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APMN@redcross.org.au

APMN Membership Update:

March 2016

Dear Members of the Asia Pacific Migration Network,

Greetings and welcome to the first the first APMN membership update for 2016. What an exciting start to the year it has been!

Since the last APMN membership update, the International Conference has taken place, and although not originally on the agenda, migration ended up being a feature at the December meetings. In consultation with IFRC, ICRC and the APMN working group, a regional migration pledge was also drafted calling for a collaborative and cooperative Movement approach to migration in the region. You can find information about how to sign on to the pledge in this update.

The Network has been busy with teleconferences, Skype meetings and phone calls with migration focal points right across the region, particularly for the mapping project of National Society migration related activities.

On an exciting note, the ICRC, IFRC and the APMN will come together with leaders and migration focal points of National Societies, to discuss humanitarian responses to migration across the region. The upcoming event *'Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian responses to migration in the Asia Pacific'*, is scheduled from 26-28 April 2016 in Kuala Lumpur. You can read more about this later.

In this March update you will also find:

- *News about the regional migration pledge and how to sign up*
- *An update on the mapping project*
- *Details about the regional migration meeting 'Mobilising the Movement'*
- *National Society in focus – Cambodia Red Cross*
- *An update about the APMN at the International conference*
- *A list of upcoming events relating to migration within the region*
- *News articles of interest*

As always, the Mongolian Red Cross Society and Australian Red Cross thank you for your continued support and contributions to the APMN. We value your input, shared stories, and making us aware of migration activities or concerns as they arise in your local context. 2016 is shaping up to be a productive year for the Network, with thanks to the active engagement and support from you, the members. We look forward to keeping you informed of migration news, issues and initiatives occurring within the Asia Pacific in the year ahead.

Who is the APMN?

The APMN is a regional network established by 17 National Societies in December 2012. It was created to explore regional issues, build regional understanding, information sharing and peer to peer capacity development around issues relating to migration, develop joint actions and contribute to a growing body of knowledge for the benefit of migrants.

Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian responses to migration in the Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur 26-28 April 2016

For the first time in the region, ICRC, IFRC and the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) will join National Societies to discuss humanitarian responses to migration across the region. Leaders of National Societies, alongside migration focal points, will try to gain a better understanding of migration, and look at current expertise and experience within the Movement on how to address identified vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs. This will include discussions around engaging internally and externally on migration issues, working in areas such as RFL and immigration detention, and identifying key working groups to developed responses to challenges in the Asia Pacific.

Overall, the event will discuss how, in line with the Fundamental Principles, we ensure that the RCRC Movement is committed to a coordinated and collaborative regional approach in meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants.

Event Outline

Day 1 Interpreting the humanitarian mandate: Approaches to migration across, and within the RCRC Movement in the Asia Pacific.

Day 2 From Principles to Action: RFL for migrants and their families, visits to migrants detained and vulnerabilities linked to migration.

Day 3 A collaborative and coordinated approach: APMN annual general meeting and inaugural roundtable. We welcome your thoughts, support, feedback and suggestions regarding an APMN hosted event in 2016.

Mobilising the Movement:
Humanitarian responses
to migration in Asia Pacific
Kuala Lumpur 26-28 April 2016

EVENT PROGRAM

Red Cross Red Crescent National Society Leaders and migration specialists, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) will come together to discuss the humanitarian challenges within migration across the region, and how to ensure a coordinated RCRC approach and response:

- Day 1 Interpreting the humanitarian mandate:** Approaches to migration across, and within the RCRC Movement in the Asia Pacific.
- Day 2 From Principles to Action:** RFL for migrants and their families, visits to migrants detained and vulnerabilities linked to migration.
- Day 3 A collaborative and coordinated approach:** APMN annual general meeting and inaugural roundtable.

PLEASE NOTE - Day 1 and Day 2 will bring together National Society Leaders, migration focal points and APMN members. Day 3 will be dedicated to the APMN roundtable with relevant representatives.

Venue:
EASTIN HOTEL
13, Jalan 16/11,
Pusat Dagang Seksyen 16,
46350 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor, Malaysia

PROGRAM REGISTRATION:
Please RSVP your interest by Friday 11 March 2016. Your enquiries are welcomed, please email the APMN Secretariat at APMN@redcross.org.au or call PH: +613 8327 7558.



We welcome your questions and contributions and ideas if there are specific areas or themes you would like to see on the agenda. Please contact the secretariat at apmn@redcross.org.au

The Regional Migration Pledge:



On behalf of the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN) co-chairs, Australian Red Cross and Mongolian Red Cross Society, it is with great pleasure we announce that the Asia Pacific Migration Pledge is now live on the International Conference website [here](#).

This Pledge calls for National Societies to work collaboratively as an Asia Pacific regional National Society network within and beyond the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and increase engagement with states to ensure all migrants have greater access to essential humanitarian services and protections.

