**The Outcome of the 17th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership Meeting**

**Hosted in Hanoi, Vietnam, 14-15 October 2020.**

**HANOI STATEMENT**

The 17th Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership Meeting was successfully held from October 14-15, 2020. This was the first time that the meeting was held virtually, with a total of 70 delegates from 11 National Societies, including Presidents and Secretaries General of: Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, Timor Leste Red Cross, and Vietnam Red Cross Society.

The meeting was hosted by the Vietnam Red Cross Society, and the opening ceremony was presided by Ass. Prof. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, President of the National Society, and opened by H.E. Mr. Vu Duc Dam, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Mr. Francesco Rocca, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The meeting was attended by other representatives of the Vietnam Government, the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and partner National Societies in the subregion.

Leaders of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies expressed their appreciation to the Vietnam Red Cross Society for organizing this first annual leaders virtual meeting, which also represents a new way of working and collaborating for Southeast Asia National Societies due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic globally.

**COVID-19 Response and Cooperation**

The leaders shared their responses to COVID-19, including what they are proud of, lessons learned, and what they want to mainstream in future responses. They were presented with the reported data for all of Southeast Asia, with regard to people reached, sectors focused on, and collective fundraising efforts. They also discussed the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, which must be prioritized as the effects of the pandemic continue to impact the most vulnerable, including migrants. The leaders appreciated the various examples shared and suggestions for improving response efforts. They agreed that the following areas, among others, require prioritization as they collectively respond to the continued threats and challenges of COVID-19:

* Focusing on addressing the risks of donor fatigue that may exist, and National Society financial sustainability, and working with each other to achieve goals.
* Securing supplies and strengthening supply chains particularly with regard to critical personal protective equipment.
* Continuing to use and harness the power of technology and digitalization in their network, and benefiting from the experiences of sister National Societies who have developed or redirected technological developments as part of their COVID-19 response, such as the PhonPhai application.
* Further investing in and developing business continuity planning so that all National Societies are ready to continue providing lifesaving assistance as a result of COVID-19 and other disasters and crises.
* Further ensuring protection of staff and volunteers serving as response personnel.
* Building on its successes of community reach by better profiling and innovating health services such as blood collection; and supporting social services, the provision of humanitarian packages of food or non-food items, and livelihood support linking with humanitarian markets.
* Prioritizing humanitarian diplomacy and access, and the auxiliary role of National Societies.

The leaders agreed on the continued significance of pandemic preparedness, and to work together to help establish the knowledge-based Centre of Excellence for Pandemic Preparedness, currently being developed and hosted by the Singapore Red Cross, which provided an update on its development. The leaders noted its importance as a tool in the region for building capacity and knowledge for community preparedness in facing current and future pandemics.

The leaders also recognized the important role that the Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies can play in inter-agency, whole-government, and whole-of-society coordination, including working closely with inter-governmental organisations like ASEAN, and closely coordinating with civil society and promoting localization.

**Manila Call for Action**

The leaders reviewed the progress of the Manila Call for Action, including the 21 commitments, the 13 targets, and the Southeast Asia Roadmap. They noted that the majority of the Southeast Asia National Societies have started or made substantial commitments towards achieving the targets since the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, while some plan to commence further work in 2021. The leaders recognised the importance of the Southeast Asia Roadmap, in particular towards enhancing the localisation of humanitarian action and agreed there was a demonstrated benefit in continuing to share good practices, amongst the National Societies. In particular, the leaders discussed initiatives around cash transfer programming and forecast-based financing, and examples of success stories in Southeast Asia and elsewhere, and received a briefing on the Facility for Refugees in Turkey/Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme being carried out in Turkey by the Turkish Red Crescent and IFRC, and funded by the European Union. The leaders shared their practical experiences, learnings, and further applications of forecast-based financing mechanisms.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Manila Call for Action and the need to achieve targets. The leaders welcomed monitoring tools that define commitments, targets and data sources, and emphasized the need for further development of the tracking system and for continued review of progress made towards achieving the targets. The leaders committed to working with the IFRC to develop guidance and explanatory notes to assist with tracking and monitoring. The leaders committed to embarking on a midterm review of the Manila Call for Action, to be presented at the 2021 leaders meeting. The Troika will develop a terms of reference for this midterm review in consultation with the network.

