 21 (i) and (ii) are accomplished during the 11th ARF ISM on DR in Brisbane. Agreements for paragraphs, 21 (iii) – (vi), 22 and 23 should be obtained at the 11th ARF ISM on DR.

APPENDIX 1

**LIST OF IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES
ARF WORK PLAN FOR DISASTER RELIEF 2009-2011**

Project Title	Implementation
<u>TIER 1 – PRIORITY AREA #1</u> Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Identification, Reduction, and Prevention in Selected ARF Sub-Region(s)	
1. Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Sponsors: Asian Disaster PreparednessCenter(ADPC) Date: 26 January – 6 February 2009 Next Schedule: March 2010 Location: Bangkok, Thailand	Completed
2. Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response Sponsors: ADPC Date: 16-20 February 2009 Next Schedule: April 2010 Location: Bangkok, Thailand	Completed
3. 9th Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific Sponsors: ADPC Date: 24 August – 4 September 2009 Next Schedule: September 2010 Location: Bangkok, Thailand	Completed
4. 18th Regional Course on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Sponsor: ADPC Date: 31 August – 11 September 2009 Next Schedule: September 2010 Location: Bangkok, Thailand	Completed
5. Australia-Indonesia Facility on Disaster Reduction (AIFDR) Sponsors: Indonesia and Australia Date: July 2009 – 2013 Location: Jakarta, Indonesia	On-going
6. Earthquake Risk Assessment for Myanmar Sponsors: ADPC Date: 2009 – 2011 Location: Myanmar	Unimplemented
7. Regional Seminar on good practices in Flood Management and Risk Reduction in the Mekong Region Sponsors: ADPC Date: October – November 2010	Unimplemented

	Project Title	Implementation
	Location: To be decided	
8.	Capacity-building of Local Government Officials on Disaster Management Sponsors: Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund Date: 2008-2011 Location: ASEAN	Unimplemented
9.	Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Disaster Management Sponsors: to be decided Date: October 2009 (proposed) Location: to be decided	Unimplemented
10.	ARF Workshop on Scrutinising Regulations on Emergency Response Sponsor: Indonesia and other ARF Countries Date: Location:	Unimplemented
11.	8th Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) Sponsor: Philippines and ADPC Date: 1 – 3 December 2009 Location: Philippines	Completed
TIER 1 – PRIORITY AREA #2		
Improving Government Emergency Response, Relief and Early Recovery		
12.	Future Response and Relief Exercises: An exercise to practice, renew and refresh strategic, operational, or tactical skills and coordination mechanisms needed to handle response	Unimplemented
13.	Civil Military Training: Joint exercises and trainings bringing military, civilian and NGOs together to facilitate cooperation and understanding during disaster response	Unimplemented
14.	Mutual Agreements: development of bilateral/regional/multilateral agreements of disaster response support	Unimplemented
15.	Response Expertise Database: Development of disaster response expertise database including coordination with existing databases	Unimplemented
16.	Information Collection: Development of a common disaster information collection platform and systems thus allowing coordination among the various agencies in the field. Improvement on existing systems for data collection including the existing community based data system as well as performance indicators in order to give an updated picture to the	Unimplemented

Project Title	Implementation
decision makers and organisations on the event	
17. ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response (VDR) Sponsor: the Philippines and United States Date: 4-8 May 2009 Location:	Completed
18. ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response (replaced by ARF DiREx) Sponsor: Indonesia and Japan Date: March 2011 Location: Manado, Indonesia	Replaced
TIER 1 – PRIORITY AREA #3 Capacity Identification and Improving Coordination of Capacity- Building Efforts in Asia	
19. Developing a Regional Strategy at the 2009 ARF ISM on DR Sponsors: United States and Thailand Date: September 2009 (proposed) Location: United States	Unimplemented
20. Regional Disaster Center Cooperation Seminar Sponsors: to be determined Date: May 2010 (proposed) Location: to be determined	Unimplemented
TIER 2 – PRIORITY AREA #4 Regional Risk Mapping, Monitoring, and Early Warning	
20. Capacity Building of National Focal Points for Effective Dissemination of Natural Hazard Early Warning Sponsors: ADPC Date: 2009 – 2011 Location: Bangkok, Thailand	Unimplemented
21. Regional program for pre-disaster natural hazard loss estimation Sponsors: ADPC Date: 2009 – 2011 Location: ARF Member States	Unimplemented
22. Regional program on best practices for early warning of landslides in a changing climate Sponsors: ADPC Date: 2009 – 2011	Unimplemented

Project Title	Implementation
Location: Bangladesh, China, Vietnam Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar	
TIER 2 – PRIORITY AREA #5 Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	
23. International Recovery Forum “Build Back Better than Before” Participants: Interested countries and regional and national disaster centers Sponsors: ADRC and Japan Date: January 2011 and January 2012 Location: Kobe, Japan	Completed

APPENDIX 2

SELECTED ASEAN AND ARF DECISIONS ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RELIEF

▪ **10th ARF ISM on DR, Bangkok September 2010**

11.2. Enhancing information exchange, coordination and synergy between the efforts in disaster management of ASEAN, the ARF and other regional organisations and fora.

