**PRESS RELEASE: 20th Southeast Asia RCRC Leaders Meeting: Strengthening Collaboration for a Resilient Southeast Asia**

[Photo]

[Cambodia, 21 September 2023] – Red Cross and Red Crescent leaders from across South-East Asia (SEA) are convening for the 20th Southeast Asia RCRC Leaders Meeting on September 21st-22nd, 2023. This annual gathering, which includes representatives from National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), aims to address key issues, foster collaboration and impact as a Southeast Asia region resilient to climate induced disasters within the Movement in SEA.

The participating National Societies include the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, Cambodian Red Cross Society, Indonesian Red Cross Society, Lao Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross Society, Thai Red Cross Society, Timor-Leste Red Cross Society, and Viet Nam Red Cross Society.

Initiated in 2003 by Mr. Phan Wannamethee, Former Secretary General of the Thai Red Cross Society, this annual platform has evolved to become a crucial forum for addressing the challenges facing the region. The 19th Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting in October 2022, hosted by Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, resulted in the Bandar Seri Begawan Statement. Notably, it was decided during this meeting that, starting in 2023, the leaders would meet twice a year, once in person and once virtually.

The IFRC Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation will serve as the secretariat for the annual SEA RCRC leaders meeting and will support working groups and regional networks in follow-up actions. A Steering Committee, consisting of the previous chair, the current chair, and the next chair, will monitor progress and implementation.

Technical networks/forums will provide reports on their work, and minutes of the meeting will be prepared by the host National Society with support from the IFRC Bangkok Country Cluster Delegation.

For more information and meeting documentation, please visit the our [Resilience Library](https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/event/20th-south-east-asia-rcrc-leaders-meeting-l-21-22-september-2023-l-phnom-penh-cambodia/).

More information

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact: [media@ifrc.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cnannaphas.rungrueng%5CDesktop%5Cmedia%40ifrc.org)

In Beijing: Kexuan TONG, +86 13147812269

In Kuala Lumpur: Afrhill Rances, +60 192713641

In Geneva: Mrinalini Santhanam, +41 763815006