Comments to CONCEPT PAPER

SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION RC/RC NATIONAL SOCIETIES WORKSHOP

RE: REACTIVATING THE REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM (RDRT)

I. Background:

Southeast Asia (SEA) region is composed of 11 countries namely Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Timor Leste, Brunei Darussalam, Lao, Cambodia, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. Each of these countries have somehow link to one another, although not all are sharing the same religion, culture, and practices. But within this region, a good cooperation and collaboration has been established. It is also a region known of having various hazards are present such as volcanoes, typhoons, earthquake, floods, landslides, armed conflict, and epidemic. Nevertheless, the Southeast Asian Region has a strong cooperation agreement through the ASEAN represented by each government of the country. Within this region there is also existence of a strong Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Well recognized by the respective country as an auxiliary to its government, working within the Seven Fundamental Principles of the RC/RC Movement, and providing Humanitarian Services to the most vulnerable.

A total of 11 Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) Societies also working collaboratively and partnership to support each National Society (NS) to provide effective and timely humanitarian services to the most vulnerable in times of disaster. In 2003, the first batch of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) was conducted in Malang, Indonesia and in the same time was formally recognized by the SEA RC/RC NS. Through the years, the RDRT became bigger and several trainings were conducted afterwards up to 2011 (which is the 12th batch of the RDRT Trainings held in Bandung, Indonesia). It is also been proven the effectiveness and importance of the existence of the RDRT in the Southeast Asia during major disaster that hit the countries within the region either man-made and/or natural disaster events. It is also well tested that RDRT achieved its primary goal to exist by supporting the disaster stricken country where the NS requiring support to manage such disaster.

The following disaster events were few among the RDRT accomplishments and missions:

* 2005 – 1st RDRT Southeast Asia deployment in Pakistan Earthquake;
* 2006 – May, East Timor Typhoon and Flooding (embedded delegate to IFRC);

June, Saint Bernard Landslide, Southern Leyte, Philippines;

December, Tsunami Banda Ache, Indonesia;

* 2008 – Typhoon Nargis in Myanmar;
* 2007 – 2010 various typhoon disaster in the Philippines (includes Typhoon Fengshen, Ketsana and Megi in the Philippines);
* 2010 – Pakistan Flood; and
* Latest was the “Super Typhoon Haiyan” that buttered the Central Visayas areas of the Philippines last 08 November 2013.

As time passes, the RDRT was given less attention and no follow-up activities were made by each NS. Through the first initiative made under the RDRT, each NS concentrated on their owned priorities and less steps was conducted. Perhaps this is due to the changes of time and emerging new concept such as the merging of the two three sectors such as Disaster Management, Health, and Organizational Development (OD) into one as Community Safety and Resilience (CSR), and also with each country individual constraints within its respective NS.

In February 2012, where the first formalization of the CSR and the three sectors met held in Myanmar and discuss to have each sector a common road map for resilience. One of the major concerned raised among the Disaster Management of each NS is the RDRT. It is in this meeting was initially agreed to revisit and look into the current status of each NS on the RDRT.

Following the IFRC Regional CSR meeting last 16 – 18 September 2014 held in Bangkok, Thailand participated by the SEA National Societies namely Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Singapore, and Malaysia. Among the discussion is the reactivation of the RDRT in the region to be supported by the IFRC SEA Regional Office. Among the discussions, the following was agreed among the RC/RC National Societies of the region:

* RDRT concept be put into the NS responsibilities to recruit, train, and deploy;
* Each NS to adopt the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) as pre-requisite to be recognize as RDRT members;
* Develop RDRT standard operating procedures, terms of reference, and disaster response and contingency plan for the region;
* Develop a standard curriculum for NDRT, to be adopted by all NS of SEA region;
* Each NS will appoint a RDRT focal person (to be lead by the Disaster Management and alternate lead from Health and OD/other department as may assign by each NS Management);
* IFRC SEA region will assign focal person to support the NS;
* Develop a standard agreement for all SEA RC/RC NS to sign to ensure support to NDRT and RDRT is within each NS priorities;
* Conduct of inventory of all NS Disaster Response assets, equipment, and manpower for RDRT; and
* Conduct of RDRT Master Training.

Part of this agreement is to have a follow-up 2-day workshop to discuss and work on the finalization of the above agreements in particular with the standard operating procedures, terms of reference, NDRT curriculum, and agreed on the final documents and presentation in preparation for the SEA NS Leadership meeting to be held on July 2015 (no tentative dates and venue).

Thus, this concept paper will describe the proposed two-day workshop to be participated by selected NS and its respective Head or representative from the Disaster Management, Health and OD.