11.3. Identifying more clearly the role of both ASEAN and the ARF in the humanitarian and disaster relief architecture in the region.

11.6. Examining ways to build further on the existing building blocs of HADR cooperation in the ARF and develop a more systemic, ARF-wide arrangement on HADR cooperation, including possible SOPs and Standby Arrangement/Modalities that could interact with those of ASEAN and other regional organisations or fora.

Specific Recommendations

12.1. Develop synergies between ARDEX and ARF DiREx, beginning by inviting some non-ASEAN ARF Participants to observe the upcoming ARDEX in Indonesia in 2010, share lessons learnt between ARDEX and ARF DiREx and ultimately institutionalise coordination between the two sets of exercises.

12.2. Utilise as appropriate the existing work of ARF on civilian-military coordination especially the draft Model Arrangement to help take forward discussion within ASEAN on Chapter 6 of SASOP dealing with civilian-military coordination, and testing of such a Model Arrangement in the ARF DiREx or another appropriate venue over the near term.

12.3. Examine possibilities in developing synchronised SOPs of ASEAN and the ARF as well as develop appropriate interface between the AADMER Work Programme and the ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan, including possible synchronisation of the two Work Plans.

20.3. Task the relevant regional centers and organisations to work together to convene a meeting/workshop of regional centres that deal with capacity-building and training on HADR to (1) develop appropriate modalities to enhance coordination of efforts; (2) map out an integrated syllabus of training programmes from which ARF Participants can choose to develop their own capacities based on their respective priorities; and (3) explore the development of joint databases of information and best practices, noting that the ADPC has offered to help coordinate this effort.

28.2. Explore possible modalities for interaction between the existing ASEAN standby arrangement and a potential ARF standby arrangement, with the AHA Centre playing some form of coordinating role. Comments on this concept would be forwarded to Singapore.

37.3. Give more importance to the response and relief aspects of priority #2 of Tier One in ARF Work Plan and consider recommending to ACDM of matching the ASEAN Lead Countries in the AADMER Strategic Component of Preparedness and Response with the ARF priority area.

▪ **Chair's Statement of the 18th ASEAN Summit Jakarta, 7 - 8 May 2011**

57. Aware of the urgency to improve regional coordination in disaster preparedness and response, we agreed to strengthen the existing arrangements such as the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). We agreed to reinforce the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as ASEAN's humanitarian assistance coordinator and to encourage greater civilian-military coordination on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

58. The soft launch of the AHA Centre on 27 January 2011 showcased the realisation of ASEAN efforts at effective response to and management of disasters. We further tasked our relevant Ministers to expedite the full operation of the AHA Centre and emphasised the importance of concerted efforts by all stakeholders as well as support from partners and donors to achieve this goal. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensure the effective operation of the AHA Centre. We cited the contributions and commitment of ASEAN external partners to ensure the effective implementation of the Centre which would be complemented by the activities of the WFP Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang and Thailand's offer to develop Utapao airport facilities to support rapid deployment of assets in the event of a disaster in the region. By enhancing our collective efforts, we moved closer to achieving our goal of building disaster-resilient societies and towards a safer community by the year 2015.

59. We welcomed the successful holding of the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) 2011 in Manado, Indonesia on 14-19 March 2011 and concluded that the Exercise had promoted contributed to cooperation and coordination between civilian and military authorities on disaster management in the Asia Pacific region. We noted the willingness of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Thailand to work with partners to do a regional stock take of HADR facilities and capabilities in the region.

60. Following the Special ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting in April 2011, we emphasised the need to further strengthen existing disaster management cooperation under the various regional mechanisms, including ASEAN Plus Three, EAS, ARF, and ADMM Plus, as well as periodic holding of Disaster Relief Exercises. In addition, we underlined the need to strengthen such cooperation through sharing of exercises and lessons-learned as well as conducting training and capacity building programs for disaster preparedness, emergency response, relief, and reconstruction efforts.