How to sign the Asia Pacific Migration Pledge:

1. Log on to the database, using NS log on details from ICRC. If you are not sure of you NS log in details, please contact pledge@rcrcconference.org. NB. There is one log on per NS.
2. Find the link 'sign this pledge' which asks you to include the name of the institution and the focal person and an email address.
3. You can also access the pledge by using the link <http://rcrcconference.org/2016/01/12/asia-pacific-national-society-migration-network/>

We would like to thank IFRC and ICRC regional delegations, and the APMN working group, for providing valuable feedback on the pledge text. As migration concerns around the world continue to increase, so too has the Movement's capacity and willingness to respond. This Asia Pacific Migration Pledge reflects the commitment of regional National Societies to work together to better support and assist migrants or people made vulnerable through migration.

We ask our colleagues in the Asia Pacific to consult with your National Society Secretary General and become signatory to the Pledge.

Please note: The database will be open for signatures until the April migration meeting. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the APMN Secretariat at apmn@redcross.org.au

APMN Mapping project

Over the last six months, the APMN has been mapping migration related activities of National Societies in the Asia Pacific region through one on one calls and Skype interviews. This mapping is a first and will form the base of IFRC, ICRC and APMN engagement on migration across the region, and has already been used as planning for the upcoming regional migration conference.

We are currently following up the last National Societies responses, and once the data has been analysed, we hope to:

- Highlight four key themes or areas of concern which could form the basis of APMN working groups over the next 12 months.
- Present a interactive tool / map that can be used to inform migration activities, and opportunities for collaboration and shared learning regionally.
- Deliver a mapping report for APMN members and attendees at the migration meeting in April.

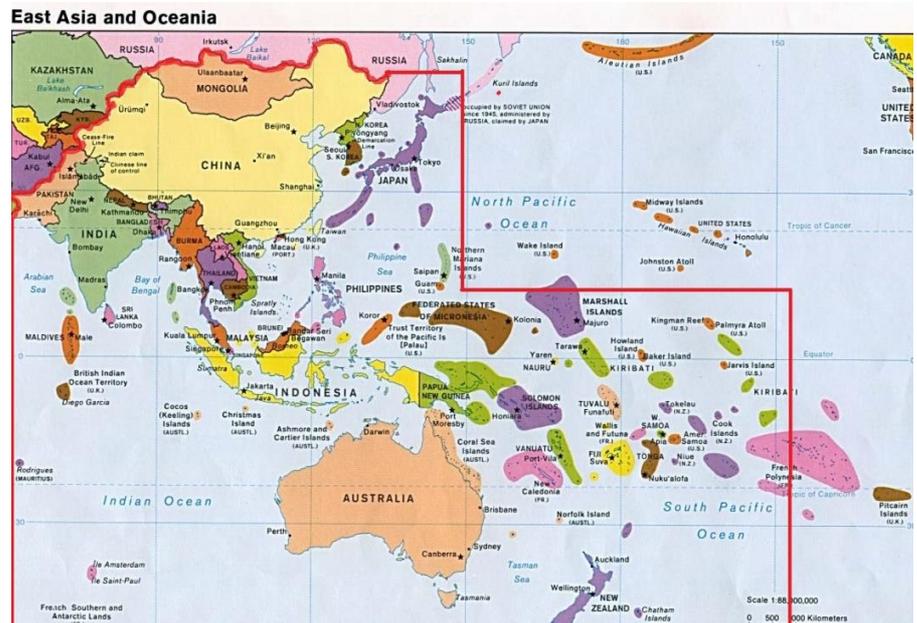


Figure 1 Geography of the Asia Pacific Region

As a result of the mapping, an increasing number of National Societies are becoming involved with the Network, through teleconferences, membership updates or providing feedback on key documents. We have already started to connect National Societies that have similar programs, activities or concerns, which is a success for the Network and our colleagues.

Thank you to all who have provided information from your National Society so far.

Rights of Migrants in Action: launch of civil society initiatives in Thailand

Prepared by **Elena Nyanenkova** elena.nyanenkova@ifrc.org

On 19 January 2016, after a rigorous selection process the independent evaluation committee concluded the technical evaluation of proposals developed by civil society organizations (SCOs) and announced the successful contenders. Four Civil Society Organisations (CSO) selected for funding under the global initiative Rights of Migrants in Action include: Foundation for Education and Development, Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion, MAP Foundation and Life Skills Development Foundation.

Target beneficiaries will range from female migrant workers from Myanmar and Cambodia to Shan ethnic minorities residing in the North of Thailand. It is estimated, that by the end of project implementation in July 2017, more than 50,000 beneficiaries will be reached directly and close to 150,000 will be covered by information and awareness raising campaigns.

