



# **MiDAS-KAS CONFERENCE 2019**

MiDAS CONFERENCE 1/2019



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*<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGUjbyMZTVYqkD103BBjNA/videos>*

# INTRODUCTION

The MiDAS – KAS conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the Royale Chulan Hotel, 27 – 28 August 2019.

The theme of this year's conference '*Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief: A Shared Responsibility*' proved popular, attracting 335 delegates representing government departments, state government offices, local planning authorities, private consultants, academics, cross-border networks, think tanks and foreign government representatives.

Malaysia and its neighbours face similar challenges in terms of natural and man-made disaster. These challenges have knock-on implications for cross-border, regional and international cooperation in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster reliefs to the effected states.

To address these issues this year's conference considered models of collaboration across borders and between local government and other key agencies. Presenters and delegates were asked to identify workable existing and new approaches to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

With this in mind, the conference was organised around five main sessions over the two days. The first session '*Humanitarian Assistance – Malaysia & Bangladesh's Initiatives*' inform and examine initiatives by Malaysia and Bangladesh at regional level as well as humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar for the Rohingya refugees by both countries.

The second session '*Humanitarian Assistance – Experience Sharing*' shares operation experience in Haiti, Nepal and Palu as well as peace negotiation in Aceh and Mindanao. This session also talk about the role of communities, the private sector and planners in bringing about improvements to how we plan and provide humanitarian assistance as well as disaster relief.

The third session '*HADR Mechanism and Tools*' brought together delegates and speakers to understand existing tools and mechanism used in Malaysia, ASEAN member states and internationally. It helps delegates to consider the role and future of planning and local and regional

opportunities in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster reliefs.

The fourth session '*Disaster Relief – Experience Sharing*' shares existing mechanism and tools used by the Indonesian, Philippines and German in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. It also explores good and bad practices and how each country improves their mechanism and tools.

The fifth session '*What's Next for the Region?*' examine Malaysia and the region future plan in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief from the policy and strategic level.

The conference was funded through Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is one of the political foundations of the Federal Republic of Germany. With its activities and projects, the foundation contributes actively towards international cooperation and understanding.

## **MiDAS – Who are we?**

The Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) is a professional institution responsible to Malaysian Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence to spearhead issues on defence and security through research and knowledge sharing. MiDAS thus far has developed unique cooperation bridging the world academics, think tanks and government at locally and internationally.

**Further information is available at  
[www.midas.mod.gov.my](http://www.midas.mod.gov.my)**

# WELCOMING REMARKS

## Welcome Remarks

**Vice Admiral Dato' Ganesh Navaratnam**

Chief Executive MiDAS



The Chief Executive of MiDAS commenced his speech by welcoming the audience to the conference and later expressed his gratitude to Yang Berhormat Haji Mohamad bin Sabu, the Minister of Defence, for his willingness to deliver the key note address and to officiate the conference. He continued by extending his appreciation to Mr Wolfgang Hruschka, the Malaysia Country Director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, for organizing this important conference. This is the second conference jointly hosted by MiDAS and KAS with the first being held in 2014 and focused primarily on cyber security.

The Chief Executive stated that the theme chosen for this year's conference was Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) – A Shared Responsibility. He explained that theme was chosen to diverge from the current trend in strategic discourse that is mainly concerned with the US-China rivalry and, in his opinion, largely 'guesstimation'. Instead, the conference will focus on issues within the field of HADR that are experienced by both developed and developing countries, be it by the means of men or by the act of nature. The issue also has the potential to intensify in the coming years due to factors such as population growth, increasing urbanization, increased industrial activities, high levels of civil unrest and terrorism as well as climate change.

He resumed his speech by stating that this year's conference sees a gathering of distinguished local and international speakers and instigators to share their experiences, thoughts and ideas in the areas of successful outcomes of HADR efforts, the issues of convergence and divergence in the conduct of effective HADR as well as the opportunities to further reinforce HADR multilateral cooperation at sub-regional, regional and international levels.

The Chief Executive concluded by stating that in order to be ready when disaster occurs in a rapidly changing world, we must be able to identify the capabilities and to develop the scenarios for coordinated mobilisation of existing and future HADR mechanisms. This effort requires close cooperation with all stakeholders, including and not limited to government, military, and civil society organisations.

