**Regional Community Safety and Resilience Unit**

Overview of activities for the months of March 2013

**Thailand Red Cross Society- Review of CBDRR Initiative**

TRC conducted review meeting to finalize the steps by step process of CBDRR Initiative. The Review meeting was held from 5th to 8th March, 2013 in Petchaboon Province. Total 28 Staff members of TRCS from Headquarter and Field were part of the review meeting. Team members of SEARD/CSRU attended review meeting. The review meeting finalized the process of CBDRR Initiative.

**Thematic seminar on Integration in Myanmar**

 A two day event was organized by Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) from 12- 13 March in Yangon with technical support from the IFRC Regional Delegation and the Country delegation. The event was attended by 28 participants from MRCS (18) and Partner National Societies (PNSs) and the IFRC (10). The event was a platform for MRCS to review its community based programme processes & approaches to find out what are strengths and weaknesses and how to overcome the challenges. In addition, the national society had a chance to be aware of Resilience Approach and Characteristics of a Resilient Community and collective effort to reach vulnerable communities in Myanmar. Key outcomes of the seminar as follows:

* Strengths and weaknesses of each community based programme process of MRCS
* Solutions on how to overcome weaknesses
* Two suggested models focusing on step by step process to reach the community in Myanmar
* Characteristics of a Resilient Community in Myanmar context with suggested activities as well
* Two detailed Plan of Actions focusing on two urban communities in South Dagon of Yangon for piloting. These two Plan of Actions was developed based on the two agreed models

From observation and feedback from the national society that the seminar was a great opportunity for cross- learning among MRCS’s technical divisions and staff about on- going initiatives and information sharing together with action points for rolling out and replication in the future. The national society’s leaderships were present there throughout the event to make sure that their long- term vision on Integration and Decentralization are mainstreamed into the discussion. Follow- up actions is needed to ensure action points discussed and agreed during the seminar come into programming effect. The event was financially supported by ECHO.

**Thematic seminar on Response Preparedness/Pre-disaster agreement meeting in Myanmar**

A two day seminar was organized by MRCS from 14- 15 March in Yangon with technical support from the IFRC team in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. The seminar brought opportunity for 30 staff from MRCS, PNSs and IFRC to discuss on how best to prepare for future operations learning from the past operations. The meeting spent significant times to discuss the existing RCRC response mechanisms, protocols and procedures and on top of it MRCS’s challenges faced during the past operations and solutions to overcome them. Key contents and outcomes of the meeting to be summarized below:

* Cyclone Nargis and Giri Operations’ lessons learned and challenges
* Hazards and Vulnerability trends in Myanmar
* Sectoral priorities for response
* Internal and external Coordination Mechanism
* Strengths and weaknesses of respective sectors (Health/Watsan; Logistics & Relief; Coordination & Cooperation)
* Detailed Plan of Action with MRCS’s Prioritized Actions for the up-coming monsoon season

The event was financially supported by ECHO.

**Fortnightly health bulletin**

Health bulletin has been shared with respective colleagues of NS as well as AP zone and country delegation in order to update knowledge and enhance communication. The bulletin includes- latest health related events in the region and around the globe, funding opportunities, on-going activities of CSRU and upcoming events in the region.

**Psychosocial support service**

Regional PSS delegate is currently placed in Cambodia supporting the mapping of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services in the Community Based Health Development programme (CBHD) target areas (Preah Vihear and Kampot province). A shorter version of the Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS) IFRC manual has been developed and will be translated to Khmer in April 2013. PSS delegate met with David Curtis, Coordinator - Cambodia Initiative for Disability Inclusion to explore the possibility to include session on disability inclusion during the CBPSS ToT and how a session on disability inclusion can be included at community club level in the CBHD programme.

**Resilience Meeting**

Total 18 participants from four country delegation, AP Zone and SEARD/CSRU and PNS like Am Cross, French Red Cross and Australian Red Cross came together in one and half day discussions to share the information on resilience and response related initiatives and involved in different bilateral and group discussions. The meeting mainly focused on resilience initiative. Meetings highlighted the resilience intervention, integrated planning, experiences towards operationalization of resilience intervention. The meeting discussed about the challenges and way forward as well. The discussion highlighted number of intervention considering the resilience like School Safety, Urban Risk Reduction, Community Safety and Resilience initiative. The meeting also discussed learning from six DRR/FS and three thematic seminars on integration as common tools for operationalization of resilience initiatives. This meeting was to help prepare for the meeting on Resilience in April at AP Zone where the SEARD would have an oppotrunity to present a case study on resilience operationalization.

**School Safety Initiative**

A checklist has been developed jointly with Am Cross, French Red Cross and IFRC and IFRC/SEARD has shared to the NS of this region. The information will be used as baseline for future. The commitments on school based programming were made by the IFRC SEARD as early in 2007 at Asian Regional workshop on school based reduction. The idea behind this checklist is to have a coherent approach and scale up the work in terms of school safety.

Futhermore, a meeting was held with Save the Children, UNESCO and UNICEF in order to explore possibilities for potential partnerships in School Based Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. The common framework for Schools Safety was one of the topics of discussions.