II. Goal and Objectives

The plan two-day workshop aim to achieve the following goal and specific objectives:

Goal:

Re-active the Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Regional Disaster Response Team for effective collaboration and support among National Society within the region and outside the region before, during and after the disaster event.

Specific Objectives:

* Develop a standard operating procedures and terms of reference for the mobilization and deployment of the RDRT;
* Develop a standard curriculum on National Disaster Response Team training;
* Develop an agreed document for the NS commitments for RDRT and NDRT sign by each NS Secretary General; and
* Agree on the final recommended position paper and presentation on RDRT for the up-coming SEA NS Leadership meeting on 2015.

III. The Workshop

1. Duration: 2 days (not included the arrival and departure of participants)
2. Date: 27 – 28 October 2014
3. Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
4. Host NS: Thailand Red Cross Society
5. Funding Support: IFRC Southeast Asia Region (including food accommodation during the workshop, accommodation before-during-after the workshop, travel costs from country of origin and back, MSF following IFRC standards, etc.)
6. Target Participants:
7. DM Sector (one from each NS):
   1. Philippines Red Cross
   2. Thai Red Cross
   3. Palang Merah Indonesia
   4. Singapore Red Cross
   5. Malaysian Red Crescent
   6. Vietnam Red Cross
   7. Myanmar Red Cross
   8. Cambodia Red Cross
   9. Timor Leste Red Cross
   10. Lao Red Cross
   11. Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent
8. Guest (one from each Sector)
   1. Chair of the Health Sector
   2. Chair of the OD Sector
9. Facilitators:

The workshop will be facilitated by the IFRC Southeast Region – CSR Delegate to be supported by the Philippines Red Cross and Indonesia Red Cross. The Chair of the DM Sector will take the lead of the over-all workshop proper and will act as Moderator during the workshop discussion. The IFRC SEA Region will also act as Secretariat of the workshop.

IV. Methodologies

The workshop activity will not be limited to the following methodologies:

1. Presentation of the workshop objectives and setting expectations;
2. Break-out session on the following topics and NS assignment:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Topic 1:  RDRT SOPs and TOR | Topic 2:  NDRT Curriculum | Topic 3:  NS Commitment Paper |
| Lead: Indonesia RC  Support: IFRC Delegate | Lead: Singapore RC  Support: IFRC Delegate | Lead: Thai RC  Support: IFRC Delegate |

Note: Participants for each of the topic will identify prior the break-out session. A draft document of each of the topic to the leader of each of the break-out session will be given prior to the workshop event. The break-out session will provide two hours for discussion and synthesis of the given draft document. A minimum of two members is required for each topic in order to proceed on the session. In case there will be less of two members, the Chair of the Disaster Management Sector will have to assign two participants. Voluntary commitment is accepted. For the two Chairs of both Health and OD sectors, there will be open to select of their own choice of the topic to join (only one topic is allow to select).

1. Presentation and discussion on the following topics after the break-out session (All Participants):
   1. Presentation of the draft RDRT standard operating procedures and terms of reference;
   2. Presentation of the draft NDRT curriculum; and
   3. Presentation on the draft NS commitment paper.

Note: The output of the break-out session will be presented by the Topic Lead. May use its own style of presentation.

1. Open discussion to all participants for questions and answer, comments, clarification, and additional suggestion on the presented documents;
2. Table top discussion and finalization of the position paper to present to the SEA NS Leadership meeting; and
3. Rap-up and Way-forward planning.

V. Agenda Schedule

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time | 26 Oct | 27 Oct | 28 Oct | 29 Oct |
| 8:30 am – 9:30 am | Arrival (depends on flight availability from each country) | Opening (to be hosted by the Thai RC) | Recap and finalization and agreement on the output of the Break-out Sessions | Departure (depends on flight availability back to each country) |
| 9:30 am – 10:30 am | Workshop Orientation and Setting of Expectation (PRC) | Table top discussion on the agreement of the statement paper to be presented to the SEA NS Leadership meeting (PMI) |
| 10:30 am – 10:45 am | SNACKS | SNACKS |
| 10:45 am – 12:00 nn | Break-out Sessions | Continuation of the discussion |
| 12:00 nn – 1:00 pm | LUNCH | LUNCH |
| 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm | Continuation of the Break-out Sessions | Way Forward Planning |
| 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm | Presentation of the Break-out Session Outputs | Other Matters |
| 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm | SNACKS | SNACKS |
| 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Continuation of Open Discussion on the output of the Break-out Sessions | Closing Ceremony |

VI. Budget

To be prepare by the IFRC Southeast Asia Region.