He then invited The Minister of Defence Malaysia Yang Berhormat Haji Mohamad bin Sabu, to deliver the Key Note Address.



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## Keynote Address

**The Honourable Hj Mohamad bin Sabu**

Minister of Defence Malaysia



YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu, Minister of Defence of Malaysia began his speech by congratulating the Malaysian Institute of Defence Security Malaysia (MiDAS) and KAS for organising the 2019 MiDAS-KAS Conference and for inviting him to deliver the keynote address. He also expressed his gratitude towards Germany's interest and availability in supporting the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) effort and the conference. He stated that the theme of this year's conference, which was HADR, echoes the One ASEAN One Response Declaration in 2016. It shows that Malaysia is committed to providing assistance and relief to those in need.

YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu mentioned that Malaysia has been actively involved in HADR within regional consecutive groups on humanitarian civil military coordination for Asia and the Pacific such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, the conference of parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus. These mechanisms have assisted in developing interoperability between member states and were evidence of the successful bilateral, multilateral and regional defence cooperation which are among the three pillars of Malaysia's Defence Strategy.

He then mentioned that disasters, whether natural or manmade are unpredictable and its after effects are horrific and would take years to recover from. Nowadays it is more challenging because the frequency of natural disasters has increased. Even Malaysia, once known as a country that was safe from severe natural disasters have not been unaffected. Due to climate change, in 2014 Malaysia faced the worse monsoon flooding in its history with 541 896 people affected and about RM 2.58 billion in losses which was then followed by an earthquake in Ranau, Sabah on 5th June 2015 which claimed the lives of 18 climbers on Mount Kinabalu.

YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu stated that Malaysia has always helped those countries in need and most of its regional and international humanitarian efforts were done in the context of bilateral relations, whether in the form of direct financial contributions or in kind. Malaysia had also despatched its special humanitarian assistant and rescue team (SMART) for relief missions in various areas such as in Aceh after the tsunami in 2005, Padang, Sumatera in 2009 and the Philippines after Typhoon Hanyan in 2013. Regionally, the minister reflected that Malaysia had witnessed several other disasters such as the earthquake in Lombok on July 2018 and the flash flood in Papua province in Indonesia on March 2019 which affected thousands of lives. With this context in mind, YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu stated he was proud of the incorporation of the HADR initiative into the ADMM-Plus structure, which served as a collective contribution by the defence sector towards a robust regional security architecture.

Explaining further, the minister stated that the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on HADR has been instrumental in ensuring practical cooperation among the militaries in the region. The aim was to ensure better coordination and inter-operability among the ASEAN member states in HADR operations. In pursuit of these

objectives, Malaysia has initiated and formed the ASEAN Military Ready Group (AMRG) on HADR and agreed to the adoption of the established Terms of Reference (TOR) while the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be completed by the end of this year. In addition, Malaysia also fully supports the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management or simply, the AHA Centre. The country also adopts the ASEAN SASOP or Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations. The standby arrangement requires member states including Malaysia to identify and voluntarily deploy assets alongside other member states to those in need. In support of this, the Malaysian National Disaster Command Centre (NDCC) has been linked to the AHA centre to better facilitate information sharing.

YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu continued by saying that Malaysia is not only committed to HADR efforts at the regional stage but has also been involved in similar initiatives at the international level under the ambit of the UN. He cited several examples of international HADR and peacekeeping operations that Malaysia had participated in the past, such as during the Bosnian War in 1992 and more recently, in Afghanistan from 2004-2009. Currently, the Malaysian government has established a field hospital in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh since 2017 which is operated by a military medical team.

Before ending his address, YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu affirms that Malaysia has always valued good relations and intends to continue furthering its collaboration with likeminded partners to further strengthen HADR cooperation. He continued, saying that the country will remain on its current path of promoting and building an inclusive and proactive engagement for the benefit of its regional neighbours and the world at large. As a final note, he hopes that the seminar will enhance the collective knowledge of the attendees and contribute towards creating a more effective and efficient approach to HADR operations.