**Regional DRR, CCA and EWEA workshop**

The Red Cross Red Crescent has had a focus on reducing risk since long back including climate change adaptation(CCA) and Early warning Early action(EWEA), whether this has been in the form of good disaster preparedness, strengthened health infrastructure, community-based initiatives focusing on preparedness, hazard mitigation measures, awareness raising and EWEA etc. contributing to development goals. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and the states party to the Geneva Conventions, committed itself to minimizing the impact of disasters through implementing disaster risk reduction measures and improving preparedness and response mechanisms. In addition, the International Federation fully supports the conclusions of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005 and continues to work through its member National Societies and in partnership with the United Nations agencies, governments, donors and civil society to meet the objectives of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005 - 2015, which was the key outcome of that conference.

SEARD/CSRU and Thai Red Cross jointly conducted three and half day workshop in Bangkok from 26-29 March from the support of RCRC Climate Centre. Total27 participants of ten National Societies (Except Singapore Red Cross) of the region were part of this workshop. The following were the objectives of the workshop:-

* To further enhance the knowledge of the participants on climate related hazards and overall consequences as well measures to reduce the impact.
* To strengthen the participants existing capacity on DRR and EWEA in relation to changing risk patterns induce by climate change and variability.
* To introduce IEC/training materials and approaches that participants can consider to apply within on-going and future activities of their respective National Societies

**Proposal of Mekong River Basin**

A comprehensive cross-sectoral (intergated) proposal targeting Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Lao is under development and hopefully will be ready for sharing with others in April, 2013. The proposal will cover the aspect related to operationalisation of the resilience approach in at at least six communities of Mekong River Basin of each targeted countries. Health, DRR, Communication and Advocacy as well as National Society Development components are well considered while developing the proposal.

**Training of DG-ECHO**

Member of SEARD/CSRU attended DG ECHO ‘General training’ from 18 – 20 March, 2-13 at the Ibis Riverside Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The course provides a general overview of DG ECHO Mandate and FPA (Framework Partnership Agreement), a better understanding of the main implications of the partnership, roles and responsibilities and knowing where to find information and/or requirements in the supporting documents.

**Meeting with DG-ECHO**

On the occasion of the DG- ECHO’s Desk Officer for Asia and Pacific, a meeting was called by DG ECHO in Bangkok on 22 March. The meeting was attended by ECHO regional counterparts such as UNISDR; AADMER Partnership Group (APG) and IFRC to discuss about the regional initiatives in DRR in general and future priorities. Resilience came out as one of discussion topic in which the IFRC provided a brief updates on on-going initiatives such as DRR Field Sessions; Thematic Seminar on Integration; Regional and Zone Resilience meetings; School based risk reduction. In addition, a significant time was spent to further discuss about the current DIPECHO project on its progress and upcoming events.

**Departure of Community Based Health Advisor**

Community Based Health Advisor ended her mission on 31st March, 2013. SEARD is courently not considering replacement of the CB health Advisor. Head of Community Safety and Resilience Unit take over the health portfolio for the time being.

**Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) meeting**

Senior Government representatives from 19 Asia-Pacific countries as well as key international observers will meet in Ulaanbaatar on March 25-27 for the 10th Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) on Disaster Management meeting. Officials will discuss and finalize a regional action plan for disaster risk reduction to be implemented over a period of 2-years. The 2-year regional action plan is one of several agenda items addressed under the meeting’s overarching theme, “Integrated planning and action for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at the local level”.

Chair of RDMC attended regional coordination Committee attended this meeting along with DM Delegate from AP Zone. The learning of that meeting will be shared by RDMC chair during upcoming RDMC meeting in June.

**ASEAN, ACDM-Civil Society Organizations Partnership Dialogue, 28-29 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand**

Following up on the recently held Regional Consultation in Bangkok, the ACDM-CSO Partnership Dialogue as a part of the three-step process towards the adoption of an ASEAN framework for CSO participation in AADMER implementation was held from 28-29 March.

The dialogue was attended by representatives of the national disaster management offices, civil society organisations incuding IFRC SEARD, that work both in national and regional in scope, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The civil society participants to the dialogue represented a diversity of organisations working with vulnerable groups and communities in ASEAN, such as those working with women, children, older persons, persons with disability, and even organisations working for the protection of animals during emergencies.

The two day dialogue between government and civil society contributed towards the process for reaching a common understanding and ways of working together in support of the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). The process started with consultations with civil society organisations in the countries, followed by a regional consultation attended by national and regional civil society representative.

**Next month (April) visitors**

Representatives of Canadian Red Cross will visit SEARD from 29 April-4 May, 2013. The visits will focus to monitor the CBDRR initiative implemented by TRCS and supported by CRC through IFRC.

**Upcoming Events for April 2013**

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| **Date** | **Events** | **Venue** |
| 1-3 | Planning Conference for ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) | Thailand |
| 7-12

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 | Global Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) and Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Module development workshop | Kuala Lumpur |
| 17-19 | ISDR Asia Partnership Working Group - IAP | Bangkok |
| 22-24 | AP Zone Resilience meeting  | Kuala Lumpur |
| 24-25 | Thematic seminar on Integration  | Lao |
| 25 April – 1 May | 59th Open Session of ESCAP (session on Post HFA consultations included) | Bangkok |
| 30 | The International Conference on Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Response – (organised by Thai Governament) | Bangkok, Thailand |