International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IFRC Statement at the ASEAN Conference on School Safety / Bangkok / February 2017

Excellences, Colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate ASEAN Member States and partners on the success of the 2nd ASEAN Conference on School Safety. Thanks to the warm hospitality of Thailand and DDPM, thanks to the consortium leadership and to all the participants. And if you allow me to extend special thank you to the youth participants at this conference.

We have heard from the participants how disasters impact the education sector, youth and children in the ASEAN region. And how disasters wipe out decades of development gains.

The world leaders have endorsed an ambitious global agenda, including the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Within these commitments, our leaders have recognized that in order to end poverty and hunger, and in order to provide decent work, health, water and sanitation, education and health y environment, we need to build the resilience of communities and essential infrastructures. World leaders also recognized the critical need to be prepared and resilient in facing disasters including in the education sector.

I think it is safe to say that this starts with schools, with students and teachers, with the youth and their communities. In the past two days we have learned how youth and students can contribute to the resilience of their schools and communities. We also learned that this can only be done in concert with all the partners and stakeholders. Thanks to ASSI who brought together at this conference government representatives from different sectors and agencies, civil society organizations, teachers and community leaders, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and not least the youth.

In this context, IFRC is committed to work together with all partners and stakeholders in concert to achieve ASEAN goal in building safe and resilient communities across the whole region. Our network of the 10 National Societies in the ASEAN countries, with their branches covering every district and every locality, and their committed 4.6 million youth volunteers who are there before, during and after disasters, are committed to scale up action in support of ASEAN and ASEAN school safety goals.

We are very honored to make two concrete commitments at this conference:

1. To strengthen and broaden the engagement our youth and volunteers and scale up our school safety activities to more schools and more children at risk.

2. We are encouraged by the partnership and the joint work we have been doing with the ASSI Consortium, and would like to institutionalize that partnership around ASSI as an inclusive and long-term program approach.

We look forward to taking this important initiative to new levels and to reach together to more schools and more children. Building safe and resilient schools is a corner stone of building resilient communities.

Thank you

How we work

Strategy 2020 voices the collective determination of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to move forward in tackling the major challenges that confront humanity in the next decade. Informed by the needs and vulnerabilities of the diverse communities

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with whom we work, as well as the basic rights and freedoms to which all are entitled, this strategy seeks to benefit all who look to Red Cross Red Crescent to help to build a more humane, dignified, and peaceful world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

Over the next ten years, the collective focus of the IFRC will be on achieving the following strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises

2. Enable healthy and safe living

3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

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