**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**RCRC contribution to the 2017 ACE Programme / Bangkok / May 2017**

# Introduction

The AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme aims to provide capacity building for professionals from National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States who wish to pursue a career in disaster management (*see* [here](http://ahacentre.org/ace-programme/) *for more info)*. It gives select group of NMDO staff the opportunity to further develop their professional knowledge, skills and experience in regional cooperation on disaster management by exposing them to various settings in which they work with and learn from key partners including the United Nations and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The programme also serves as a platform to develop strong inter-governmental network to strengthen regional cooperation. Funded by the Japanese Government and other partners, the programme seeks to generate a pool of disaster management champions across ASEAN. ACE Programme was carried out successfully in 2014, 2015 and 2016, with different sessions held in Indonesia, New Zealand and Japan including a substantial period based within the AHA Centre in Jakarta. The fourth cohort is due to start its training in March 2016.

IFRC has been identified by the AHA Centre as one of the key resource organizations for some modules of the course, given its expertise in international disaster management, emergency shelter, disaster law and logistics. This recognition came up with a fruitful collaboration in 2016 in which IFRC co-facilitated with PMI a Red Cross Red Crescent Induction course (see report [here](http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/may-2016-red-cross-red-crescent-induction-training-for-governments-of-asean-in-ace-programme-semarang-indonesia/)) held in Semarang and followed by field visits to PMI programming in Bogor and Aceh as well as visits to warehouses in Malaysia and the Philippines. IFRC’s engagement in the ACE programme is also a key component of a Joint Action Plan for cooperation that was developed in 2015 by the AHA Centre, IFRC and National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in South East Asia (see[here](http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/document/joint-action-plan-for-technical-collaboration-between-red-cross-red-crescent-societies-and-asean-humanitarian-assistance-aha-centre/)). To continue such a positive initiative and enhance the partnership, the AHA Centre is keen to have IFRC support as well as RCRC participation in 2017

Hence, the purpose of this concept note is to outline RCRC engagement in the 2017 ACE Programme, to be held between July and December 2017, and to clarify roles and responsibilities within IFRC and relevant NSs to be involved, including the Indonesia Red Cross (PMI) as host of the induction course.

# Scope and expected outcomes

The activities presented hereunder are designed in a spirit of mutual learning, offering opportunities to both ACE Participants and NSs to increase their skills and share their experience. They shall contribute to the following expected outcome:

**1/ Enhance RCRC engagement with ASEAN in the field of Disaster Management**, through concrete collaboration with ASEAN’s flagship technical entity (AHA Centre), thus demonstrating the added value of RCRC as part of the “One ASEAN One Response”. This is a key strategic objective of Southeast Asia NS Leaders as well as the South East Asia Community Safety and Resilience Forum.

**2/ Increase understanding of RCRC among ACE Programme participants: the “future DM Leaders” in the region,** thus contributing to the strategic positioning of RCRC in their auxiliary status, and in particular for the National Society at the country level. Indirectly, this should also increase the positioning of RCRC with donors and ASEAN partners.

**3/ Reinforce the linkage between NSs and their NDMO counterparts through joint capacity-building**, which – beyond providing skills to individuals – is hoped to contribute to institutional relation-building. It is envisioned that ACE Programme Participants and RCRC representatives will see the value of learning from each other, which can be further development when back in their respective countries.

# RCRC Induction course

Based on the tentative schedule for ACE Programme 2017 (attached in *Annex 1*), the main opportunity for IFRC and NSs to provide training to the ACE Programme Participants is through the RCRC Induction Course planed in October 2017 (exact date and location to be discussed with PMI and AHA Centre). The detailed sessions plan will be developed along with identified facilitator by June 2017.

Following the evaluation of batches 2015 and 2016, AHA Centre has advised that the induction this year would last 3 to 4 days maximum and should:

* Focus on response and preparedness to response, (as part of the One ASEAN One Response)
* Include Gender and Diversity and Disaster Law as cross-cutting themes
* Include a simulation exercise to put the classroom learning into practice.

If time allows, a visit to a nearby community would also be appreciated. This would involve related PMI chapter and branch offices. The objective would be to have participants interact with community members and understand how PMI builds community resilience together with local authorities.

# RCRC National Societies sending trainees to selected modules of the ACE Progamme

Similar to 2015 and 2016, the AHA Centre is also welcoming trainees from RCRC National Societies in ASEAN countries for selected modules in Jakarta. The exact number of participants and selected modules need to be further discussed, based on number of places available and interest of the National Societies. As appropriate, NSs visiting Jakarta will also be invited by PMI for a courtesy visit / peer to peer sharing session.

# Roles and Responsibilities

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| IFRC AP Regional office / DCPRR | * Provide strategic guidance on the overall process. * Lead on the selection of NSs to participate into ACE programme modules * Provide facilitators and trainers, as necessary, for the RCRC induction. |
| IFRC CCST Jakarta | * Ensure the day-to-day coordination with AHA Centre for these activities * Ensure necessary coordination with PMI for the implementation of the Induction course as needed (logistics, admin, etc.) * Support the required administrative and logistics process to ensure the selected NSs can attend respective modules and have courtesy visits to PMI as appropriate. * Provide facilitators and/or trainers for the RCRC induction as required |
| IFRC CCST Bangkok | * Lead on the facilitation of the RCRC Induction * Liaise with PMI on the contents of the RCRC induction and related field visits * Provide facilitators and trainers * Allocate budget to support the activities as needed |
| PMI | * Co-hosts the RCRC Induction course and related field visit, involving respective chapter and branch * Ensure proper coordination with Indonesian authorities (national and local) * Provide facilitators and/or trainers for the activities as required |

# Budget

Budget for the activities mentioned above has been allocated under the Regional Resilience Initiative (20 000 CHF under the cooperation with AHA Centre 10 000 CHF under peer-to-peer learning opportunities for NSs), of which a key outcome is to *increase cooperation and build partnerships between the Red Cross Red Crescent, ASEAN and other regional bodies*. It is to be noted that AHA Centre might also have provisioned some funding for some of the costs. More detailed discussions will be held in the coming weeks.

# Looking ahead

The approach for supporting the ACE Programme in 2018 onwards will be adjusted based on the IFRC-ASEAN Joint Strategy – which is in the pipeline – as well as the agreed approach on how the various IFRC offices will be engaged on specific aspects of the collaboration with the AHA Centre.

# Contact information

For further information, please contact: