**ARF DiREx 2015 Background Information and Programme**

**Kedah and Perlis, Malaysia**

**24 – 28 May 2015**

**Background Information about DiREx**

The ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise 2015 (ARF DiREx 2015) is co-organized by the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the People’s Republic of China

Inaugurated in 2009, the ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) is by far the most inclusive simulation exercise in the Asia Pacific region, involving civilian and military agencies from the 27 ARF participating countries and international humanitarian players. These elements come together to test and practice procedures, strengthen coordination, and build inter-operability skills and capabilities as well as harnessing the experience and lesson learnt in preparation for disaster. Coordination issues and the complexity of international humanitarian architecture as exercised in ARF DiREx represent the actual situation when a disaster occurs in the region.

ARF DiREx is held on a biennial basis and thus far three exercises had been conducted in (2009), (2011) and (2013) respectively

It is expected that more than 25 ARF Member states will participate 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 have planned for more than 2,000 participants to take part in the simulation exercise.

 As in other years, the ARF DiREx 2015 will consist 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 scenario and its components**

The overarching scenario is a super typhoon named, Typhoon Indera, impacting the northern part of Peninsular Malaysia, in which the worst flood scenario will be simulated**.**

The objectives of the **TTX** are to provide an opportunity for participants to review and discuss the mechanisms contained in the national disaster response plans and capabilities of Malaysia as well as regional and international response mechanisms. It will be a strategic level discussion facilitated by members from Malaysia and China and subject to scenario ‘injects’

The **FTX** will be simulated in order to test operational capacities and procedures across six different scenarios: a maritime Search and Rescue operation, a road traffic accident, a chemical leakage, a collapsed structure, a mass evacuation and the **site of an evacuation centre**. [note Movement will be involved in the evacuation centre scenario]

There will also be formal evaluation process**, the AAR**, which will run parallel to the exercise and review all aspects of the exercise and pass recommendations onto future organisers

**IFRC Objectives / Expected Outcomes**

**General Objectives**

* Enhance the knowledge and understanding of IFRC (NS and Secretariat) on the concept of Civil-Military relations while disseminating our role and position to external actors.
* Allow national societies to practice response operations in an multi country country/international setting.
* Establish relationships with key partners.

**Specific Objectives**

* Promote the auxiliary role of National Societies to external actors as key partners in disaster management issues
* Promote awareness and understanding of key disaster law issues.
* Promote awareness of IFRC and wider Movement position on civ/mil issues
* Support Malaysian Red Crescent Society in its role.
* Support sister societies to strengthen their relationships with regional and national players
* Test Movement coordination capacity and disaster response operations in an multi stakeholder setting

 *Please See Annex One for Movement Key Messages on Civil Military Interaction*

**Movement Roles during the 2015 Direx**

**Malaysia Red Crescent (MRCS)** will be involved in both the TTX and FTX. There will be 134 MRCS participants consisting of volunteers from Kedah, Perlis and Kuantan and 41 staff from headquarters. 8 vehicles are being used to transport all the equipment such as the water treatment unit.

MRCS has been given its own seat in the Emergency Operations Centre for the TTX.

In terms of FTX participation, MRCS has agreed to manage the mass cooking at the evacuation centre, where they will be preparing 6 meals a day for a 1000 people. MRCS will be deploying two MedSaR (Medical, Search and Rescue) teams, each team consisting of 5 individuals and a radio communications team. MRCS will also profile their WatSan capabilities through deployment of their Water Treatment Unit (Kit 5), this component will be supported by the regional SE Asian RDRT team with volunteers from MRCS to assist. In addition to this, MRCS will be running an RFL booth during the exercise, supported by ICRC.

A health team is also being deployed , headed by one doctor and a team of nine paramedics as standby in case of an emergency with any one of the participants. In addition to this, MRCS has also volunteered to provide food for the 2000 officials and relief workers who will be on duty.

**SE Asia Regional Disaster Response Team** will be involved in the TTX

A Regional Disaster Response Team ( RDRT) from across South East Asia will be deployed to support the MRCS in WatSan. RDRT members are composed of members from Thai Red Cross, Lao Red Cross and PMI.

