



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Regional Disaster Law Forum | Southeast Asia

June 10 – 11, 2015 | Bangkok, Thailand

Forum Report

Background and purpose

The Regional Disaster Law Forum for Southeast Asia was held on 10 – 11 June, 2015, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Forum brought together more than sixty representatives from Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, national disaster management organizations (NDMOs), ministries of foreign affairs, parliamentarians, non-government organizations (NGOs), the United Nations (UN), the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The IFRC's Disaster Law Programme, together with National Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Societies, has been working with governments, the United Nations and other stakeholders for over a decade to identify, address, and overcome legal and regulatory issues in disaster management, response and, more recently, disaster risk reduction (DRR). In Southeast Asia, states and National Societies have taken great strides to improve their legal frameworks for disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response. Having strong disaster laws in place provides a basis on which to undertake all aspects of disaster management, and to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable and disaster-affected communities.

In the lead up to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent in Geneva in December 2015, this Forum provided an opportunity for states and National Societies to evaluate their progress in disaster law, share experiences, and plan for the post-2015 era. In a region where natural disasters are showing no signs of abating, key stakeholders gathered together to discuss disaster law themes (including 'International Disaster Response Law (IDRL)' and 'Law and Disaster Risk Reduction') and introduce new and existing tools. The Forum focused on discussing and evaluating disaster law developments, challenges and next steps at the national, regional and international levels.

Overview of discussions

The Forum included presentations, group work and moderated panel discussions on the following topics:

- **Introduction to disaster law, developments in Southeast Asia and moving forward to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent:** *presentation and discussion facilitated by Ms. Lucia Cipullo, Regional Disaster Law Delegate for Southeast Asia, IFRC*
- **Disaster Law at the National Level | Progress, challenges, working in partnership:** *moderated panel discussion and presentations from Ms. Donna Mitzi Lagdameo, Technical Advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre; Mr. Arifin M. Hadi, Head of Disaster Management, Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesia Red Cross); Mr. Arun Pinta, Chief of Foreign Relations, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand and; Mr. U Maung Maung Khin, Head of Disaster Management, Myanmar Red Cross Society.*

- **Disaster Law at the Regional Level: Engaging with ASEAN:** *presentation and discussion facilitated by Mr. Miguel Musngi, Senior Officer, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, ASEAN Secretariat and Ms. Lucia Cipullo, Regional Disaster Law Delegate for Southeast Asia, IFRC.*
- **Disaster Law at the International Level: Global Commitments:** *presentation and discussion facilitated by Ms. Lucia Cipullo, Regional Disaster Law Delegate for Southeast Asia, IFRC.*
- **Focus on International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) and accelerating progress in the facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief:** *moderated panel discussion and presentations from Mr. Markus Werne, Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Regional Office for Asia Pacific (OCHA ROAP); Mr. Jesus Gary Domingo, Assistant Secretary (Director General), Office of the United Nations and International Organizations, Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Steve Ray, Head of International Emergencies, Australian Red Cross and; Ms. Rebecca Barber, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Save the Children Australia.*
- **Law and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR): Introduction to the Checklist for Law and DRR, and links with climate change:** *presentation and discussion facilitated by Ms. Donna Mitzi Lagdameo, Technical Advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Ms Lucia Cipullo, Regional Disaster Law Delegate for Southeast Asia, IFRC.*
- **Linkages between disaster law and gender and diversity, with a focus on gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies:** *presentation and discussion facilitated by Ms. May Maloney, IFRC Gender and Diversity Advisor, Asia Pacific Zone and Ms. Christina Haneef, IFRC Gender and Diversity Officer, Southeast Asia.*
- **Moving forward with Disaster Law | Recommendations and outcomes of the Regional Forum | group discussions and plenary session:** *moderated discussions and feedback sessions led by Ms. Donna Mitzi Lagdameo, Technical Advisor, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (National Level); Mr. Miguel Msungi, Senior Officer, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, ASEAN Secretariat (Regional Level) and Ms. Lucia Cipullo, Regional Disaster Law Delegate for Southeast Asia, IFRC (International Level).*

