



May
2015

Regional Community Safety and Resilience Unit (CSRU)

Overview of Activities

ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercises 2015 (ARF DiREx 2015)

[IFRC ARF DiREx Programme](#)

The ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise 2015 (ARF DiREx 2015) held on 24-28 May 2015 in the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia was co-organized by Malaysia and China. SEARD mobilized Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) in this exercise. Total four RDRT members from Thai RC (2); Indonesia RC (1) and Lao RC (1) were engaged in this exercise along with Malaysian Red Crescent staff and volunteers. This kind of RDRT engagement has been organized in such exercise as per the joint plan of action between SEA National Societies and AHA Centre. This kind of arrangement will strengthen the working relation between Emergency Response Assessment Team (ERAT) of AHA Centre and RDRT members as well as promote the peer to peer learning. Nature of ERAT and RDRT are same.

Approximately 25 ARF Member states participated in this year's simulation exercise, in addition to international humanitarian organisations, such as the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, OCHA and representatives for the NGO sector. The organisers planned for more than 2,000 participants to take part in the simulation exercise.

The ARF DiREx 2015 consisted of three (3) main components, namely the Table Top Exercise (TTX), the Field Training Exercise (FTX) and the After Action Review (AAR). More information on the 2015 DiREx can be found here <http://arfdirex2015.my/>



The MRCS mobilised 134 personnel to be part of the event with volunteers from Kedah, Perlis and Kuantan, in addition to 41 staff from headquarters.

The MRCS team in the TTX conducted mass cooking – for 3000 people six times a day, deployment of their WatSan unit (which will be run by the South East Asian RDRT team), two medical search and rescue teams, and a radio and communications team. In addition to this they also had an RFL desk set up at the evacuation centre, supported by ICRC.

The International Seminar on Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



The International Seminar on Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Management was held between 4-7 May in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The Seminar was hosted by the Iranian Red Crescent Society and SEARD Gender and Diversity Officer from SEARD attended the seminar. The Seminar brought together disaster management professionals from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, IFRC Secretariat, international and regional organizations, as well as academics. It provided a platform to discuss: the complexity of urbanization; the current climate and future context of urban disaster risk reduction and management; the related challenges involved in preparing for and responding to disasters in an urban context; and how we can ensure tangible impacts and measure progress. Case studies from five National Societies engaged in city-level pilot projects were also presented.

The importance of a gender and diversity approach was highlighted specifically in relation to social violence prevention in urban areas and its necessity in hazard mapping and risk assessments. A key focus during the Seminar was placed on the 1 Billion Coalition. During these discussions, the importance of creating partnerships with women's organizations and groups with a specific focus on socially marginalized populations were highlighted. This was deemed essential to ensure that all groups within a society including women, migrants, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities are reached in order to achieve community resilience.

Some key themes that resulted from the Seminar included:

- Acknowledgment that working in urban contexts requires a change in mind set and a different approach from working in rural environments.
- The understanding that our initiatives need to be integrated and must be owned by the National Societies and the communities they work with.
- The agreement that although the RCRC is in a unique position due to its auxiliary role to governments and its strong community ties, we are not the only stakeholders and we cannot achieve our goal of increased disaster resilience alone. We must therefore engage with local government and local actors including the media, private sector, UN agencies and civil society organizations, to ensure that we strengthen collaboration and are not replicating efforts.
- We must harness the use of new technologies and engage communities in these.

The Seminar concluded with the adoption of the 'Tehran Declaration, IFRC call for Action to Reduce Urban Risks'. This outlined commitments: to continue to address the increasing challenges related with urbanization and the disaster risks associated; to enhance the capacities of IFRC and its member National Societies to address urban disasters; and to provide increased support to creating resilient urban centers by 2020, through the IFRC 50 Resilient Cities Initiative.

Disaster Law

[Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction](#)



On 20th May, PMI and IFRC took part in a government-led dissemination of International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) at the University of Yogyakarta (see picture at the opposite). The purpose of this event was to share the findings of an IDRL Indonesia ‘impact’ study, published in 2014 by PMI and IFRC, and disseminate information about the topic of IDRL, the role of the Red Cross and the role of the BNPB. Later that month, on the 26th May, PMI and IFRC hosted a small consultation as part of the revision process of Indonesia’s national disaster management law (adopted in 2007). The consultation was facilitated by MBPI, an Indonesian civil-society consortium, and attended by the Red Cross, BNPB, and some civil-society organizations.

