



23rd SOUTHEAST ASIA RED CROSS RED CRESCENT
LEADERS MEETING
Unity in Humanitarian Action : Building a Better Tomorrow
Yangon, Myanmar | 7 - 9 September 2026



ICRC

SOUTHEAST ASIA RED CROSS RED CRESCENT HUMANITARIAN FORUM

7 September 2026 | Yangon, Myanmar

1. Overview

The Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Forum are an annual high-level regional platform convened in conjunction with the Southeast Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting. The Forum serves as a strategic dialogue space, bringing together leaders and senior representatives of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies from 11 Southeast Asian countries, the representatives from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ASEAN institutions, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), Southeast Asia is increasingly challenged by complex humanitarian scenarios, driven by many circumstances including natural disasters, public health emergencies, displacement, and the accelerating impacts of climate change.

The year 2026 marks a significant milestone for the Movement in Southeast Asia, as the **23rd Southeast Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society Leaders' Meeting** will be hosted by the **Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)** in 7 September 2026 in Yangon. Organized by the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and hosted by Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), this half-day forum precedes the 23rd Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting.

2. Background

Southeast Asia remains one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, experiencing increasingly complex humanitarian challenges driven by climate change, natural hazards, displacement, public health emergencies, food insecurity, economic shocks, and rapid urbanization. These interconnected risks require humanitarian actors to move beyond reactive emergency response towards anticipatory, locally led, technology-enabled, and partnership-driven humanitarian action.

At the same time, advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital transformation, predictive analytics, and anticipatory action are creating new opportunities to improve humanitarian

decision-making and response. Greater emphasis is also being placed on localization, strengthening regional humanitarian capacity, and reinforcing the auxiliary role of National Societies in support of public authorities.

Against this backdrop, the Forum will provide an opportunity for humanitarian leaders and partners to discuss emerging trends, share innovative practices, strengthen regional collaboration, and identify collective actions to enhance humanitarian preparedness, response, and resilience across Southeast Asia.

3. Forum Objectives

- Explore emerging humanitarian risks, trends, and future scenarios affecting Southeast Asia to inform strategic humanitarian planning and anticipatory action
- Strengthen regional cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States, the AHA Centre, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and humanitarian Movement partners
- Strengthen regional humanitarian workforce capacity, surge mechanisms, and reciprocal response arrangements to enhance collective preparedness and operational effectiveness
- Explore innovative approaches to humanitarian action through digital transformation (artificial intelligence-AI), and responsible information management

4. Expected Participants

Approximately 50 participants, Participants shall include:

- IFRC, ICRC and National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies
- Representatives from ASEAN Secretariat
- The AHA Centre Executive Director and senior staff
- Representatives from ASEAN Embassies in Myanmar
- In-Country Partner National Societies

5. Modalities

5.1 Format

- Plenary sessions with keynote addresses
- Interactive dialogues

5.2 Duration

- Half Day (7th September, 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM)

5.3 Documentation

- Outcome document with actionable recommendations

6. Thematic Sessions

Session 1: Partnership for Collective Impact

This session will explore how stronger partnerships and coordinated action among the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and humanitarian partners can enhance collective

preparedness, response, and resilience across Southeast Asia. Additionally, to seek the opportunities by strengthening the regional cooperation, reinforcing the auxiliary role of National Societies in supporting public authorities before, during, and after humanitarian emergencies, and enhancing collaboration and operational synergy amongst the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Session 2: Innovations in Humanitarian Action

From this session, it is expected to share the experiences of how emerging technologies and digital innovations can strengthen disaster/emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience across Southeast Asia in humanitarian sectors. Furthermore, the role of digital transformation especially in the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian operations, and strategies to counter misinformation and disinformation while promoting information integrity during emergencies.

Outcomes

- A shared understanding of how strategic partnerships contribute to greater collective humanitarian impact through enhanced cooperation and reciprocal support mechanisms among SEA humanitarian actors
- Practical recommendations to improve coordination, strengthening regional preparedness, surge capacity, workforce resilience and collective action across Southeast Asia
- Recommendations to strengthen collaboration among the ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and SEA red cross red crescent movement
- Good practices for enhancing the auxiliary role of National Societies in regional humanitarian response
- Recommendations for momentous operationalization of digital transformation and the responsible adoption of AI in humanitarian action
- Practical strategies to strengthen information integrity and counter misinformation during emergencies

Programme

08:30am	Registration
09:00am	Grand Opening Ceremony
10:00 am	Refreshment
10:30am	Partnership for collective impact: ▪ Strengthening cooperation among regional countries ▪ Enhancing the Auxiliary Role of National Societies in Humanitarian Response ▪ Fostering greater Interconnectedness amongst ASEAN Secretariat, the AHA Centre and the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement
11:45am	Break
12:00am	Innovations in Humanitarian Actions:

- The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in disaster management
- The role of digital transformation in streamlining humanitarian operations
- The strategies to exercise strategic countermeasures for misinformation and uphold information integrity during emergencies

1:30pm **Closing** Lunch & Networking

Welcome Dinner by IFRC

Session 1 Programme: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Panel Session 1 : Partnership for Collective Impact

Moderator : MRCS President: Prof Dr Myo Nyunt

Co Moderator : Ms. Kathryn Clarkson, Head of Delegation and Representative to ASEAN

Panel List

1. IFRC have not confirmed the name of the Senior Officer that will replace Dr. Riyanti. IFRC will update you at the soonest once they confirm.
2. Mr. Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director, The AHA Centre.
3. Ms. Juja KIM, Deputy Regional Director, IFRC
4. Ms. Cordula Droege, Director of International Law, Movement and Partnership?

Theme: *Strengthening Regional Cooperation for More Effective Humanitarian Action*

Time Duration: 75 minutes

- **1st Round: Strengthening Cooperation Among Regional countries**

Moderator + Co Moderator Introduction: 5 min

Panelist 4 x 2 min: 8 min

Floor discussion: 12 min (Total – 25 min for 1st round)

- **2nd Round: Enhancing the Auxiliary Role of National Societies in Humanitarian Response**

Moderator + Co Moderator Introduction: 5 min

Panelist 4 x 2 min: 8 min

Floor discussion: 12 min (Total – 25 min for 2nd round)

- **3rd Round: Fostering greater Interconnectedness amongst ASEAN Secretariat, the AHA Centre and the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement**

Moderator + Co Moderator Introduction: 5 min

Panelist 4 x 2 min: 8 min

Floor discussion: 12 min (Total – 25 min for 3rd round)

Session 2: Innovations in Humanitarian Actions: 12 :00 pm to 13:30 pm

Session 2 will be convened in three parallel groups. Delegates can voluntarily but evenly split to join the three groups.

Innovations in Humanitarian Actions:

- **The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in disaster management**
Facilitated by MRCS: 45 min
- **The role of digital transformation in streamlining humanitarian operations**
Facilitated by IFRC: 45 min
- **The strategies to exercise strategic countermeasures for misinformation and uphold information integrity during emergencies**
Facilitated by ICRC: 45 min

Each group will present on consolidated discussions 15 min x 3 = 45 min (Total – 90 min)