Summary of key outcomes and recommendations

Disaster law at the national level:

The Regional Disaster Law Forum provided participants with the opportunity to share experiences and exchange views on disaster law developments in their countries. A moderated panel discussion served as the basis for these discussions, with presentations from some National Societies and governments who have made / are making significant progress in disaster law (including Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar). Participants were also given an opportunity to do a 'stocktake' exercise

and share experiences through a peer-to-peer exchange activity, where country groups were paired together and asked to discuss a set of stocktake questions. These questions encouraged participants to discuss and identify the relevant national disaster management laws, regulations or policies; which areas these laws/policies focus on (e.g. preparedness, response, risk reduction, institutional arrangements, international assistance, etc.); to what extent the National Society was involved in the development and implementation of these laws/policies; how National Societies, governments and other partners are working together on disaster law and; any next steps and opportunities for further progress. A summary of the main disaster law developments across Southeast Asia is available in **Annex A** of this report.

The discussions during this session reaffirmed the significant progress that has been made in Southeast Asia when it comes to developing national disaster laws and procedures, and how National Societies and governments are working well together. Some countries are well-advanced in their progress, such as Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia; while others are embarking on new processes, such as Lao PDR and Timor Leste. There was a consensus and appreciation among the participants of the need to continue strengthening and implementing disaster laws at the national level, in partnership with all key stakeholders. Some challenges raised by the participants which could be addressed in laws and regulations included the decentralization of institutional arrangements and the need to clarify responsibilities from the national to the local level; inadequate allocation of resources for disaster risk management activities and; improving dissemination, awareness and understanding of national disaster laws at all levels – particularly among the key implementing authorities at sub-national level. Some groups explained how their countries already have a lot of relevant disaster laws (e.g. Indonesia and the Philippines), and that there is a need to avoid duplication, conflict of laws, and ensure consistency and complementarity among laws.

Recommendations / outcomes:

1. Participants recommended to **continue working together to strengthen the partnership between governments and National Societies in developing and implementing national disaster laws**. Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have a unique role to play, as the bridge between the local and national levels, to bring the voice of communities and the most vulnerable into national law and policy making processes. Working together with other key partners such as the United Nations and civil society organizations is also important.
2. Participants **acknowledged that law and policy making processes are often lengthy, and require long-term investment** from National Societies. It was recommended to **continue to be active in these processes**, and in the meantime to **build the knowledge and capacity of National Societies to participate and contribute meaningfully**.
3. Participants agreed that effective **implementation and enforcement of laws is important and one of the key challenges they are facing**. Implementation of national laws at all levels was highlighted as a key challenge. It was recommended that **more work needs to be done on implementation and dissemination down to the local level**, given that this is where National Societies have a key role and strong presence e.g. through their branches and networks of volunteers.

4. Participants **recognized the importance of the two key disaster law themes**, ‘International Disaster Response Law (or ‘IDRL’) and ‘Law and disaster risk reduction’. In addition to focusing on these two areas, **participants recommended taking an inclusive and comprehensive approach to developing national disaster laws**, and to **include other key areas discussed at the Forum such as gender and diversity, climate change, regional engagement**, etc. One key issue to also address is **resource allocation**, and to **make sure that laws include adequate budget for disaster risk management at all levels**.
5. While great progress has been made in disaster law in Southeast Asia, **participants recommended that the IFRC and partners continue to provide training and capacity building opportunities for National Societies and governments**, especially when new disaster law tools are developed and new issues emerge. These trainings should also be extended to National Society youth and volunteers where appropriate.