**IFRC Secretariat** will be involved across the three components of the exercise ( TTX, FTX and AAR).

IFRC will be supporting the MRCS and regional RDRT in the FTX as well as supporting the MRCS in its role during the TTX. It has also been given in an opportunity to be part of the experts session and will present on “Humanitarian Action and Disasters: Legal and Policy Frameworks”.

A member of the IFRC team will also be involved in the After Action Review (AAR).

**International Committee of the Red Cross ( ICRC)** will be involved across the three components of the exercise (TTX, FTX and AAR). During the FTX, ICRC will be supporting MRCS with RFL and will also have a role in TTX and the ARR.

Other Actors

The **United Nations** team has confirmed there involvement as:

Seven staff to support the TTX. These are two staff from UN OCHA's Regional Office and five staff from the United Nations Team in Malaysia (UNDP, UNICEF and IOM).
Six staff to support the FTX. These are four staff from UN OCHA's Regional Office and two staff from UN OCHA's headquarters in Geneva.
We will also have staff supporting the AAR process.

**DiREx Programme for Movement Participants**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **TIME (HRS)** | **PROGRAM** | **VENUE** |
| 24 May 2015 | All Day | Arrival and Registration | TH Hotel & Convention Centre |
| 1600  | After registration, transport provided to IFRC accommodation  | Holiday Villa , Alor Setar  |
|  | 2000-2200 | Movement Welcome Dinner and Briefing | Szechuan Garden Chinese Restaurant, **Holiday Villa**  |
| 25 May 2015 | 0800 - 0845 | TTX Participants Registration | Grand Alora Hotel |
| 0845 - 0915 | Administrative Briefing Session |
| 0915 - 1230 | Academic and Expert Session |
| 1400 - 1730 | Table Top Exercise: Move 1 & Move 2 |
| FTX Coordination |
| AAR Preparation Meeting |
| 2000 | Opening Ceremony of ARF DiREx 2015 and Welcome DinnerDetails as per ANNEX A | TH Hotel & Convention Centre |
| 26 May 2015 | All Day | FTX Activities | Table Top Exercise: Move 2 and Move 3 | Timah Tasoh | Grand Alora Hotel |
| 27 May 2015 | All Day | FTX Activities | FTX Observation for TTX Participants | Timah Tasoh |
| 28 May 2015 | 0900 - 1000 | Preliminary Findings by AAR | Grand Alora Hotel |
| 1200 -1300 | Closing Ceremony for ARF DiREx 2015 | TH Hotel & Convention Centre |
| 1400 onwards | IFRC Participants Leaving |  |
| 1400 - 1800 | AAR Meeting | Grand Alora Hotel |

**Breakdown of Movement Participation in TTX, FTX and AAR**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Experts Briefing** |  **TTX** | **FTX** | **AAR** |
| **Malaysia Red Crescent** |  | Dato’ Sayed and Dato’ Naser. | **mass cooking** at evacuation centre **Radio Communication** -Dato' Bahari of Perlis**MedSaR** – 2 teams**RFL** Provide **WatSan equipment** and volunteers |  |
|  **SEA RDRT Support** |  |  | South East Asian RDRT for Watsan SupportSaowanee Saowakul ( TRCS)Sukanya Supudommungmee (TRCS)Eko Agung Permana (PMI)Phonexay Sivilay (LRC) |  |
| **IFRC Secretariat** | Jagan Chapagain (to present on behalf of IFRC at experts session) | Gabby Emery Ellie Seo | Leif Jonsson | Gloria Martinez  |
| **ICRC** |  | Noel Dass | Muna Djuly (RFL) | Sandra Moretti |