These two initiatives are part of the ‘disaster law roadmap’ process in Indonesia whereby PMI, IFRC and BNPB are working together to strengthen the legal framework for disaster management, risk reduction and emergency response in Indonesia (including implementation and disseminate, which were key recommendations of the IDRL impact study). PMI and IFRC will also soon be commencing a project on law and disaster risk reduction, using the recently launched [‘Checklist on Law and Disaster Risk Reduction’](#), a new tool for law-makers, disaster managers and policy practitioners, developed by IFRC and UNDP.

RDRT Deployment for Nepal Earthquake from SEA

SEARD invested a lot this year on RDRT before Nepal EQ. SEARD worked with National Societies during first quarter of this year to identify the potential RDRT member in case of deployment situation. This has been done considering the incoming monsoon in this region.

SEARD sent alert to RDRT colleagues after the earthquake hit Nepal; there was 24 RDRT from South-East Asia who responded on their availability. SEARD deployed three RDRT in first round of calls. The first round RDRT has completed their mission and returned. In second Batch; SEARD deployed six RDRT. There will be at least one more round of RDRT- and SEARD will exploring to deploy additional from SEA RCRC Societies.

Post Emergency – Flood Preparedness Programme

[Activity 1.15 Improve and upgrade Disaster Database and IT system \(GIS\) of TRC](#)

Work Progress:

- The development and integration of map service has reached about 75 percent progress (with the contribution from Metropolitan Electricity Authority, Provincial Electricity Authority and Land Development Department).
- The Project team uploaded the developing map services on GISNET++ website to test the program.
- TRC assigned two staffs from Disaster Response team as key focal point for the pilot testing in Ayutthaya province.
- TRC also assigned one staff from Disaster Response team to test the system from the user’s perspective.
- DDPM-Ayutthaya is setting a team of GIS working committee to propose to the Governor, TRC representatives are part of the committee.

**Activity 2015-1.7 Community Disaster Preparedness program in Phang-nga Province
Koh Mai Phai community**

- On 15 May 2015, TRC together with community completed the review and improvement of disaster preparedness plan is ongoing and will be completed by June.
- The additional natural disaster risk is windstorm, which takes place annually around the end of April to December. The impact of this windstorm includes destruction of house and infrastructure (electricity cable) and fallen tree. However, there is also drug problem that is increasing.



Assessing the disaster risk to the community and brain storming for disaster preparedness and response plan

Baan Tung Dhab community

- On 19-20 May, TRC conducted Disaster risk reduction analysis and review role and responsibility of community committee (step 5). From the observation, community committee understood their role and responsibility, also understood the process of response mechanism. The disaster risk for community is Tsunami which they had bad experience about it.
- The community identified that the early warning system is important for their community and requested for IFRC/TRC support in acquiring Radio VHF to communicate as early warning system.
- For the next step of Baan Tung Dhab community, TRC will organize a table top exercise for Tsunami response.
- The suggestion was provided to each team of community committee to present their role and responsibility team by team, which will help the community committees to have a clear understanding of their role in order to work together.
- TRC will submit the proposal to IFRC for VHF radio to provide to 5 communities (including Baan Tung Dhab community). IFRC requires that the radio person pass the obligatory examination to obtain the license to use the radio.



Brainstorming for capacity building activity and prioritizing the activities

THAILAND

World Red Cross Day



On Saturday, May 9, 2015, the Thai Red Cross organized the celebration of the World Red Cross Day 2015 with the theme of "Our Principles in Actions". Representatives of SEARD participated in this event. The event had as its highlight the voluntary blood donation of around 500 people and awareness raising campaign of organ donation. This event saw the participation of famous Thai celebrities.

Psychosocial Support

For the PSS (Psychosocial support) activity, Thai Red Cross (Relief and Community Health Bureau) requested the technical support from health sector to review the PSS Thai version that was being translated. Moreover, the PSS workshop for Thai volunteers will be organized during 8-12 June 2015 in Khao Yai, Nakornratchasima. The Regional health officer will be invited to be part of the facilitators for the CBPS module 7: Supporting volunteers and staff.