# 1



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

## MALAYSIA & BANGLADESH'S INITIATIVES



### AMRG ON HADR : PROMOTING ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

#### PURPOSE

1



- Prepare for an ASEAN military team for quick deployment to areas of crises in a coordinated manner

2



- AMRG is deployed under a single ASEAN banner, taking into account existing mechanisms as coordinated by the AHA Centre.

#### TOR AMRG on HADR adopted at 10th ADMM 2016



### MAF IN INTERNATIONAL HADR ARENA 1992-2013



- MAF involved in HADR since 1990s. Eg. Flores and Aceh Tsunami, Typhoon Haiyan and Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.



- Key capabilities in Cox's Bazaar:
  - Field Hospital, level 2 or above surgical services, and contamination control in the event of chemical related incidents.



#### 5 Challenges in Cox's Bazaar:

- Coordinating with multinational relief agencies and other humanitarian actors already operating in the area.
- Building confidence and trust between MAF and camp resident as well as members of the local population and Bangladeshi security forces.
- Language and culture barrier.
- Logistics.
- Coordinating with host nation.

### ROHINGYA ISSUES AND WHAT'S THE BEST APPROACH TO SOLVE THE ISSUES

1.1 M

Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh after facing persecution in Myanmar.



Bangladesh allocated more than 8800 acres of forest land for humanitarian purposes.



Spent about 1.50 million USD for the Rohingya relief effort.

#### CHALLENGES



Critical damage to surrounding environment.



Social structure strained due to lack of employment and rising crime.

#### THE WAY FORWARD



An estimated 921 million USD will be required to sustain the Rohingya relief effort annually.



The Myanmar government must create a conducive environment for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees.



Global community must assist Myanmar in resolving internal issues.

# Session One

## Humanitarian Assistance – Malaysia & Bangladesh's Initiatives

### Welcome by Instigator



**Ms Lilianne Fan**

Chair of Rohingya Working Group,

Asia Pacific Refugee Rights

Network - APRRN

Ms Fan began by explaining what will be discussed during the first session. The focus of the session will be on the achievements and challenges in HADR operations based on the experiences of Malaysia and Bangladesh. The reasoning behind this is twofold. Firstly, both countries are in a region that is facing increasing disaster vulnerability. Secondly, both states are currently in a stage of continuous development and change which consequently affects their capability and capacity to respond to crises, whether man-made, as is the case with the on-going refugee crisis, or natural. In her opinion, these factors, along with others that will be shared by the speakers, promise to elicit rich discussion among the attendees on HADR related issues within the region.

### AMRG on HADR: Promoting One ASEAN One Response



**Dr. Haniff bin Zainal Abidin,**

Undersecretary of Policy and  
Strategic Planning Division,  
Ministry of Defence.

Dr Haniff began his talk by thanking KAS on behalf of the Ministry of Defence for the excellent co-organisation of the conference with MiDAS and for providing the opportunity for the Ministry to share its experiences in developing the ASEAN Military Ready Group (AMRG) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). He then introduced his topic which was "AMRG on HADR: Promoting One ASEAN One Response". The talk covered the beginnings of the AMRG, the development of the AMRG on HADR, The Complementing One ASEAN One Response Vision, and the future direction of the AMRG.

Dr Haniff explained that the creation of the AMRG was due to the increasing frequency of natural disasters in the region. This worrying trend has created an urgent need

for greater cooperation in disaster management and response. To address this need, the idea for the AMRG was first proposed during the ADMM Retreat in 2014. Following this, the AMRG concept paper was adopted at the 2015 9<sup>th</sup> ADMM before the creation of the terms of reference (TOR) during the following year's ADMM. The primary purpose of the AMRG on HADR was to prepare an ASEAN military team for rapid and coordinated deployment to crisis affected areas. In addition, the AMRG on HADR was also an opportunity for the various ASEAN militaries to engage in joint operations through a locally based regional response mechanism, which in this case, is the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management or AHA centre in Jakarta.

