

**CO-CHAIRS' REPORT**  
**ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting**  
**on Disaster Relief (ARF ISM-DR)**  
**2019-2020**  
**China, Lao PDR, Canada**

Due to COVID-19, the Co-Chairs of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR) China, Lao PDR, and Canada regret to postpone the 19<sup>th</sup> ISM-DR in the Inter-Sessional year 2019-2020. To take forward the operation and activities of the ISM-DR in the context of COVID-19, the Co-Chairs have implemented electronic provisional measures, as issued by the ARF Chair.

The Co-Chairs are pleased to report as follows on: proposed co-chairmanship arrangements for the ISM-DR; the progress of ISM-DR activities in the Inter-Sessional year 2019-2020; and proposed ISM-DR activities for 2020-2021.

**I. Extension of the current ARF ISM-DR Co-Chairmanship**

Taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19 and the fact that the 19<sup>th</sup> ISM-DR could not be convened during the Inter-Sessional year 2019-2020, China, Lao PDR and Canada communicated their proposal to extend their tenure as ISM-DR Co-Chairs by 12 months until August 2022. The Co-Chairs will formally convey this proposal to the ARF ISG and ARF SOM for endorsement, before formal adoption at the 27<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting.

**II. Progress of ISM-DR Track-1 and Track-1.5 activities: Inter-Sessional year 2019-2020**

**1. The following approved ARF ISM-DR Track 1 activities were held in the Inter-Sessional year 2019-2020:**

*A. Workshop on Global Multi-Hazard Early Warning Capacity Development in Asian Region*, co-chaired by China and Myanmar, on 18-19 November 2019 in Haikou, China;

*B. The Senior Training Course for Urban Search and Rescue*, co-chaired by China and Lao PDR, on 6-14 January 2020 in Beijing and Shanghai, China.

**2. The following approved ARF ISM-DR Track 1 activity was postponed until the Inter-Sessional year 2020-2021:**

*The 3<sup>d</sup> Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue*, to be co-chaired by China, Lao PDR and Malaysia.

**III. Proposal for the 27<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting**

China proposes to hold *The ARF Enhancement Training on USAR Capacity*

*Building and Comprehensive USAR Drill*, the Concept Paper is attached as **Annex**. ARF participants are invited to co-sponsor this program, provide comments on, and inputs to the concept paper.