Disaster law at the regional level:

Engaging with ASEAN was identified as a top priority for National Societies at the Southeast Asia National Society Leaders’ meetings in 2014 and 2015. Disaster law is one avenue through which National Societies can increase their collaboration with ASEAN and its member states at the strategic, policy and operational levels. Such engagement has already been reflected in a joint action plan developed by the Red Cross Red Crescent and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre), and during discussions at previous events. The current work programme for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (the ‘AAMDER’) will expire at the end of 2015, and the ASEAN secretariat is in the midst of a critical planning process for the post-2015 era. As such, a senior officer from the ASEAN Secretariat’s Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, Mr. Miguel Musngi, joined the Forum and ran a session on how to strengthen engagement with ASEAN through disaster law. This session included an overview of how ASEAN plans to move forward through a ‘people-oriented’ and ‘rules-based’ approach, in line with their commitment to promoting ‘One ASEAN, One Response’.

The current AADMER work programme already promotes the use of disaster law tools, such as the ‘Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance’ (the ‘IDRL Guidelines’), and it was suggested that the new work programme continue to promote the IDRL Guidelines and the new Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction.

One issue that was also raised was how to ensure effective coordination not only among ASEAN member states, but also with states outside the ASEAN region. It was suggested to build upon existing partnerships and agreements, and to continue using and promoting tools like the IDRL guidelines to develop national laws which support the facilitation of incoming international disaster assistance with non-member states. New operational tools have also recently been developed which carry similarities to the IDRL Guidelines, such as the Rapid Response Toolkit developed by the ASEAN East Asia Summit.

The idea of establishing a regional disaster law ‘advisory group’ or ‘committee’ was also proposed during this session, and a terms of reference was shared. The purpose of this group would be to provide a platform for National Society disaster law focal points and the relevant focal points from ASEAN member states (i.e. NDMOs, Foreign Affairs etc.) to share experiences, updates, challenges and opportunities on a more regular basis. The participants welcomed this idea, and suggested to further consider the terms of reference (e.g. determine who would act as a secretariat, identify whether there might be other existing platforms/networks that could be used, consider whether the group should be run on a formal or informal basis, etc.).

Recommendations / outcomes:

1. Participants agreed that **disaster law is a key vehicle for regional engagement and for ‘amplifying the voice of southeast Asia’ at the regional and international levels** (e.g. through the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent). It was also **acknowledged that the RCRC has something unique to offer to ASEAN in terms of expertise in disaster law**, the **auxiliary status of National Societies** and their role as a key link between the community and national level – including in national law making processes and implementation of the AADMER. It was **recommended to maintain a dialogue while the new AADMER work programme is being developed**, and **continue to identify areas for collaboration related to disaster law**
2. One area of potential engagement is through the **‘AADMER advocates’ programme** where **National Societies can play a key role in promoting and supporting the effective implementation of the AADMER agreement**. Thai Red Cross has already attended the induction workshop for the AADMER advocates programme in 2013.
3. The **participants recommended including reference to disaster law tools in the new AADMER work programme**, such as the IDRL Guidelines, Model Act on International Disaster Assistance, and Checklist for Law and Disaster Risk Reduction. They also recommended to **continue peer to peer training and learning in these areas**, and to **hold dedicated sessions on disaster law at regional events** such as meetings of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM).
4. Participants **recommended further considering the terms of reference for the regional disaster law advisory group** and clearly defining the purpose, objectives and function of this group.

Disaster law at the international level:

The upcoming 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent will be held in Geneva in December 2015. This conference brings together all components of the RCRC movement (National Societies, IFRC and ICRC) together with states to discuss key issues of humanitarian concern and set

priority commitments and areas of work for the RCRC movement. Disaster law will be key topic on the conference agenda, and it is hoped that a specific disaster law resolution will be adopted, as has been the case at previous international RCRC conferences. The Forum participants were provided with background information on the previous international conference in 2011 and the disaster law commitments that were made then, including a global resolution on disaster law and a specific pledge among Southeast Asian National Societies. An introduction to the upcoming 32nd international conference and the proposed elements of a new disaster law resolution were discussed, in addition to other key international developments, such as the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Law Commission's draft articles for the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

