

**REVIEW OF THE 14TH SOUTHEAST ASIA
RED CROSS RED CRESCENT LEADERSHIP MEETING
(Hanoi, Vietnam, 21-22 September 2017)**

The 14th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 21-22 September 2017, with the participation of leaders from 11 National Societies in the region, representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Organized at the time when

- all member states were celebrating 50th anniversary of the ASEAN;
- many natural disasters had hit Asia Pacific and other regions globally in just a very short time that IFRC had had to launch 7 emergency appeals within 7 weeks;
- and the Statutory Meetings to be held in Turkey were approaching,

The meeting agenda covered a number of issues including the follow-up to the outcomes of the 13th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting, the One Billion Coalition for Resilience, the Red Cross Red Crescent strategy for engagement with ASEAN and the preparations for the Statutory Meetings in Turkey in November 2017.

In addition, the Red Cross Red Crescent leaders raised a question on how to make SEA leadership meeting worth maintaining, as a platform for NS in the region to work together, work towards to enhancing individual work rather than just a forum for information exchange; how to coordinate the follow-up activities and to analyze the progress between two leadership meetings; how to sustain the networks and the leadership meeting, with clear order of meeting hosts for the at least next 2 meetings; and suggested that the ICRC and IFRC should incorporate the results of the meetings in their annual plans and set aside some funds to support the organization of the leadership meetings.

The Red Cross Red Crescent leaders engaged in a constructive and forward looking discussions agreed on the following outcomes:

1. Regarding the future of SEA leadership Meetings: it was widely agreed that there's a need to maintain this meeting, especially when we work with ASEAN, we must show member states and ASEAN that we are well coordinated, as one Movement. And in order to improve the existing constraints, the RCRC leaders agreed that:

1.1. The established mechanisms contained in the Terms of Reference will be effectively activated for the preparations of the annual meeting, the implementation of its outcomes, and the follow up. These established mechanisms include the Steering Committee which is composed of the Troika (the previous, current and future host of the Meeting) and representatives of ICRC and IFRC. Furthermore, the Steering Committee will be activated immediately following the convening of the meeting and could meet as required including the proposed virtual quarterly meeting.

1.2. The outcomes of the annual meetings should inform the planning of the different components of the Movement and should be integrated into the IFRC planning as appropriate.

1.3. To facilitate this process and guarantee continuity and effective follow up the meeting agreed and expressed great appreciation for the National Societies (NS) who agreed to host the next meetings as follows:

- 2018: Malaysian Red Crescent
- 2019: Philippines Red Cross
- 2020: Thai Red Cross
- 2021: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent;
- to be followed after that according to alphabetical order

2. On the **One Billion Coalition (1BC)**: The National Societies recognised that many of the activities carried out at different levels including at the community, local and national levels, are contributing directly and indirectly in building resilient communities, and as such, contribute to the 1BC. The NS also recognised that the main challenge is capturing these activities and reporting on them with evidence based data and reports. Such evidence based reporting would contribute significantly to the positive profiling of the NS as well as to better positioning in relation to the governments and to the global agenda including the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, the development of common tools to measure and report on such contribution are needed.

3. The discussion on the **ASEAN Strategy** focused on the review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding as a vehicle to drive the strategy as well as on the priorities of engagement with ASEAN. The NS recognised

the significant and on-going engagement with ASEAN and agreed to build it and on the strategic dialogue with ASEAN Member States and Secretariat including the active engagement of NS leaders with their respective authorities to advocate for the institutionalisation and advancement of the RCRC engagement with ASEAN. In this context, the NS highlighted the importance of engaging with the upcoming 31st ASEAN Summit, to be held in the Philippines in November 2017, and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of ASEAN as a community of nations with a compelling humanitarian mission.

- 4. Preparations for the statutory meetings to be held in Turkey on 4-12 November 2017**, were reviewed and discussed by the meeting and it was agreed that the SEA NS would coordinate their participation and reflect the priorities of the region as defined by the leaders of the NS in the discussions and decisions of the statutory meetings, as appropriate.
5. The meeting witnessed the signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement between Vietnam Red Cross, Cambodian Red Cross and Lao Red Cross, and in this context, congratulated the three National Societies on this important achievement.

The leaders of the SEA Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, the ICRC and the IFRC expressed their great appreciation and gratitude to the leadership, staff and volunteers of the Vietnam Red Cross (VNRC) for hosting the 14th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting and for their generous hospitality and warm welcome. The participants also expressed their great appreciation and honour for the opportunity to meet with the State President of Vietnam, and thanked him for his support to the VNRC and to the humanitarian ideals and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

On 22 September 2017, the meeting was concluded in Hanoi, with a joint Statement signed by leaders of 11 NSs.

It's been nearly 7 months now after the last meeting in Ha Noi, the Steering Committee has gained its momentum and supported the SEA RCRC leaders to:

- Collect feedback on the draft of ASEAN Strategy and the Framework Agreement between the IFRC and ASEAN Secretariat;

- Prepare the collective comments/statement of the SEA RCRC National Societies to be presented at the statutory meetings in Turkey, November 2017.
- Prepare the agenda for the 15th SEA leadership meeting.

Vietnam Red Cross Society has the great pleasure to handover the chairmanship and the leading role of the Steering Committee to the Malaysian Red Crescent and the Philippines Red Cross.