

# RDMC WORKING GROUP

Report/ **Annual SE Asia RCRC Meeting** / July 2012

## Background

The 16th Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC) meeting was hosted by Singapore Red Cross from June 6-8, 2012. The regional delegation's community safety and resilience unit (CSRU) supported the meeting. All 11 national societies from the region were represented by their senior disaster management representatives. In addition to the CSRU team, IFRC representatives from the Asia Pacific Zone (operations coordinator for Southeast Asia and international disaster law officer) as well as representatives from Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam country delegations. For the first time, an external participant – the executive director of the ASEAN AHA (Agency for Humanitarian Assistance) Centre – joined the meeting, making a total of 37 participants.

The meeting was open and participatory with fruitful and concrete discussions resulting in clear recommendations. Constructive feedback was provided on the current 'state of play' of the RDMC. Weaknesses were identified as well as underutilized strengths. Most importantly, discussions focused on how to transform the RDMC into a stronger, more proactive forum led by the national societies with support from their Federation.

Final outcomes were translated into the RDMC Road Map for the period 2012- 2015.

## Key outcomes & recommendations

### RDMC structure

The RDMC has been restructured by the RDMC members. **Thai Red Cross, Dr. Amnat Barlee**, has been nominated as the first Chairperson. The RDMC also nominated the following NS representatives as the chairs of four thematic RDMC sub-groups:

- Sub Group 1: Disaster Preparedness, Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, **Dr. Uy Sam Ath** (Cambodia Red Cross)
- Sub Group 2: Disaster Response and Response Preparedness, **Mr. Leonardo P. Ebajo** (Philippine Red Cross)
- Sub Group 3: Disaster Management Information Systems and knowledge sharing, **Mr. Arifin Muh. Hadi** (PMI)
- Sub Group 4: Regional DM cooperation framework and coordination, **Mr. U Maung Maung Khin** (Myanmar Red Cross)

Members decided to hold RDMC meetings before and after the Annual SE Asia RCRC Meeting to ensure more consistency, inputs and timely follow up on recommendations of the leadership. The next RDMC meeting will be held November 20-22 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The RDMC discussed participation of key national society health department representatives in future to initiate integrated planning to support the building of safer and more resilient communities. ***This initiative would need support from the leadership.***

## RDMC road map

Members finalized an RDMC road map for 2012 to 2015. The road map defines the way forward with clear roles and responsibilities for each RDMC member, including IFRC and the regional delegation. ***The implementation of the road map would need the support from the leadership.***

## Resilience approach

The RDMC strongly committed towards a holistic approach to community resilience focusing on integrated cross-sectoral planning. They committed to work closer with both health and OD departments to improve the quality of service to communities which strengthens their resilience.

To have such an approach the RDMC realised that ***it would require strong leadership support.*** That support could be demonstrated through encouragement to respective NS departments to work closer together on developing integrated plans.

## ASEAN

As stated, the executive director of the AHA Centre took part in the RDMC. He provided a comprehensive update on the current state of play of AHA centre and opportunities for cooperation with RCRC.

The RDMC expressed their interest to be more involved with ASEAN disaster management bodies, including the AADMER Partnership Group (APG) and AHA Centre. The regional delegation is requested to support the development of such cooperation to better position NS. They could then better support the implementation of the AADMER programme, which in turn would contribute towards securing the signing of the Cooperation Framework.

This strengthening of partnership and cooperation with various disaster management bodies of ASEAN ***would require support from the leadership.***

## Regional contact information

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