LAOS

Lao Red Cross: Thai Red Cross photographer's trip to support Lao Red Cross



Like many countries in South East Asia and around the world, Laos is affected by a range of natural disasters and therefore disaster preparedness and response are among the National Society's core activities. In line with this priority, in the first week of May 2015, the French Red Cross, in conjunction with Laos Red Cross, conducted disaster simulation exercises in Kaengpae and Mahaxai villages. The IFRC regional delegation, under the Regional Resilience Initiative, commissioned a locally-based professional photographer and a Thai Red Cross photographer to accompany the trip with LRC, in order to capture the work being done in community-based disaster preparedness from 4

to 8 May 2015. The resulting photographs and stories provide compelling advocacy resources for the national society as well as for the IFRC globally. A selection may viewed on the global photo library, [Cumulus](#).

Training/workshop/meeting

Preparation of AP Zone Led Community Health Workshop

Community Health Workshop scheduled to be held from 1 – 5 June 2015, Bangkok, aims to facilitate knowledge sharing of good practices and lessons learned on evidence-based community health programming – which will ultimately contribute to the enhancement of capacity of NS health managers and coordinators to design, implement and manage these programmes. The workshop will be attended by around 30 community health practitioners from NS across Asia Pacific.



Building safer and more resilient communities
in Southeast Asia

Preparation for CSR Forum 2015

To prepare for the CSR Forum, the CSRU has prepared for a **questionnaire** for National Societies in South East Asia, to better capture and understand the interests of South East Asia National Societies, with the aim to achieve a more effective forum. The questionnaire has been rolled out in May 2015, and the result of this questionnaire will be shared with all the participating National Societies. The result of the questionnaire will advise the agenda discussion and the discussion of the next CSR Forum, which will be held on 4 to 6 August in Jakarta. The online survey can be accessed at : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YBFYKVG>

Knowledge and Information Management

The online library at <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/home> is work in progress with constant updating. There is an increase of number of users visiting the library, now reaching 329 users during the month of May. Latest addition/update to the library includes:

- [Gender and Diversity](#)
- [RCRC Induction Training for Governments of ASEAN in ACE Programme](#)
- [Updates on Epidemic Control for Volunteers \(ECV\)](#)
- [Updates on Communications and Beneficiary Communication](#)
- [Updates of Social Capital Report and Infographics in Resilience in South-East Asia](#)

Additionally, the office hard copy/CD library (including books/guides/manuals/overview booklets) **inventory list** is now available to help users to search through our office library [here](#).

Discussion has been held with IFRC Geneva office to host the online library with better functionalities to better accommodate the sharing of information and knowledge among National Societies in South-East Asia. Work towards this direction is in progress.

Publication



[Myanmar Epidemic Preparedness](#) (ECV case study) has been published. The case study outlines the adaptation and roll-out of an Epidemic Control for Volunteers' (ECV) Toolkit and Training Manual in Myanmar by Myanmar Red Cross Society in 2014 and includes background on the country's health-related vulnerabilities, the application and outcomes of the intervention, the challenges, and finally, the way forward.

After being designed for the layout, the content of translated **Sphere Handbook** text in Thai is ready to be printed. Some parts (foreword and acknowledgement) are still being worked on.



Related to Southeast Asia Regional Gender and Diversity Network Forum, we have just published, the [highlights from the First Annual Southeast Asia Regional Gender and Diversity Network Forum in Manila](#) last November (2014).

Using Social Media



Manila Conference in Tweeter: Labor Migration Conference in Manila. A hashtag in Tweeter was established and social media plan shared. Tweets relating to the event may be viewed [here](#).

Manila Conference in Facebook: Labor Migration Conference in Manila, could be referenced at the hashtag [Manila Dialogue](#).

Manila Conference on Labor Migration uses the power of social media to raise public awareness and advocacy on the issue. Above are the snapshots from tweeter and Facebook.

South East Asia Climate Masters

The Facebook group, SE Asia Climate Masters, set up for Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers working in climate-change related areas (or simply with an interest in the topic and how it relates to their work) is active and continues to grow. It now has over 250 members – please join the group and share in the discussion at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1501584126755564/>



Upcoming Events for May and June 2015

1 – 5 June 2015	AP CBHFA workshop Community Health Workshop	Bangkok
5 – 6 June 2015	Knowledge & Experience Sharing of Community Leaders Meeting	Krabi
10 – 11 June 2015	Regional Disaster Law Forum	Bangkok
12 June 2015	CSR Forum agenda meeting	Bangkok
14 June 2015	World Blood Donor Day	South East Asia

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