10th Annual South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting 2013

RDMC report

South-East Asia Leaders / Luang Prabang / 25 – 27 March 2013

Following the 16th Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC) meeting the minutes were endorsed with signatures of all Regional RDMC members and shared with all 11 NSs, country delegations and other relevant stakeholders including back donors. The next 17th RDMC meeting will take place in June 2013, Myanmar. Head of Health Units of 11 National Societies were asked to consider their participation at the RDMC with a purpose to further support the process of better programming across sectors and inevitably better service delivery to vulnerable communities.

# Resilience approach and integrated planning

National Society Health and DM managers are encouraged to jointly participate in regional and zonal forums such as RDMC, Regional Health Working Group and etc to enhance their skills, knowledge and cooperation/coordination to support development of an integrated country level plan as per RDMC Road Map. This will contribute to further strengthen the NS collective cross sectoral planning and implementation practices.

**Disaster risk Reduction Field Session.** A nine- day Disaster Risk Reduction Field Session in Myanmar is an example of good community driven/owned initiative that responds to their needs cross sectorally. Participants had a chance to be exposed to work in two semi-urban communities of Yangon to collect information using various tools; analyze the collected information systematically then develop a detailed Plan of Action to address the proposed problems existing in the community.

**Thematic Seminar on Integration**. Timor- Leste, Cambodia and Myanmar- RC National Societies brought together relevant departments (Health/DM/OD) to explore opportunities for better integration in planning and implementation of community based programmes . Thematic Seminar on Integration in Lao PDR planned for April 2013

**Regional Cooperation Network**

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) 2013 Initial Planning Conference (IPC), January 2013, Bangkok**.**  ARF, with its 27 members reaches well beyond the usual ASEAN scope, and as a body for security dialogue quite often has military representation as it was the case during this planning conference. The second major DiREx is planned for early May 2013 in Thailand. For that Thailand and Republic of Korea are the twin leads for the planning and running the event.

Along with IFRC SEARD, Thai Red Cross participated in the event and was requested by the Royal Thai Government, co-chair of the event, to support the exercise with its staff and logistical support specifically focusing on running of the evacuation camp (tents/tarpaulins), water and sanitation facilities, mobile field kitchen, ambulance service for real-time casualties, generators and flat-bottom boats for search and rescue. IFRC SEARD is providing necessary support to the Thai Red Cross in the process of preparation of such huge simulation exercise which will further enhance Thai RC response capacities as well as improve partnerships with key stakeholders involved in major emergencies.

The 5th ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) organized in October 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia was attended by several representatives from the South-East Asian NS. Among many issues discussed the

RCRC used an opportunity to further advocate for risk reduction and climate adaptation as critical elements in developing resilience and promoting sustainable development as part of the international development agenda beyond 2015, including through advocacy on improved legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction. RCRC also called for a serious shift in mindset and for all concerned to work together to bring about long-term and sustainable change in the lives of vulnerable people. This requires working across sectors. Looking at what we can – concretely and to scale – contribute not only to disaster response, but to risk reduction, public health, sustainable development and the protection of human rights.

South- East Asia Civil Society (CSO) Consultation on AADMER Engagement and Partnership January 2013, Bangkok. At the 17th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), it was highlighted that civil society participation and coordination in AADMER implementation is necessary and welcome, as CSOs are strategic partners that can help further promote and implement AADMER at the national and local levels. In light of this statement, the AADMER Partnership Group (APG), which has been working with the ASEAN since 2009 to ensure the people-centred implementation of AADMER, proposed a process to develop an ACDM-CSO partnership framework, and the proposal was approved by the ACDM.

Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation among National Societies and key stakeholders in Risk Reduction initiatives in the Mekong River Basin, December 2012, Luan Prabang, Lao PDR. The main focus of the workshop was to stimulate opportunities for increased cross border collaboration, coordination and sharing of knowledge, experiences and common approaches in Risk Reduction among four countries who share similar characteristics in terms of geography and vulnerability to hazards.It contributed to strengthen cooperation and coordination among MRB National Societies and key strategic partners like government representatives and ADPC. The workshop facilitated identification of common areas for cooperation to improve resilience of people living in the MRB. In addition, the workshop helped to better understand an increase in potential consequences of climate change and overall hazards and risks factors leading to more concrete discussions about how to contribute to promote collective efforts for integrated risk reduction and preparedness measures focusing on respective NSs and communities situated in LMB to reduce the impact of possible climate change consequences.

This compliments to RDMC Road Map 2012 -2015 and clearly indicates the need to strengthen the cooperation and coordination among countries in the region to ensure adequate resources to be put in place and necessary initiatives are undertaken to build safer and resilient communities along the river. One of the expected outputs of the RDMC Road Map is to develop one contingency plan for the Mekong River Basin Red Cross National Societies.

**Knowledge and Information Management**

The online DRR library of the Community Safety is officially launched on the following link: <https://sites.google.com/site/drrtoolsinsoutheastasia/>

# Regional contact information

Head of regional community safety resilience: Indira Kulenovic: [indira.kulenovic@ifrc.org](mailto:indira.kulenovic@ifrc.org)