

Introduction

The Community Safety and Resilience Forum (the forum) was established in 2014 and becomes an annual gathering of Heads or Managers of Disaster Management, Health and Organizational Development / Youth Technical Working Groups. The forum is comprised of three Regional Technical Working Groups (RTWG), namely Disaster Management Technical Working Group, Health Technical Working Group and Organizational Development and Youth Technical Working Group.

The purpose of the forum is to enhance regional integration, coordination, communication and cooperation between SEA RCRC members. It is tasked to translate the results of the strategic policy and direction, and decisions of the South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent leaders into operational actions to promote the establishment of safer and resilient communities, through the annual gathering of Heads or Managers in the Technical Working Groups of Disaster Management, Health and Organizational Development/ Youth.

The last forum meeting was hosted by Malaysian Red Crescent Society in 2017 which saw the participation of 32 representatives (Disaster Management, Health, OD and Youth) from 11 National Societies in the South East Asian Region – Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent, Cambodian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, Malaysia Red Crescent, Myanmar Red Cross, Philippines Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Timor-Leste Red Cross and Viet Nam Red Cross.

It is no doubt that the forum has been recognized by the NS leadership and external partners (ECHO, AusAID, Canadian Government) by providing funding support to keep the forum moving on in the past years. The forum also saw intense and constructive discussions which outline overall areas of prioritization as well as carried out interest mapping for peer-to-peer learning and optimizing collaboration among and between the National Societies. It also demonstrates strong ownership and initiatives of the National Societies technical managers in translating the direction and policies from the leaders into operational actions and priorities collaboratively among the National Societies in the South-East Asia region.

Key progress in 2021

Good progress has been made by National Societies and the Federation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The role of communities is vital during an epidemic, and National Societies are working with local leaders and community health volunteers to mitigate the risk of epidemics. During the COVID-19 pandemic, all 11 SEA National Societies have mobilized community health volunteers and worked with community leaders to disseminate key health messages as well as provision of multipurpose cash grant to the most vulnerable population to reduce their social and economic stress.

Key recommendations

It is suggested that the forum should be switched to virtual platform taking into consideration of the reactivated building on the good work of all NSs responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and discuss as well as exchange practices among NSs.

By doing so, the forum calls on leaders of SEA National Societies to:

- Nominate dedicated National Society focal points to participate in the forum.
- Support CSR focal points to participate in activities and represent their National Society within the forum.
- Support CSR focal points to engage in regional and sub-regional cross-border engagement at the local level with sister National Societies.

Summary plans for 2022

- Selection of the new forum Chairperson and the Working groups.
- Review the SEA road map and a workplan, to be developed and endorsed at the next forum meeting (held online early 2022)

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