The Forum held dedicated discussions on the key disaster law themes which will be raised at the international conference, including accelerating progress on International Disaster Response Law, Rules and Principles (IDRL), and Law and Disaster Risk Reduction. These sessions also discussed links with climate change, and how disaster law connects with gender and diversity issues and gender based violence in emergencies. The new disaster law theme of 'legislation for first aid' was also introduced. Participants were given time to consider and discuss these themes, and provide their thoughts and recommendations. A summary of the main points and recommendations with regard to each of these themes is provided below:

Accelerating progress on IDRL:

It has been eight years since the IDRL Guidelines were adopted by the international conference of the RCRC in 2007, and there has been good progress among states (particularly in Southeast Asia) in developing national legislation based on the Guidelines. However, many states across the world are yet to develop solid disaster management laws which address the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance. The Regional Disaster Law Forum included a panel discussion on this topic, with speakers from UN OCHA, the Philippines government, Australian Red Cross and Save the Children. The panellists shared their views on this issue from their different perspectives, which provided a political, strategic and operational point of view on the issue. All participants were then given an opportunity to share their thoughts, and discuss how to accelerate progress in adopting IDRL at the national level, and what some possible next steps could be.

Much of the discussion centred on the possibility of developing an international binding agreement, such as a treaty on IDRL. Some participants suggested that if states are not making enough progress at the national level on IDRL, then a global treaty could inspire more national law-making. Although there were no staunch objections to the idea of developing a treaty, questions were raised regarding implementation, and to what extent having an international legally binding agreement would really increase implementation at national level, given that it can take a long time for states to ratify and implement international treaties. The voluntary nature of international law and the international law-making process was also discussed, and some concerns arose about lengthy negotiation process. Participants seemed to agree that even if a treaty were to be developed, the issue still lies with implementation at the national level.

Some participants remarked that in Southeast Asia, the region already has the AADMER agreement, so they were not sure of the additional value an international treaty on IDRL would bring. It was also

suggested that highly developed states, such as Australia and the US, would be unlikely to sign up to an international legally binding agreement on the subject.

Participants discussed how to link up with the work of the International Law Commission and the draft articles on the protection of persons after disasters. Some questions were raised about the content of the articles, especially the potential to create legal obligations for states to request international assistance if they do not have the domestic capacity to respond, and the associated liabilities if they do not request it. This also goes against a growing trend in Southeast Asia to 'welcome' rather than 'request' international disaster assistance.

The participants acknowledged a clear need to accelerate progress in IDRL, even in Southeast Asia where much progress has already been made. The core recommendation, however, was that focus should also remain on the national and regional levels; on implementation and strengthening of already existing laws and procedures; and on developing new laws using existing tools such as the IDRL Guidelines and Model Act on International Disaster Assistance.

Developing stronger guidance at the international level should not be the only option and the focus must be on all three levels, national, regional and international. Participants suggested that this be emphasized in the international conference resolution, as well as a focus on dissemination and implementation. The panellists highlighted how recent experiences such as the cyclone in Vanuatu and earthquake in Nepal demonstrated the need not just for national laws and procedures to be in place, but to be widely understood and disseminated at local and district levels, and to international assisting actors. Another suggestion was to revisit the language and contents of the IDRL Guidelines and update them if necessary.

Law, disaster risk reduction, and links with climate change:

During the Forum, the IFRC disseminated the new 'Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction', a tool which has recently been developed by the IFRC and UNDP. The checklist contains ten questions designed to assist law and policy makers, DRR practitioners, National Societies and other key stakeholders to assess the substance and implementation of their national legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction. Participants were enthusiastic about the new checklist, especially given the emphasis which many states and National Societies are now placing on risk reduction in light of the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Some states, such as in Indonesia, are already looking at how to strengthen DRR in their national legal framework. The checklist was considered a welcome tool which several countries expressed their willingness to utilize in current and upcoming law reform/development processes including in Lao PDR, Philippines, and Timor Leste.