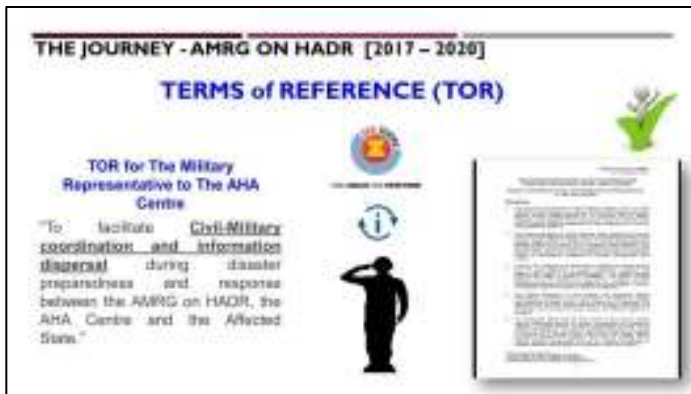
Dr Haniff then gave an overview on the milestones of the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on HADR. The first major milestone for the EWG was the development of the Multi National Coordination Centre or MNCC's SOP from 2011-2017. In addition, the EWG on HADR, specifically Malaysia and the United States (US) have begun work on operationalising the AMRG and integrating the ADMM-Plus HADR framework into the broader ASEAN disaster relief and emergency response efforts.

### The AMRG Process in Operations in HADR

Dr Haniff then briefly talked about the response process of the AMRG on HADR. The process begins when a disaster affected state requests assistance from the AHA Centre. Upon receiving the request, the AHA Centre will communicate with military representatives from each of the ASEAN member states. Following this, a formal request for assistance will be relayed to the member states. If they decide to send assistance, it will be coordinated through the MNCC before finally arriving to the affected area.

### The Journey – AMRG on HADR (2017-2020)

Dr Haniff in his presentation explained the history of the AMRG on HADR formation. The foundation of the AMRG was laid with the development of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for use by military representatives to the AHA Centre. The TOR is vital for civil-military coordination and information dispersal. After the TOR, a set of SOPs for the AMRG on HADR was established to ensure greater coordination at all levels, from strategic to tactical. The process of developing the SOP was a multilateral effort which involved 150 delegations from 18 countries.



### Critical Factors for AMRG Success in The Future

According to Dr Haniff, there are three factors that contributed to the success of the AMRG. Firstly, The guidance and contribution of the dedicated partners and co-chairs. Secondly, the commitment by the AMS in the process of developing the SOPs. Finally, the continuous support of HADR regional partners such as the AHA Centre, ERAT, and others that provided input, knowledge and sharing their experiences in modelling civilian-military coordination frameworks.

### One ASEAN One Response

Dr Haniff briefly touched on the One ASEAN One Response vision. The vision envisages a single identity or one cooperative & sharing community of ASEAN states. The legal framework for the vision was the ASEAN Agreement of Disaster Management and Emergency Response or AADMER while the coordinating body was the AHA Centre. The mechanism was adopted from several tools from the SASOP, AJDRP, ERAT, ARDEX, MNCCSOP and AMRG SOP and lead to a sectorial body for HADR ASEAN Committee In Disaster Management (ACDM).

### AMRG on HADR Complementing One ASEAN and One Response

Dr Haniff then mentioned the four elements for AMRG to complement the One ASEAN One Response vision. The first was to enhance the coordination, speed, and scale of resources available for a joint response towards a disaster. The next element was establishing the protocol in standardizing the SOP to facilitate and guide AMRG operations. The third element was operating the AMRG coordination mechanism in order to provide a clear structure in promoting mutual understanding and communications between military –civil actors and military – military in disaster response. Finally, to enhance the synergy throughout the ASEAN regional mechanism such as by conducting exercises via the AMRG.

Dr Haniff also explained that the AMRG will complement the One ASEAN and One Response vision in three aspects, which are solidarity, where AMRG will work under one banner, and the speed and scale which how effecting the coordination in realising AMRG operations.



### MAF in International HADR Arena 1992-2013



**Lt Gen Dato' (Dr) Md Amin bin Maslan**

Defence Health Services Division,  
Malaysian Armed Forces

Lt Gen Dato (Dr) Amin began his talk by thanking YB Hj Mohamad bin Sabu for highlighting Malaysia's contribution in the field of HADR. He added that Malaysia has been involved in international disaster relief since the early 1990s, specifically after the 1992 Flores Tsunami. Since then, the country has consistently engaged in relief operations abroad, with recent efforts being in Tacloban, Philippines and Bangladesh.

