



The Outcome of the 15th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting

Melaka, Malaysia 10-11 April 2018

Melaka Statement

The 15th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was held in Melaka, Malaysia on 10-11 April 2018, with the participation of leaders from 10 National Societies: the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, and VIET Nam RED cross. The Secretary General of Timor-Leste Red Cross sent the apologies of his National Society as they could not attend due to the preparations for the convening of their national assembly. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) participated in the meeting.

The 15th SEA Red Cross Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was generously hosted by Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) in the State of Melaka where the opening ceremony was presided over by the representative of the State Chief Minister, and an official State dinner was hosted by the State Government with the presence of the State Chief Minister and a number of distinguished state officials.

The leaders reviewed the outcome of the previous meeting held in Hanoi in September 2017 and the follow up leading to the 15th SEA RCRC Leadership Meeting. In this context, the leaders expressed their great satisfaction for the important recognition of the role of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement which was reflected in a special statement issued by the ASEAN Secretary General on the occasion of the 50th ASEAN Summit in Manila, Philippines as well as in the ASEAN Summit outcome as contained in the Chairman's Statement. In this context the leaders expressed their appreciation to Chairman Gordon and to the Philippines Red Cross who followed up on the Hanoi outcome with their active engagement leading up to the ASEAN Summit.

Furthermore, the leaders expressed great satisfaction at the way the Southeast Asia National Societies positions were presented through joint statements and interventions by the Malaysian Red Crescent in their capacity as the current Chair of the SEA Leadership Meeting. It was agreed that such good practice should be further developed and enhanced including building on the discussion during the Hanoi meeting to strengthen the role of the Steering Committee (the Troika) in preparation for the meetings as well as follow up and engagement in between the annual meetings. It was suggested that one way to enhance such engagement is by opening the Troika to interested NS.

The meeting agenda also covered the follow up to the Statutory Meetings held in Antalya, Turkey in November 2017 and the preparations for the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference to be held in Manila, the Philippines in November 2018. An update on the logistical and substantive preparations were presented by the Philippines Red Cross and the IFRC. The leaders acknowledged the nature of the

broad agendas of the Statutory Meetings which reflect the diverse interests and priorities of the vast membership, however, they emphasized the need to identify distinctive priorities for the Southeast Asian NS with a "uniquely ASEAN" focus.

The outcomes of the end-line study of the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI) and the relevant recommendations from the lessons learned workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2018 were presented to the meeting. The important contributions of RRI during the past 4 years were recognised, especially with regard to the strategic engagement with ASEAN and the integration of protection, gender and inclusion in the work of the NS as well as the support to the regional networks. It was highlighted that the sustainability of such important achievements should be ensured and the integrity and continuity of the regional networks and the strategic engagement with ASEAN continued.

The revised IFRC Strategy on Engagement with ASEAN was presented with its focus on three areas of priority: disaster risk management, health and care, and youth, with protection, gender and inclusion as an integrated cross cutting issue. The leaders welcomed the revised strategy and expressed satisfaction at the progress made with regard to the endorsement of the MoU between IFRC and ASEAN by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) which paved the way to move formally with the finalisation of the MoU. The leaders highlighted the importance of focusing on relevant operational programs and the liaison between ASEAN Secretariat and the SEA National Societies for an effective positioning and engagement. Furthermore, an update on the One Billion Coalition for Resilience was presented in connection with the implementation of ASEAN strategy under the theme of the ASEAN Coalition for Resilience. The update also included modalities and examples to link the work of the National Societies with the One Billion Coalition for Resilience as well as to capture the important contribution of the Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies towards resilient communities for a resilient ASEAN.

Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society



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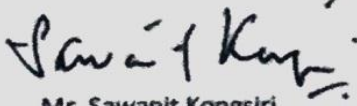
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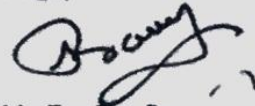
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