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# IFRC – ASEAN Engagement Quarterly Updates

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 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## ASEAN Highlights

### ASEAN Ministers encourage youth participation in policy discourse and volunteerism

ASEAN Youth Ministers gathered at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth to discuss ways in enhancing the role of youth in ASEAN for sustainable development and regional integration. Taking into consideration the challenges and opportunities posed by digitalization and Industry 4.0, the Ministers concurred that ASEAN youths must be empowered with not only technical or digital skills, but also with the necessary soft skills for the betterment of ASEAN's socio-economic development, peace and security. Charting the path for post-2020, the Ministers further agreed to focus the region's youth development agenda on fostering future-ready ASEAN youth through digital skills development and the institutionalization of youth engagement mechanisms, including in the region's policy discourse.

Towards this end, Ministers welcomed the proposal to operationalize the ASEAN Volunteers project as well as the ASEAN Youth Dialogue. Welcoming 2020 as the year of ASEAN identity, the Youth Ministers expressed support to several upcoming initiatives in enhancing ASEAN Awareness, Values and Identity, such as the *continuation of ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp* and the *advancement of ASEAN Green Initiative* through youth participation. Ministers further encouraged the commemoration of the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day on every 25 November through meaningful youth activities.

### ASEAN Launches New Emergency Satellite Warehouses in Camp Aguinaldo, the Philippines

In response to the directive from the ASEAN Leaders for a stronger and faster ASEAN collective response, a new emergency satellite warehouse strategically located in Camp Aguinaldo, the Philippines was launched on 1st July 2019, to be part of the network of ASEAN warehouses across the region. This satellite warehouse will supplement the existing regional stockpile managed by the World Food Programme at the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Subang, Malaysia. The other satellite warehouse, which was recently launched is located in Chainat, Thailand. The aim of prepositioning of ASEAN relief items in strategically located warehouses is to increase the speed and scale of an ASEAN response. In support of the aspiration to establish a network of satellite warehouses within the ASEAN region, the Government of the Philippines has allocated a dedicated warehouse inside Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City for the purpose of prepositioning stockpile for disaster response. The Philippines' Department of National Defense converted a portion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines – Logistics Command (AFP-LOGCOM) Depot to serve as satellite warehouse.

The said satellite warehouse shall be co-managed by the AHA Centre and the Philippines' National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The establishment of this satellite warehouse in the Philippines is a reflection of the strong partnership and collaboration between ASEAN through the AHA Centre and the NDRRMC through the OCD in disaster risk

reduction and management. This is a testimony of ASEAN's commitment and support to national efforts to build a disaster resilient Philippines and to a greater extent, the ASEAN region.

### **AHA Centre and Deutsche Post DHL Group sign a Memorandum of Intent to work together on emergency preparedness and disaster response**

AHA Centre and Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) to collaborate on emergency preparedness and disaster response. DPDHL Group's Disaster Response Team (DRT) will work on the ground together with AHA Centre to facilitate the movement of international relief cargo during disaster response scenarios. This includes unloading cargo planes, conducting professional warehousing and inventory management as well as loading the relief goods for onward transportation. DRT will also provide expertise and support for AHA Centre's courses and exercises related to ASEAN-ERAT (Emergency Response and Assessment Team) and ASEAN Humanitarian Logistics.

### **ASEAN- New Zealand to advance strategic partnership**

2020 will mark the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations and the 5th anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership. Officials of ASEAN and New Zealand reviewed the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Statement for ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2016-2020) and agreed to start drafting of a new five-year Plan of Action to focus on strengthening the partnership through focused areas of cooperation such as, trade through the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), food and agriculture, renewable energy, and governance and public sector leadership. Other areas of cooperation include good regulatory practices, climate change and environmental issues, disaster management, educational exchanges, smart cities development in collaboration with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and connectivity including working towards an ASEAN-New Zealand air services agreement.

### **ASEAN- ROK reaffirm commitment to further strengthen strategic partnership**

ASEAN and the Republic of Korea (ROK) agreed to further advance cooperation in areas of mutual interest

including counter terrorism, transnational crime, cyber security, maritime cooperation, digital economy, development of MSMEs, food and energy security, culture, people-to- people exchanges, education, disaster management, connectivity and narrowing the development gap. They also agreed to develop a new five-year Plan of Action after the expiry of the current Plan at the end of this year. ROK's plan to double its contribution to the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund from currently USD 7 million to USD 14 million annually from the end of 2019 to support more joint programmes and projects.