▪ **Chair's Statement 18th ASEAN Regional Forum 23 July 2011 Bali, Indonesia**

"20. Ministers recognised the importance to develop a 'Whole of Government' approach to ensure the coordination between civilian and military officials dealing with disaster relief operations."

"21. The Ministers agreed that the ARF should take account of the disaster management and response agendas evolving in other key regional institutions. In this context, they encouraged the ARF to make efforts in pursuing synergy and coordination with other existing regional mechanisms on disaster management, including, inter alia, the ADMM Plus, EAS, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), in terms of policy and guidance on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and to promote networking of centres and facilities with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) capabilities in the region, including the WFP Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia, and the Utapao airport facilities in Thailand. They also encouraged enhanced cooperation in the area of capacity-building which would be facilitated through a regional stocktake of capabilities that could be undertaken by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and other centers in the region."

"50. The Ministers noted that disaster management and response is an issue of common concern to all regional organisations and in this regard welcomed the efforts to further strengthen synergy and collaboration in disaster management between the ARF, EAS and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)."

▪ **Chair's Statement of the 19th ASEAN Summit, Bali, 17 November 2011**

"69. We welcome with satisfaction the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) by our Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the 19th ASEAN Summit. We further welcome the official launch of the AHA Centre on 17 November 2011 as a mechanism in facilitating cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN Member States and with relevant United Nations agencies and international organisations to promote regional collaboration."

"70. We appreciate the contribution by the Indonesian Government as well as our Dialogue Partners, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America, and welcome the incoming support from the European Union and other dialogue and external partners in the establishment of the AHA Centre. We encourage the commitment and contribution from ASEAN Member States as well as our Dialogue Partners to ensure the full operationalisation and to strengthen the capacity of the AHA Centre. We tasked the relevant Ministers to convene the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as soon as possible to discuss among others the operationalisation of AHA Centre and address any operational and financial gaps."

“71. We emphasised the need to intensify disaster management cooperation amongst the ASEAN Member States and to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations as well as inter- regional disaster management cooperation between ASEAN and other regional organisations. We therefore agreed to enhance the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator.”

“72. We encourage cross sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder participation, including greater civil-military coordination in emergency response operation. We also encourage the various sectors and mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under ASEAN + 1, ASEAN + 3, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum, to synchronise their policies using AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality.”

▪ **Chairman's Statement of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Jakarta, 16 March 2012**

“8. The COP endorsed the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), who has been instrumental in operationalising the AADMER and in setting up the AHA Centre, to serve as the main subsidiary body under the COP and to function as the Governing Board for the AHA Centre. The COP welcomed ACDM's decision to appoint Mr. Said Faisal as the Executive Director for the AHA Centre for a three (3) year-period. The COP tasked the Executive Director for the AHA Centre, with the support of ASEAN Secretariat, to immediately set up the AHA Centre, utilising contributions from ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners.”

“9. The COP noted that there are a few challenges with regard to the implementation of AADMER, particularly in terms of institutionalisation of AADMER at the national level, and ensuring that AADMER is utilised by other sectors and mechanisms in ASEAN as the common coordinating platform in disaster management.”

“10. In this regard, the COP re-affirmed that AADMER should remain as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN. This is in line with the decision of ASEAN Leaders for other sectors and mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under ASEAN + 1, ASEAN + 3, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), to synchronise their policies using AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality. The COP welcomed the interest of other EAS participating countries to cooperate in the area of disaster management, and tasked the ACDM to establish a working group, consisting of ASEAN Secretariat, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Australia as a representative of the EAS Participating Countries, to study the linkage between the AADMER Work Programme and the proposed EAS Work Plan on Disaster Management.”

▪ **Chairman's Statement of the 20th ASEAN Summit, Phnom Penh, 3 – 4 April 2012**

“60. We recalled the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the need to ensure effective operations in dealing with disaster management. In this regard, we welcomed the outcome of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) held in Jakarta, on 15-16 March 2012, to put in place the necessary mechanisms to operationalise the AHA Centre.”

“61. We encouraged the ASEAN Member States to contribute to the AHA Centre Fund on an annual and equal basis, as well as to the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund under AADMER on a voluntary basis. We also welcomed the contribution and support from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other partners to ensure the effective operationalisation and the long-term sustainability of the AHA Centre.”

“62. We recognised the importance of using AADMER and its existing mechanisms, notably the COP, ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the AHA Centre, as the coordinating platform and cooperation arrangement for disaster management in the region.”
