

Talking Points

HADR Cooperation within the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management.

by Mr.Arun Pinta

on behalf of Mr.Chatchai Phromlert, ACDM Chair
at the Inter Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief
Padang, Indonesia
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1. Co-Chairs, ACDM Colleagues, Distinguished Delegates, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.
2. On behalf of the ACDM Chair, and ACDM Focal Points I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee and the co-hosts for inviting the ACDM Chairman to this meeting.
3. As you maybe aware of that The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management or ACDM is the gathering of heads of NDMOs of the ten ASEAN member countries. The Committee reports to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management or AMMDM. We meet at least once in every year. Now Thailand is the current Chair. In May this year, the chairmanship will be handed over to Vietnam.
4. For ACDM, The Humanitarian assistance on Disaster Relief, is the our core business and we have done quite a lot in this matter since the debut of ACDM in 2003. Today I will give you a snapshot of what has happened.
5. I would like to bring your attention some years back to the deadly disaster, The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 that devastated Areas of Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar both in terms of human lives and economic loss. The tsunami brought a very high attention to the policy level in the region. It helped create the momentum to the ACDM to go ahead with the closer cooperation on Disaster Management.
6. As a consequence, less than a year since the strike of the tsunami, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response or AADMER was signed by all ten ministers of foreign affairs. The Agreement has then led to the establishment of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance and Coordination Centre, now widely known as AHA Centre which is the main mechanism for ASEAN in response to disaster emergency in this region.
7. Later, we created and utilize the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations or SASOP. This document is a fundamental tool for ACDM in undertaking disaster response and relief operations.

8. Over the past few years, there has been a very good progress in the work regarding HADR in the ACDM. I will give some good examples.
9. **First**, we have seen and witnessed the growing of AHA Center which has been up and running since last year with better and better capacity. Right now in Jakarta, AHA Center is learning the ICS. In a few weeks time they will be busy again for the new training of ASEAN ERAT.
10. **Second**, not only we have AHA Centre operating 24/7, monitoring the emergency situation, reporting to AMCs, but we have begun to see ASEAN humanitarian staffs especially the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team or ERAT working closely with the national or event local governments on the ground like in the case of flood in Thailand two years ago and the typhoon Pablo in Philippines last year.
11. **Last** but not least, we have been more and more working closely with our partners, in meetings, trainings, practicing as well as in actual operations. In ARF DiREX 2013, AHA Centre and ERAT will be present alongside with the UNDAC team plus other humanitarian actors in the region.
12. **In conclusion**, the ACDM which is the main venue for ASEAN to work together in disaster management including the HADR aspect will continue its commitment to improve the effectiveness of the work with support and assistant from our partners.
13. Co-chairs, ladies and gentlemen, Thank you very much for your kind attention and hope to see you again in DiREX 2013.