One particular point regarding the content of the checklist was in relation to checklist question nine. It was suggested that the terminology should be broadened not just to address 'gender', but also 'diversity' and the needs of different groups such as the elderly and disabled. It was also suggested that an active dissemination process needs to be undertaken for the checklist, in the same way it was done for the IDRL Guidelines.

Participants were eager to learn more about the links between disaster risk reduction and climate change, and to discuss how to address both of these issues in law and policy development. Several

participants sought advice on how to integrate these two areas into their national disaster laws, including Lao PDR, where the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is already developing a new law on disasters and climate change.

First aid legislation:

The Forum briefly discussed a new topic that will be addressed at the international conference, which is on 'providing supportive legal frameworks for saving lives through first aid'. This topic is currently being researched by the IFRC Disaster Law Programme and Global First Aid Reference Centre, and feedback is being sought from National Societies on whether this is an issue they wish to take up with their governments and further explore. Measures for providing supportive legal frameworks for first aid could include encouraging states to mandate first aid in school curriculum and workplace regulations, and providing liability protections for providers of first aid. There was not a lot of specific feedback on this topic, however National Societies were keen to receive more information so that they can discuss with their health teams.

Links between disaster law, gender and diversity, and gender-based violence in emergencies:

The IFRC's Gender and Diversity advisors from Asia Pacific and Southeast Asia delivered a session on links between disaster law, gender and diversity, and another key topic coming before the international conference: gender-based violence in emergencies. They explained how at risk and disaster-affected people need to be prepared in an equal manner and according to their specific needs. Equitable access to assistance must be provided to different categories of persons including women, men, boys, girls, the elderly and disabled, for example. Law has a role to play in ensuring and enforcing this, as well as the way in which distributions are handled (i.e. in a gender and diversity sensitive manner) and ensuring that full and equal consultation with beneficiaries is undertaken in order to provide the appropriate type of aid. It was explained during this session that there is a need to apply a 'gender lens' when reviewing or developing new and existing laws.

With regard to gender-based violence in emergencies, it was suggested to develop some broader frameworks to deal with this in natural disaster situations. Overall, this is an area where national authorities can work together with National Societies and IFRC, and consider the principle of inclusivity when it comes to developing disaster laws.

Recommendations / outcomes:

- 1. Accelerating progress on IDRL:** Participants acknowledged the need to increase progress in incorporating the IDRL Guidelines more comprehensively into national legislation. They **welcomed the idea of developing stronger measures at the global level** e.g. through the development of an IDRL treaty, but **recommended that focus should remain at the regional and national levels**, and on **strengthening implementation**.

2. **Law, disaster risk reduction and climate change:** Participants recommended that the **checklist for law and disaster risk reduction be widely disseminated and used as a key tool** for assessing legal frameworks for DRR. They also **recommended to continue identifying how best to address DRR and climate change in an integrated manner** in national disaster laws.
3. **Legislation for first aid:** Participants welcomed this new area of disaster law for consideration, but **recommended that further research, consultation and sharing of information be undertaken.**
4. **Links between disaster law and gender and diversity:** The participants agreed that **when reviewing or developing national disaster laws, it is crucial to integrate a gender and diversity approach.** This will help ensure that the needs of all disaster-affected persons and people at risk are met in an equal manner and without discrimination on the basis of sex, age, disability etc.
5. **Disaster laws at the 32nd International conference:** The National Societies and governments present at the Forum **agreed to support the disaster law resolution at the upcoming international conference.** National Societies also agreed to **reaffirm their commitment to disaster law by renewing their joint regional pledge,** and undertaking **joint pledges between governments and National Societies,** where desired.