### **ASEAN Foreign Ministers' met The United Nations Secretary-General and The President of the 74th Session of The United Nations General Assembly**

ASEAN and the United Nations (UN) reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their comprehensive partnership based on the implementation of the five-year Plan of Action (POA) to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2016-2020), and enhancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Complementarities Initiative). Significant progress have been achieved of ASEAN-UN cooperation, particularly in cross-sectoral cooperation, and reaffirmed its commitment to taking forward the Complementarities Initiative, including in areas such as minimizing the adverse impact of climate change; building resilience and strengthening cooperation in disaster risk reduction, emergency response and management, women's empowerment, food safety, nutrition, energy security; and enhancing social protection and promoting decent work for all. The Meeting also looked forward to the launch of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) in Thailand and the notation of the Complementarities Roadmap by ASEAN Leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the upcoming 10th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bangkok in November 2019 and looked forward to enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in sustainable development in 2020, which marks the 5th year of implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Meeting also noted the importance of collaboration with AHA Centre to enhance capabilities on disaster risk reduction and management. The UN Secretary-General welcomed ASEAN's participation in the Climate Action Summit and highlighted the need to

foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development.

### **ASEAN celebrates 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary; inaugurates new Secretariat building**



ASEAN inaugurated the new ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) building as it celebrated its 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with a series of commemorative events involving the community, marking a new chapter in the organization's history. President Joko Widodo officiated the new building in the presence of Secretary-General of ASEAN Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Foreign Ministers and representatives from ASEAN Member States. In his keynote speech, President Widodo wished that in the future most activities would be carried out in the new building to minimize travel of staff and use resources for other activities.

### **Launched: ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Phase 2**

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and the ASEAN Secretariat teamed up to launch a three-year disaster risk reduction plan that aims to strengthen the financial resiliency of ASEAN member states when natural disasters strike. The ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Phase 2 (ADRFI-2) 'plan of action' will equip Member States with risk management and risk transfer capabilities that will enable them to overcome financial burdens caused by disasters. Riding on the success of the first phase, the new plan is anchored around three strategic pillars namely, Risk Data (risk information and assessment), Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Financing, and Risk Advisory. Both sides agreed to co-develop comprehensive risk management strategies to help ASEAN Member States overcome the debilitating effects of catastrophes and national disasters.

## **IFRC- ASEAN Engagement**

### **Senior Official Meeting on Youth (SOMY), 17 July 2019, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

The IFRC had the privilege of presenting its many related youth activities to the ASEAN Senior Officials on youth during the Open Session of the Preparatory Senior Officials' Meeting on Youth held in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The forum served as a platform for various ASEAN partners working within the region on youth-related programmes to present their report of their activities. In this occasion, the progress of the implementation of IFRC-ASEAN collaboration on Youth Leadership Development through Youth as Agents of Behavioral Change (YABC) and Youth in School Safety (YSS) trainings were presented. To date, IFRC and ASEAN have conducted YABC Peer Educator training in Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia. Meanwhile, YABC training in other remaining ASEAN countries will commence at end half of 2019. An additional initiative called SAFE STEPS Kids Programme was also presented and received well response by the ASEAN members.

### **ASEAN SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE (ASSI) Webinar, 30<sup>th</sup> August, online**

Red Cross Red Crescent participated as one of the speakers at ASSI Webinar and presented approaches in implementing school safety and share lesson learned on good partnership on Road Safety for children by engaging government, local communities, schools and corporate sector. The webinar was held as the result of strong partnership between IFRC and ASSI due to the successful conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety which was held last April in Bangkok, Thailand. Maintaining good relationship and strong partnership with ASSI and other school safety actors in the region is important to scale-up the reach and the impact.

### **ASEAN Strategic and Policy Dialogue in Disaster Management, 20-21 August, Singapore**

Under Secretary General for Partnership, Jemillah Mahmood participated as Key Speaker at High Level Panel Discussion titled "ASEAN Resiliency: Forging Partnership for Future Challenges" at the ASEAN Strategic and Policy Dialogue in Disaster Management (SPDDM). Organized by ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and Singapore Civil

Defence Force (SCDF), SPDDM is a key platform to gather policy makers and stakeholders in ASEAN to promote thought leadership and chart strategic directions for the ACDM. The outcome of the SPDDM contribute to the work of the ACDM and ASEAN's policy direction in disaster management.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Climate Change Partnership Conference, 27 August 2019, Singapore**

