

Opening Address for the Commencement of  
Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar 2018

*By*

Assoc.Prof. Gasinee Witoonchart  
Rector of Thammasat University

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Good morning,

Distinguished keynote speaker

Ms. Michaela Friberg, Humanitarian Diplomacy Advisor for Asia Pacific, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

Mr. Chainarong Vasanansomsithi, Deputy Director General of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand and ASEAN Representative,

Assistant Professor Dr. Tavida Kamolvej, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science,

distinguished delegates, participants, ladies and gentlemen:

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As the rector of Thammasat University, it is my great honour to welcome all of you to the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar 2018. This seminar is jointly organized by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management (ACDM), the Faculty of Political Science, and Thammasat University.

I am certain that we all have realized how frequently we have been affected by natural disasters these days. Those disasters not only caused the great loss of lives and properties, but also had critical impacts on economic growths of the nations. Therefore, it is our duty to manage the disaster risks with stronger and better governance. The strong governance requires effective legal frameworks which clarify the roles and responsibilities of governments and non-government actors in reducing losses caused by disasters in the ASEAN region and elsewhere in the world.

This conference aims to provide a platform for actors working on different disaster risk management and academic institutions in ASEAN to share the results of their research studies and data on policy implementation. Another purpose of this seminar is to increase the academic works and to provide the reliable resources for policymakers who work on laws and regulations for disaster risk management.

On behalf of Thammasat University, it is truly my pleasure to host the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar and welcome all of you attending this conference. I strongly believe that this conference will provide an avenue to gain insights into policies on disaster risk management.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to our distinguished guests and members of the organising committee who help make this conference possible.

More importantly, I would like to thank all of you here for your presence and contributions.

I am certain that academic sessions that will take place over the next three days will enhance our understanding of disaster risk governance and strengthen the networking of scholars and practitioners who work on this significant issue. I am confident that this seminar will be meaningful, constructive, and successful.

Thank you.