Participants at the Disaster Law Forum

Participants from the following organizations participated in the Forum, including a mix of high-level and technical representatives:

Australian Red Cross, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Cambodia Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesia Red Cross), Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippine Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (Timor Leste Red Cross), Vietnam Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Brunei Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia National Disaster Management Authority, Indonesian Parliament, Lao PDR Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Malaysia National Security Council, Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department, Myanmar Tanintharyi Region Government, Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, Thailand Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Timor Leste Ministry of Social Solidarity, the ASEAN Secretariat, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), Save the Children Australia, the United Nations Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the United States Forest Service/USAID, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

For more information

- Contact the IFRC's Regional Disaster Law Delegate for Southeast Asia, Ms. Lucia Cipullo at lucia.cipullo@ifrc.org
- Visit the '[Voices from the Regional Disaster Law Forum](#)' webpage.
- Visit the IFRC Southeast Asia online library <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/disaster-law> and the IFRC disaster law webpage at www.ifrc.org/dl for disaster law tools, materials and resources (including materials from the Regional Disaster Law Forum)
- To read the opinion piece '*Disaster law reforms start to gather momentum*' published in the Bangkok Post on the opening day of the Forum (June 10, 2015), go to <http://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/588021/disaster-law-reforms-start-to-gather-momentum>

This report was prepared by Lucia Cipullo and Padmini Nayagam, IFRC Disaster Law Programme.

Annex A: Outcome of disaster law ‘peer to peer’ exchange session / summary of key national disaster law developments in Southeast Asia (as of 11 June 2015).

Country	Key disaster law developments
Brunei Darussalam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a disaster management act from 2006 but doesn't address IDRL or DRR comprehensively. - Brunei Red Crescent and the national authorities will discuss how to work together to build capacity and understanding of disaster law and strengthen national procedures.
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New disaster management law passed by national assembly in June 2015 which includes a chapter on international assistance based on the IDRL Guidelines. Also includes some provisions for DRR. - Cambodia Red Cross, the NCDM and IFRC will be working closely on the dissemination and implementation of the new law and development of implementing sub-decrees.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a comprehensive legal framework for disaster management, including a regulation and guideline on the role of international assistance, based on the IDRL Guidelines. - PMI will be working with IFRC, UNDP, civil society partners and national authorities to undertake a project using the DRR Law checklist which will contribute to the upcoming review of their national disaster management law.
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lao Red Cross and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment are working closely with IFRC and UNDP to develop a new law on disasters and climate change. - A national disaster law workshop is planned in Vientiane for July 2015.
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not currently have a national disaster management law but the government is working with Malaysia Red Crescent, UNDP, IFRC and other humanitarian partners to reassess and develop its national framework for disaster management, which will potentially include a disaster law.
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted a new disaster management law in 2013 - Disaster management rules were developed in 2013/2014 which include a chapter on international assistance. The rules are not yet finalized. - A high level disaster law workshop was held in 2014 by Myanmar Red Cross, the Relief and Resettlement Department and IFRC. - Myanmar Red Cross, the Relief and Resettlement Department and IFRC plan to commence an IDRL research project in 2015.
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted a national disaster risk reduction and management law in 2010, which is currently undergoing review.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philippine Red Cross are taking part in the review process as part of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. - A bill has been filed in congress based on the Model Act for International Disaster Assistance but has not be finalized.
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a national civil defence act and several other sectoral laws which are not specific to disaster management but include some relevant provisions. - Singapore Red Cross and their national authorities were not available to join the regional disaster law forum.
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national disaster management law was adopted in 2007. - The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM – Ministry of Interior), Thai Red Cross and IFRC held a workshop on IDRL in November 2014. - DDPM is currently developing a new guideline on international assistance and cooperation, and will use the IDRL Guidelines as part of this process.
Timor Leste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (CVTL) and IFRC have been working with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and UNDP to develop a new national disaster management law. - A law has been drafted which includes a chapter on IDRL based on the Model Act for International Disaster Assistance. The Checklist for Law and DRR was also used during the drafting process.
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopted a disaster management law in 2013 which contains elements of DRR and a chapter on international cooperation based on recommendations made by Vietnam Red Cross and IFRC. - Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) are planning to hold further dissemination events to promote understanding of the law at the provincial level. - VNRC and the government of Vietnam hosted an exchange group from Lao PDR in Hanoi in 2014 to learn about the development of their DM law.