He then continued to elaborate on the Malaysian Armed Forces' (MAF) health capabilities, which is largely the responsibility of its Health Service. The MAF Health Service is capable of providing emergency health services and assistance in capacity building. In addition to operational experience during the emergency phase immediately following a natural disaster, the Health Service is also able to operate in the post disaster or recovery phase. To further illustrate the MAF's capabilities and past experiences, Lt Gen Dato (Dr) Amin shared some photographs of past MAF Health Service deployments. Key capabilities highlighted during this session include the ability to provide a level 2 or above field hospital and surgical services and contamination control in the event of chemical related disasters or crises.





Lt Gen Dato (Dr) Amin then briefed the attendees on the on-going MAF effort in assisting the Rohingya refugees currently hosted by the Bangladeshi government. He explained that most of the refugees currently in the country are part of the wave of refugees that fled Myanmar in 2017. Despite the best efforts of the Bangladeshi government, basic services and facilities in the camp where most of the Rohingya refugees reside are very limited. To emphasise this point, Lt Gen Dato (Dr) showed photographs of the camp which consisted of countless tents each housing 10-15 people. The unsanitary conditions of the camp are compounded by the fact that Bangladesh is particularly prone to cyclones and monsoon rains.

He continued by highlighting the level of communication and cooperation between the MAF team and the Bangladeshi government. From disembarkation to the setting up and operation of the field hospital, the Bangladeshi government provided consistent support to the MAF. For this, he expressed his deepest gratitude. After briefly discussing the building process of the MAF field hospital, Gen (Dr) Dato' then posed a question for the audience to ponder. What is the future for the Rohingya people? Stating that the Rohingya issue is not one that can be solved by the military and should be resolved by the ASEAN community.

Moving on, Lt Gen (Dr) Dato' Amin began explaining the challenges that they had faced during the deployment of the field hospital at the camp. The first challenge was coordinating their efforts with the many multinational relief agencies and other humanitarian actors already on the ground. Second was building trust and confidence between the MAF medical team and the residents of the camp as well Bangladeshi officials responsible for the camp's operation. Relationship building with the latter was particularly important as they were the main provider of security in the camp. Thirdly was the language and culture barrier. Lt Gen (Dr) Dato' Amin explained that due to low level of education among most of the camp residents which precluded the use

of written instructions, the MAF team had to rely on interpreters and often, alternative means of communication such as the use of photographs or diagrams to assist the camp residents.

The fourth challenge was logistics. Lt Gen (Dr) Dato' Amin explained how the team had to bring most of their equipment with them from Malaysia and the high costs of doing so. At this juncture, he mentioned that Bangladeshi support once again alleviated the some of the burden on the MAF medical team. While transportation costs were high, up to 20% of the costs were covered by the Bangladeshi government. In addition, the pre-existing medical infrastructure in the camp also made it easier for the MAF medical team to begin providing medical services to the camp residents. The medical team also received additional assistance from the various Malaysian NGOs operating in the camp.

The next challenge was the host nation support and coordination which was the most important. As Lt Gen (Dr) Dato' Amin had stated, they had engaged with the Bangladeshi government prior to the deployment to improve the level of trust between their team and the local authorities, as well as to ease the team's integration into the host station's humanitarian support response centre. On the topic of official governmental support, Lt Gen (Dr) Dato' Amin also extended his gratitude to the governments of Brunei, Saudi Arabia, and several others which contributed to the effort.

The final challenge was building trust with the Rohingya and local Bangladeshi populations. Trust building with the Rohingya refugees was accomplished via constant engagement by the medical team. But the challenge was to do the same with the local population so that not only would Malaysia's continued presence be welcomed but also the Rohingya's as well. This is a serious concern as reports have shown that the number of Bangladeshis opposed to the Rohingya's continued presence in the country has increased in recent years, from 5% to 80%. Managing this challenge was crucial to ensuring that Bangladesh would be capable and willing to continue accepting and supporting the Rohingya refugees.

Lt Gen (Dr) Dato' Amin ended his speech by thanking all the humanitarian actors who were involved in the Rohingya relief effort.