**Movement Participation Details**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Full Name** | **Organisation** | **Role** | **Travel details**Arrival / Departure | **Accommodation**Name of Hotel | **Contact Details** |
| Saowanee Saowakul | Thai Red Cross | FTXWatSan | Arrival 24May 1405Dep 28 May 1445 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | ssaowakul@yahoo.com |
| Sukanya Supudommungmee | Thai Red Cross | FTXWatSan | Arrival 24May 1405Dep 28 May 1445 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | mssukanya11@gmail.com |
| Eko Agung Permana | PMI | FTXWatSan | Arrive 24 May 2050Dep 28 May 1445 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | e.connector@yahoo.com |
| Phonexay Sivilay | Lao Red Cross | FTX WatSan | Arrive 24 May 1405Dep 28 May 1445 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | phonexay\_xay@hotmail.com |
| Sandra Moretti | ICRC | AAR | Arrive 24May 1525 Dep28May 2030 | Star City Hotel, Alor Setar | smoretti@icrc.org012 396 6559 |
| Noel Dass | ICRC | TTX | Arrive 24 May 1525 Dep 28 May 2030 | Star City Hotel, Alor Setar | nnavindass@icrc.org019 385 4148 |
| Muna Djuly | ICRC | FTX | 24May 1525 / 27May 2030 | Star City Hotel, Alor Setar | mjacoubdjuly@icrc.org016 688 8823 |
| Jagan Chapagain | IFRC | TTX | Arrive 24 May 1405Dep 25 May 1445  | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org0122153765 |
| Gabrielle Emery | IFRC | TTX | Arrive 24 May 1405Dep 28 May 1545 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | Gabrielle.emery@ifrc.org0193102923 |
| Gloria Martinez | IFRC | AAR | Arrive 24 May 1825Dep 28 May 1845 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | gloria@123mail.biz01112291045 |
| Ellie Seo | IFRC | TTX | Arrive 24 May 1405Dep 28 May 1545 | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | Ellie.seo@ifrc.org0192744968 |
| Leif Jonsson | IFRC | FTXCoord | Arrive 24 May 1825Dep 28 May 1845  | Holiday Villa Alor Setar | Leif.jonsson@ifrc.org0122308695 |
| Dato’ Sayed A. Rahman | MRCS |  |  |  | secgen@redcrescent.org.my0122118999 |
| Dato’ Haji Bahari | MRCS (Perlis) |  |  |  | datobaharitaib@yahoo.com0194483677 |
| Hajah Shamsiah | MRCS |  |  |  | shamsiah@redcrescent.org.my0123819559 |

**Annex One**

**Movement Key Messages on Civ/Mil Relations**

*( Agreed for World Humanitarian Summit Civil Military Global Forum - April 2015)*

1. Civil Military Relations sector is rapidly evolving, there are more players, more disasters and more bright ideas to improve collaboration and understanding – but the issues are not new. The principles and criteria for decisions about joint or separate engagement, about how assistance is to be perceived, about continuity, complementarity and coordination remain.
2. Very clear and useful frameworks already exist – in national and international law, in various guidelines and agreements (resolutions 5 & 7 CoD, Oslo guidelines, SHCR position paper,…), in the international code of conduct, … What may be missing most is the implementation (the practice and tools to support implementation).
3. No context is the same and no one size fits all BUT there are common questions and criteria for decisions that should be asked in every situation – though the responses may vary.
* Re context, there are two axis: conflict vs non-conflict environments (or complex vs natural disasters) and domestic vs international responses/responders.
* Re questions: issues of perception, identity, principles of impartiality/independence/neutrality, existence of and responses to protection needs,
1. The RC/RC Movement, and each of its components, have defined responsibilities (in law and practice), identities and relations. RC/RC must be able to maintain its privileged line of communication with authorities and parties involved. The Movement has long term commitment and experience, from the ground level up, in every context where disaster occurs - and has specialist capacities in different fields related to the different components ranging from disaster law to RFL to management of the dead.
2. Military and police components have essential roles to play in large scale disasters. Preserving law and order, assisting in clearing routes/opening ports and transporting goods can be crucial. Direct service delivery is obviously less their expertise, and often more open to misinterpretation, and thus more of a last resort. The Movement has long and close experience of working alongside these actors, whilst always preserving its separate identity.
3. A comprehensive approach is necessarily NOT an integrated approach. Importance of offering those in need with multiple options for assistance and protection (different parts of the affected population will be comfortable in approaching different actors, and need different types of response) and for neutral, impartial, and independent humanitarian action (NIIHA) to be clearly separated from international and national military support.
4. RC/RC reassert commitment to respond in line with the Fundamental Principles, particularly as regards to neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action.