



## **The Outcome of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SouthEast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership Meeting**

**Manila, Philippines, 24-25 October 2019**

### **Manila Statement**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was held in Manila, Philippines on 24-25 October 2019, with a total participation of 40 delegates from 11 National Societies, to wit: the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Timor-Leste Red Cross, Vietnam Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The event was hosted by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in Makati City, Philippines where the opening ceremony was presided over by Chairman Richard J. Gordon. SEA leaders expressed their thanks to PRC leaders, staff and volunteers involved in organising the event and for the warm welcome. The PRC Board of Governors joined the leaders at various sessions.

The leaders began their meeting by reviewing the outcomes of the 15th SEA RCRC Leaders meeting of April 2018 in Melaka, Malaysia and the SEA Leadership Side-Event Meeting of November 2018 during the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Manila. Topics discussed included; 1BC and the ASEAN Coalition for Resilience; Reinforcing Manila Call for Action Commitments and regional targets; Localisation of Actions; Migrant workers; and Preparation for the 2019 Statutory Meetings.

Reflecting on the outcomes of the 15th SEA Leadership meeting in Malaysia and the side-meetings in the Philippines in November 2018, the leaders agreed that the region continued to face similar challenges, e.g. strengthening regional cooperation; youth and volunteer capacities; Protection, Gender and Inclusion; Disaster Risk Management; Humanitarian diplomacy; and localisation of humanitarian actions. In this regard, the leaders agreed to reinforce the commitment to work together to strengthen the RCRC Network within the SEA region.

The leaders agreed 1 Billion Coalition (1BC) and the ASEAN Coalition for Resilience (ACR) are important platforms to enhance humanitarian action in the region. They further agreed that humanitarian partnerships had to be strengthened amongst the SEA NS, with the relevant government authorities, the corporate sector, think tanks, academia and with regard to civil military relations. The leaders further recognized the importance of communicating the thrust of the 1BC/ACR to all sections of the RCRC Movement including the local branches, the public and the media.

The leaders expressed their support of the initiatives, such as the capacity building workshops and the proposed center of excellence for pandemics, as projects that would enhance regional resilience and contribute to ACR.





The leaders reviewed the progress of the Manila Call for Action, including the 21 commitments, the 13 targets, and the SEA Roadmap. They noted that the majority of the SEA NS had started or made substantial commitment towards achieving the targets since the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, while some plan to commence in 2020. The leaders recognized the importance of the SEA Roadmap, in particular towards enhancing the localization of humanitarian action and agreed there was a demonstrated benefit in continuing to share good practices, amongst the National Societies on programs such as cash-ready programming. However, the leaders emphasized the need for further development of the tracking system and for regular review of progress made towards achieving the targets. In this regard, the leaders reiterated the need for additional explanation and elaboration of commitments and targets, and they agreed that there will be an annual review of progress during the SEA leadership meeting.

### **Localisation:**

The leaders were briefed on the progress of the major regional RCRC network initiatives including PGI SEA sub-regional Network, Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN), Asian RCRC HIV/AIDS Network (ART), Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN), and Asia Pacific Fundraising Network (APFN) and Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum. To ensure its effectiveness and continued relevance to the SEA National Societies, the leaders recognized that there may be a need to prioritize and focus on three or four of these networks which they deemed most relevant to the SEA NS, while continuing to engage with each of the networks. In this regard, the leaders also agreed to appoint a lead NS (a shepherd) to drive on that particular collaboration within SEA.

The leaders' priorities are:

1. Community Safety and Resilience Forum (Malaysian Red Crescent Society & Vietnam Red Cross - shepherd)
2. Fundraising (Singapore Red Cross - shepherd)
3. SEA Youth Network (Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society & PRC)

### **Migrant Workers**

The leaders were briefed on initiatives of various NS on issues surrounding migration and displaced persons as well as programs and interventions being conducted by NS. They noted that the demands and concerns of migrants varied widely across the region, as does the capacity of the NS to respond to the local situation. The leaders recognized the limitations of NS to address the very complex issues surrounding migration including political and legal considerations. The leaders noted that each NS would undertake projects within their capacity, but also identified the opportunity for the NS to work together to address the issues, such as repatriation of injured workers.



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## Preparation for the 2019 Statutory Meetings

The leaders noted the agenda and the main elements of the decision and resolutions for the Statutory Meeting and committed to continue their consultations on the development of joint statements.

The leaders resolved to reconvene for the 17th Annual SEA Leadership Meeting by October 2020 which will be held in Vietnam. It was unanimously agreed that Vietnam Red Cross will assume the Chair of the SEA Leaders' group for the 2020 meeting, Thai Red Cross will assume the Chair for 2021 and Brunei Darussalam RCS for 2022.

### Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society

Suhaimi Bin Haji Ibrahim  
*President*

### Cambodian Red Cross Society

Chantinie Pum  
*Secretary General*

### Indonesian Red Cross Society

Ritola Tasmaya  
*Secretary General*

### Lao Red Cross Society

Sing Menorath  
*Vice-President*

### Malaysian Red Crescent Society

YTM Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku Puteri  
Intan Safinaz Binti Almarhum Sultan Abdul  
Halim Mu'adzam Shah,  
Tunku Temenggong Kedah  
*National Chairman*

### Myanmar Red Cross Society

Mya Thu  
*President*

### Philippine Red Cross Society

Richard J. Gordon  
*Chairman/CEO*

### Singapore Red Cross Society

Tee Tua Ba  
*Chairman*





สภาบรรเทาทุกข์  
The Thai Red Cross Society



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**Thai Red Cross Society**

*Sawanit Kongsiri*

Sawanit Kongsiri  
*Assistant Secretary General for  
External Relations*

**Timor-Leste Red Cross Society**

*Anacleto Bento Ferreira*

Anacleto Bento Ferreira  
*Secretary General*

**Vietnam Red Cross Society**

*Hai Anh Nguyen*  
*Vice President & Secretary General*