## Rohingya issues and what's the best approach to solve the issues.



**Air Commodore Md Humayun Kabir**

DA of the Embassy of Bangladesh  
Representing Bangladesh High  
Commissioner

After greeting the speakers and audience, DA Humayun apologised on behalf of the high commissioner of Bangladesh who was unable to attend the conference due to other commitments. In the high commissioner's stead, he will deliver presentation on the Rohingya situation in Bangladesh and the best approach to resolving the issue.

DA Humayun emphasised that Malaysian humanitarian aid was essential in managing the Rohingya situation. He continued, citing the establishment of the Malaysian Field Hospital (MFH) at Cox's Bazar on November 2017 as an example. Since its inception, the hospital has been providing essential medical assistance to the Rohingya refugees and the local Bangladeshi citizens as well. In addition to governmentally sourced aid, Malaysian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Malaysian MERCY have contributed much to alleviate the suffering of the Rohingya population, providing primary health care, water, and sanitation services. Looking forward to the future, DA Humayun stated, that an estimated USD 921 million will be required to sustain the Rohingya relief effort in 2019. Thus, all relevant humanitarian actors must come forward to fulfil this requirement. However, the best humanitarian action that can be taken is to ensure the safe repatriation of the Rohingya to their homeland.

Currently, 1.1 million Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh after facing persecution in Myanmar. The Bangladeshi government has continued to receive and care for the Rohingya refugees out of a sense humanitarian responsibility, as evidenced by the decision of the country's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, to keep the country's borders open to allow the displaced Rohingya's to escape from Myanmar. However, in a land hungry country like Bangladesh, sheltering 1.1 million people poses a significant challenge. To date, the Bangladeshi government has allocated more than 6800 acre of forest land and has spent about USD 150 million for the Rohingya relief effort. In addition to the financial costs, the Rohingya relief effort has also adversely affected the local area. The environment has been critically damaged by the loss of forests and the social structure has been strained due to lack of employment and rising crime.

DA Humayun reminded the participants that the Rohingya's are among the most vulnerable groups in the world. Most of them are suffering from some form of severe physical injury and mental trauma a result of the persecution they endured in Myanmar. They are in need of food, water, medical care and sanitation, which is unfortunately very limited. He emphasised that Bangladesh alone cannot bear the burden of caring for situation for long and they need the support of the international community. Fortunately, many countries have stepped forward to lend their support, both material and political, in this crisis and for this, DA Humayun expressed his thanks. DA Humayun on behalf of the Bangladesh government also expressed his appreciation to the Malaysian government for assisting in the Rohingya crisis since the very beginning. He continued, thanking the current Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, for his constant vocal support for the issue, having raised it multiple times in various important platforms, including in ASEAN.



Then DA Humaiyyun, stated there were two attempts at signing an agreement regarding the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees between the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar. Unfortunately, due to the lack of commitment on behalf of the Myanmar government to facilitate such an effort and to ensure the safety and freedom of the refugees once they have returned, these attempts failed. Therefore, to move forward, the standing of the

Myanmar government must change. Unless the Myanmar government decides to create a conducive environment for the repatriation process, the Rohingya crisis will remain protracted.

In concluding his speech, DA Humaiyyun urged the international community to collectively work towards a solution to this problem. One possible course of action is to perhaps put pressure on the Myanmar government to take the necessary steps to resolve this issue. He then ended his speech with the hope that they would have a durable and internationally backed solution for the crisis.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Questions**

**Q1. YB Wong, Bukit Bendera Member of Parliament**

Are there any protocols/SOP/communication channels that NGOs or non-military units can use so that it would settle the communication problem at during the crisis?

**Q2. Ms Lilianne Fan**

What is the next step for the Malaysian Field Hospital (MFH) in Cox's Bazar?

**Q3. To what extent will the next step be and how long do you think the MFH will be able to remain there?**

### **Answers**

**A1. Lt Gen Dato' (Dr) Md Amin bin Muslan**

He admitted that there is no proper procedure yet for the Malaysian NGOs in providing assistance. Up to this point, they have been practicing the normal routine which is basically to immediately travel to the affected areas and provide assistance. Some of the major NGOs have a good working relationship with NADMA. So, whenever NADMA has a project and they feel that presence of NGOs is needed, then they will invite those they are acquainted with. In these instances, there are clear standard operating procedures (SOP). At Cox's Bazar, Lt Gen Dato' (Dr) Md Amin stated that the various Malaysian NGOs on the ground such as the Malaysian Relief Organisation and MRM, provide assistance after registering with Wisma Putra and coordinating with the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) which allows them to liaise with AHM commanders. This is also because the Bangladesh government has set up procedures requiring registration for any organisation that wants access to the Rohingya camp.