**Working Together as a Network**

The leaders reviewed the outcomes of the 16th Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leadership meeting of October 24-25 in Manila, Philippines. The leaders discussed progress of the major regional network initiatives including the three initiatives that were identified in Manila as priority networks for 2020. These are the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network (APFN), and Regional Community Safety and Resilience Forum (RCSRF) and the Southeast Asia Youth Network (SEAYN). The leaders also reviewed progress over the last year with the Protection, Gender and Inclusion Southeast Asia Network, the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN), the Asia RCRC HIV/AIDS Network (ART), among other initiatives.

The leaders found that the prioritized networks which they deemed most relevant in 2020 should continue for 2021.

The leaders reinforced that youth are the future of our organizations and network and commended the action and work plan of the SEAYN. The leaders renewed their commitment and reinforced their trust towards the SEAYN and youth leaders. The leaders empowered the SEAYN to also focus on key action plans in a number of areas where they can be the driving force of change in the Movement, including but not limited to, digitalization, innovation, and blood donation. The leaders agreed on the need to listen to, encourage and trust youth initiatives and to view them as key future leaders and driving force of the Movement.

The leaders are encouraged by plans for the Asia Pacific Fundraising Network, as well as upcoming Southeast Asia meetings on 5th and 10th of November 2020 hosted by the Singapore Red Cross, focusing on lessons learned for fundraising during COVID-19, social media and online fundraising, building a relationship base and direct donor programme, and private sector engagement.

The leaders are supportive of the work of the Asia Pacific Migration Network, particularly in Southeast Asia, in furthering the engagement of the network of National Societies. They agreed to focus on the work of this network in 2021 and reinforced the importance of migration and displacement regionally, and to contribute to scaling up activities, including those of a cross border nature, on mutual support among National Societies.

The leaders agreed that the region continued to face similar challenges and that by working together they could not only strengthen collaboration but enhance collective capacity, in the face of disasters, emergencies and pandemics. In this regard, the leaders agreed to reinforce and strengthen the way they work together within the Southeast Asia subregion, including building a strong network of responders within Southeast Asia National Societies which can be deployed in the region, enhance capacity building and training amongst the Southeast Asia National Societies, promoting collective trainings and furthering peer to peer support, encouraged by the many good examples that were shared. The leaders agreed to reinforce the existing networks of IFRC, particularly with regard to joint disaster response deployments and to work together to enhance the effectiveness of the “ last mile initiative” which supports migrant workers within the region.

**2021 Leaders Meeting**

The leaders resolved to reconvene for the 18th Annual Southeast Asia Leadership Meeting by October 2021 which will be held in Thailand. It was unanimously agreed that the Thai Red Cross Society will serve as Chair of the Southeast Asia Leaders’ group for the 2021 meeting, to be followed by the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society for 2022.

Haji Muhammad Suhaimi Haji Ibrahim, President, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society

Pum Chantinie, Secretary General, Cambodian Red Cross

Sudirman Said, Secretary General, Indonesian Red Cross

Khamhoung Heaungvongsy, President, Lao Red Cross

Her Highness Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Binti Almarhum Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Tunku Temenggong Kedah, National Chairperson, Malaysian Red Crescent Society

Dr. Maung Maung Myint, President, Myanmar Red Cross Society

Richard J. Gordon, Chairman/CEO, Philippine Red Cross

Benjamin William, Secretary General/CEO, Singapore Red Cross

Sawanit Kongsiri, Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, Thai Red Cross Society

Madalena Hanjan, President, Timor Leste Red Cross

Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, President, Vietnam Red Cross Society