International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

NATIONAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

International Day for Disaster Reduction / Southeast Asia/ October 13, 2015

# Background

Every year on 13 October, the world marks International Day for Risk Reduction. Initiated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), it is a day to celebrate the efforts of people and communities in reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of risk reduction (DRR). In the ASEAN region, the day is celebrated jointly with ASEAN’s Day for Disaster Management.

Last year saw some outstanding and highly-participatory activities by National Societies in the Southeast Asia region, ranging from public walks, to community workshops, an information fair, a painting and essay contest and a ‘mobile museum’.

Reflecting on these successes, 40,000 CHF was available to be shared among Southeast Asia’s National Societies, based on request and sharing of a concept note.

# National Society Activities

**Cambodia**

This year is a special one as Cambodia is chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). Accordingly, the Cambodian Red Cross and IFRC country delegation will:

* Join the ACDM events **October 9-10** at the Royal University of Phnom Pemh, hosted by National Committee for Disaster Management. Cambodian Red Cross and IFRC will contribute as speakers on panels regarding International Disaster Response Law and safe schools.They will also join the outdoor parade.
* Conduct a half-day event on **October 20** at one high school in Kg. Siem district with approximately 400 participants from the RCRC movement, NCDM, PCDM, DCDM, stakeholders, villagers, Red Cross youth, RCVs and students. The event will focus on humanitarian values, health, disaster risk reduction and climate change. Media including TV and radio will be invited to attend and report on the the event. Information materials on disaster risk reduction will be prepared for distribution.

**Indonesia**

BNPB, Government of Indonesia, is organising annual DRR day events from 16 to 18 October in Solo, Central Java. This year the focus is the flood risk reduction so the PMI has been invited by the BNPB to be a part of the DRR day celebration. So the PMI is taking active part in this national event by organising following activities:

* Two side events/discussions on partnership for community resilience and integrating dister risk reduction into disaster management law.
* One whole day seminar on the theme “Innovative solutions for flood management”.
* A talk show on the theme “ DM law implementation and reflection”.
* An exhibition of books, tools and works of PMI and RCRC movement in the field of DRR/DM
* A photo competition among PMI volunteers in theme of DRR, safer and resilient communities.

N.B. IFRC’s contribution under the Regional Resilience Iniitiative remains under discussion.

**Laos**

Laos Red Cross will conduct celebrations on **October 13** in the capital, Vientiane. Over 700 people are expected to attend from all government ministries of Lao PDR, staff and volunteers from the provinces, LRC partners (in cluding parter National Societies) and NGO’s, including UN, Save the Children, UNICEF, Oxfam, and ADPC. Facilitators of the event will include representatives from MoNDRE / DDMCC, LRC, French Red Cross and the UN. The event will include a small exhibition of photos displaying Laos Re dCross’ work in community-based disaster risk reduction.

**Philippines**

Philippines Red Cross will conduct the following events for IDDR:

* A Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) forum in Metro Manila on October 13, with government agencies, NGO and civil society organizations under the theme “Knowledge of Life” that will serve as a platform for sharing the practices of different actors in their respective DRRM initiatives using the traditional and indigenous knowledge which were complemented by the use of science or modern technologies. Large corporations and media will be invited as well.
* Simultaneous photo exhibitions October 10-16 in malls and universities in Manila, Quezon, Cebu, Tacloban and Davao, showcasing PRC’s DRRM initiatives across the country
* A social media campaign (through facebook and twitter) through the whole month of October to highlight PRC’s DRRM programs, promote awareness on DRRM and inform people of what they can do to contribute to achieving resilience in their respective localities (household, community, school or workplace). PRC will also join the UNISDR’s Twitter Thunderclap campaign, as referenced in the UNISDR Concept Note <http://www.unisdr.org/2015/iddr/documents/IDDR15ConceptNoteFINAL.pdf>

**Myanmar**

The Myanmar Red Cross Society will this year conduct activities at the national, regional, township and community levels, including:

* Particpating as partner of the national level celebration hosted by the Relief and Resettlement Department (at which they will distribute and display DRR material and photos).
* Joining Yangon activities, promoting the success of the MRCS DRR programme in Yangon.
* At township level, an essay and painting contest will be organized either by the program or branch/schools for students of secondary level and interested candidates. The celebration of township level commemoration will be organized on the date or week of IDDR (third week of October) and during the occasion, DRR education talks, awarding of prizes and community participation will be included in the agenda.

**Thailand**

Thai Red Cross will hold activities on **October 13** at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. Around 500 participants – volunteers, staff, Youth volunteers, the media and general public – are expected. The event will include:

* A press conference
* An exhibition about community-based disaster risk reduction activities
* A seminar on disaster resilience
* Games and a Q&A about disasters, disaster preparedness and response with prizes
* Distribution of information, education and communication materials (Mr. Radar cartoon book, CD, brochures, posters, etc.)
* Distribution of RCRC ‘Voices to Action’ community feedback forms (to be shared with IFRC Geneva ahead of the International Conference in December)

**Timor-Leste**

In collaboration with UNDP, ADPC (to be confirmed) and NDMD, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste are organising:

* A workshop to discuss “Timor-Leste and the Sendai Framework, with an aim to establish what Timor-Leste needs to do to comply with the Sendai Framework.
* A hazard, vulnerability, risk and capacity mapping exercise in CVTL ICBRR (=resilience program) with target communities. Selected representatives of each community will present developed risk maps at the district level for the District Disaster Management Committee. Their presentations will be followed by a discussion on the importance of the disaster risk reduction and the role indigenous knowledge can play in reducing risk.

**Viet Nam**

To celebrate IDRR and the launch of the World Disaster Report (WDR), the VNRC plans to organise a half-day public event in collaboration with the Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (DNDPC), the National Search and Rescue Committee (NSRC) and the Northwestern Steering Committee (NSC).

The event will include a simulation in Nghe An province (chosen given the presence and experience of the VNRC provincial disaster response team in the Chapter and that it’s a province frequently affected by floods and storms, including Typhoons Wutip and Nari, in 2013).

The event will include a simulation involving approximately 200 community members in the beach area, joined by Red Cross volunteers, local search and rescue members, as well as Red Cross staff and leadership from the headquarters and chapter, and relevant government agencies and NGOs. The simulation will be followed by the launch of the 2015 WDR, at which representatives from government agencies and VNRC/ IFRC or another NGO will be invited as guest speakers.

As a way to strengthen relationships with the government, representatives from the DNDPC, NSRC and NSC will also be invited to stay for the DIPECHO workshop in the afternoon, which is organized under the DIPECHO 9 project supported by ECHO.