Partner CSOs, while firmly based in migrant communities, enjoy close cooperation with larger migration networks in the Mekong sub region including the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Workers, which will be instrumental in supporting Red Cross Red Crescent advocacy efforts and influencing policy change.

APMN and the Movement

32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva, Switzerland

The APMN was invited to participate in the South-East Asia National Societies Leadership Meeting in Geneva, prior to the International Conference. Noel Clement from Australian Red Cross represented the APMN at the meeting to discuss the Pledge with National Society leaders.

It was heartening to see migration fully immersed into the agenda, with a Plenary session, side event (co-hosted by Australian Red cross and Italian Red Cross), call for a recommitment to Resolution 3 on migration, Humanitarian dialogue session on migration, a statement for the Council of Delegates, a RFL intervention, amongst other agenda items.

National Society in focus: Cambodian Red Cross

Amongst many of its areas of focus, a key priority area of Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) in migration has been supporting migrant workers upon return from Thailand, in particular in 2014 when more than 125,000 returned to Cambodia. CRC supported the returning migrant workers by providing food, offering tracing and restoring family links (RFL) services, counselling and facilitating access to police, local authorities and ministries. This support is ongoing; however heavily adjusted to migration flows.

CRC was also involved in actively supporting victims of human trafficking. While CRC volunteers offered counselling at times, CRC facilitated contact with police and local authorities to make sure they receive appropriate care and children were looked after. At present trafficking support mostly focuses on advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy with local authorities. CRC's RFL program works closely with ICRC and other RCRC National Societies, in particular with Thai RC, Vietnamese RC, Lao RC and Malaysian RC, and also visits detainees across the country to facilitate exchange of messages.

Migration in the news / recent publications

Please find below some interesting publications in the area of migration:

- [The Refugee Crisis and Japan – monthly meeting](#)
- [Disasters in Asia and the Pacific: 2015 Year in Review](#)
- [Migrants, CSOs and the battle for labour rights in Thailand](#)
- [Cambodia, Singapore Deposit Instrument of Ratification of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons](#)
- [Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2015](#)
- [The application of migration](#)

Upcoming Events

In undertaking to share information and identify opportunities to engage in regional and global platforms, we would like to draw your attention to recent and upcoming projects, meetings and events below:

- **Mobilising the Movement: Humanitarian responses to migration in Asia Pacific
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26-28 April 2016.**
RCRC National Society leaders and migration specialists will come together to discuss the humanitarian challenges within migration across the region, and how to ensure a coordinated RCRC approach and response
- **6th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights
Bangkok, Thailand September 20-22, 2016**
This three-day consultation will bring together around 150 participants, from across the Asia Pacific region, who are working on refugee issues and advocating for refugee rights. On Day 3 we will also have our General Assembly Meeting including Steering Committee Elections (for members only). More information and registration will be available on the APRRN website soon
- **5th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network,
Kathmandu, Nepal, 12 - 14 December 2016.**
South Asia has seen a growing number of people seeking asylum and this trend is likely to continue in coming years. Sustainable livelihoods, reliable community-support networks, and access to specialized services for people with special needs, are some of the main challenges faced by refugees. This panel aims to address the experiences and livelihoods of refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced populations that currently reside in or have been resettled from South Asia.
<http://www.asianborderlands.net/>

Information-sharing and resources – IFRC

To support National Societies in the region to develop and promote their migration approach and to advocate on key issues of concern a series of [communications tools](#) have been created by the Southeast Asia delegation. These include a set of infographics and a [migration guide](#) for National Societies, examining how migration can be mainstreamed into National Society programmes at a national, local and regional level.

The second issue of the regional [Migration Snapshot](#) provides an update on regional efforts in advancing migrant's rights agenda and features migration activities of the Brunei Red Crescent and the Philippines Red Cross as they continue to develop programmes to address the specific needs of female labor migrants in the region.

The IFRC Learning Platform provides learning opportunities to volunteers, staff, members and partners of National Societies, the IFRC and ICRC as well as the general public. Visit the [RCRC Learning platform](#), as well as the [Humanitarian Education Learning Portal](#) (HELP) and in particular, the [IFRC's educational guide on principles related to migration](#).

APMN Membership and Feedback

If you are not already a member of the Asia Pacific Migration Network, we invite members of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement within the Asia Pacific Region to join by notifying the [SECRETARIAT](#) of your name, position title, and email address. Please direct any contributions, feedback or questions regarding Membership updates or the APMN in general, to APMN. We request that you kindly notify the [SECRETARIAT](#) if you wish to nominate an alternate recipient if you are no longer the relevant migration focal point for your National Society

Please get in touch if you have any questions, suggestions, and ideas for the Network, or how we can better support you and your National Society to develop a humanitarian response to migration. Hope to see some of you at the migration meeting in April

Yours sincerely,

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