IFRC represented by Regional FbF Advisor participated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Climate Change Partnership hosted by ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC). The forum provided opportunities for ASEAN partners to have more in-depth consultation and discussion and sharing experiences, views, and identifying potential cooperation in addressing climate change issues in the region including in achieving AWGCC's priority actions. IFRC provided an overview on the RCRC work with vulnerable populations, community resilience localization as well as climate finance. The focus on localization received well comments from the Chairman of AWGCC and thus agreed on the need to include the voice of the most affected by Climate Change and allowing a bottom-up approach in ASEAN projects, frameworks, and policies. During discussion, several ASEAN Member States made positive responses and looked for future collaboration with IFRC, namely: *Malaysia* - engagements on local-level CCA and risk analysis; *Brunei Darussalam*- cross learning of IFRC studies on climate finance; and *ACWC (ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children)* - collaboration on future study on the impact of CC on women and children.

### **ACDM WG on Risk Assessment and Awareness, 29 August 2019, Bangkok, Thailand**

The Regional FbF Advisor represented IFRC at the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Working Group on Risk Assessment and Awareness (ACDM WG RAA) meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting aimed to explore potential collaboration with all ASEAN partners to enhance risk assessment and improve risk awareness of ASEAN community. In this occasion, IFRC presented the Forecast-based Financing approach and received positive responses from WG members of Vietnam and the Philippines noting that IFRC have active FbF projects in those countries. Apart from that, some other WG members

also showed their knowledge of FbF activities including the impact-based forecasting.

### **ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**

IFRC is invited to contribute an article for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR). Letter of interest has been submitted to AHA Centre with proposed topics of "*Forecast-based Financing – An anticipatory approach to reducing the impacts of severe weather events*". The acceptance from the ARMOR board still being expected. The next ARMOR will be published in June 2020.

### **AHA Centre Executive Program (ACE), 2-6 September, Palu, Indonesia**

IFRC facilitated the 6<sup>th</sup> batch of ACE training in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The training was facilitated in collaboration with PMI and ICRC. The participants consist of representatives from all 10 ASEAN countries (18 participants) and from AHA Centre staff based in Palu. The training was focused around four major subjects, such as a) Red Cross Red Crescent collaboration and operations in ASEAN; b) Understanding resilience; c) protection, gender and inclusion; d) Disaster Law and Advocacy. As part of the training, the group visited IFRC basecamp in Palu and the liquefaction area. PMI introduced their work in the field at the camps and around the school reconstruction program.

### **ACDM WG on Prevention and Mitigation, 20 September 2019, Jakarta, Indonesia**



Represented by Head of CCST Jakarta and Representative to ASEAN, IFRC participated at the Open session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACDM Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation (WG-P&M) in Jakarta. IFRC contribution to the implementation

AADMER Work Program 2016-2020 particularly in the areas of PGI and Disaster Law were presented. To date, IFRC and ASEAN have conducted SGBV research study in Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines. SGBV study in Cambodia and Vietnam are still in the finalization stage with target of launching by end of 2019. ASEAN Member States commended the results of SGBV studies and look forward the expansion of the study particularly in Thailand. The meeting also endorsed project proposal on Advancing Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in ASEAN and the formation of the Technical Working Group on Protection which may invite RCRC involvement in the implementation of those activities.

**Regional conference on reforming international humanitarian aid to enhance local leadership, Jakarta, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019**



IFRC in co-organization with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) hosted the first regional conference in the Asia-Pacific region on how to reform the international humanitarian aid sector so as to better promote the role of local actors in internationally supported relief operations.

The conference was opened by Dr. H. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia and Chairperson, Indonesia Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia). The conference gathered representatives from governments in the Asia-Pacific region, donor governments, as well as local and international humanitarian organizations from across the region.

The conference was organized on behalf of the “Localization Workstream,” a network of major donors, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations, local actors and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that signed a “Grand Bargain” on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Summit in

2016. The intention is to support local and national responders and to promote more equitable partnerships in order to make emergency response more efficient and adapted to local context.

**Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ Initial Workshop for the ASEAN Climate Finance Strategy (ACFS), 29 – 30 October Quezon City, The Philippines
- ❖ 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, 31 Oct – 4 November, Bangkok, Thailand
- ❖ ASEAN Senior Executive Programme on Disaster Management (SEPDM), 4 – 8 November, Singapore
- ❖ International Workshop on the Management of International Assistance, 20-22 November 2019, Jakarta
- ❖ Asia Pacific Regional Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Workshop, 18-19 November 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

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