**A2 and A3. Lt Gen Dato' (Dr) Md Amin bin Muslan**

He answered that due to the likelihood of the Rohingya crisis being prolonged, they must look into the education and social development for the Rohingya refugees. As for the MFH, once the situation has stabilised, they may cease providing field hospital services and reorient its operations towards other aims such as providing health education to assist in capacity building. This is largely due to the WHO and UNCHR efforts in building local capacity for emergency services

**DA Humaiyyun** added that, while they do not have any problem in providing food for the 1.1 million as their people are 60 million; he wants the audience to think about healthcare provision for the 1.1 million Rohingya refugees and the monumental challenge that poses. As they have been informed throughout this session, their conditions are dire. He shared that during the last visit of the Deputy Minister; they agreed that Bangladesh needs more support. They had also discussed and planned to shift a portion of the Rohingya to other areas but have yet to finalise any details. In addition, further discussion was made on the continued Malaysian participation via the MFH and increasing the involvement of other governments, within the region and outside, in building up local health capacity.

**Q4. Mr Arnel Capule Capili, AHA Centre**  
What would be the role of ASEAN in terms of facilitating and supporting both the government of Bangladesh and Myanmar?



**Q5. Can the ASEAN truly be independent on this particular issue?**

**Q6. Capt. Martin A. Sebastien RMN (Rtd), Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA).**





Would you say that it is the time for the peacekeepers in the region to move beyond peacekeeping operations and increase their HADR capabilities?

**Q7.** Would you also say that the deployment of the AMRG under the One ASEAN One Response is a precursor for further ASEAN Military team peacekeeping operations in the future?

**Answers:** **Lt Gen Dato' (Dr) Md Amin bin Muslan**

**A4.** He thanked Capt. Martin for reiterating Malaysia's contribution in peacekeeping. It's true that Malaysia has benefited from the involvement with the UN because it has opened up their scope and professionalism and improved their international engagement. Regarding the peacekeeping for HADR, Lt Gen Dato' (Dr) Md Amin believes that it's very clear that peacekeepers are part of the occupying force and the duty of the occupying force is to provide assistance. But he pointed out that does not mean that the peacekeeper has been given the mandate to provide the HADR assistance. He continued, stating that Malaysia's peacekeeping experience is unique as it enjoys a reputation of a moderate Islamic nation which in some cases is exactly why it has been requested to assist in the areas it had been deployed to. That said, the opportunity to provide assistance beyond the scope of traditional peacekeeping operations is always there for any peacekeeping contingent, regardless of whether they enjoy the same reputation.



With regard to the ASEAN Humanitarian Working Group or Disaster Relief and joint multilateral relief efforts in general, he mentioned that the pacific countries, singling out USPACOM or INDOPACOM currently, were very active and successful in that aspect, as evidenced by the various past relief missions in the Caribbean and pacific island states. But there is still much to do before ASEAN can achieve that level of cooperation. This is why there are so many initiatives that have been or is currently being pursued in this field, looking for an opportunity where we can migrate from the old legacy mutual distrust to the future concept of One ASEAN One Response

**Instigator:** Ms Lilianne Fan reiterated Q4 posted by Mr Arnel about the role of ASEAN in solving the Rohingya crisis and whether ASEAN can maintain its neutrality.

**Answers:** **DA Humayun**

He believed that ASEAN has strong leadership in the region and all ASEAN member states have good relations with one another, including Myanmar. He stressed that the Rohingya crisis is not a problem between only Bangladesh and Myanmar, but also the region and the larger international community as well. Emphasizing that, while they have been given assistance in terms of food and other basic needs what they desire and ultimately need is to return to their homeland. Being confined in Bangladesh exposes the Rohingya population to more critical problems such as the drug, women and armed trafficking.



Once again, DA Humaiyyun urged that ASEAN state members to pressure the Myanmar government to take all necessary action to return the Rohingya people to their country and provide for their needs. After all these people are also their citizens as pointed out by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The Rohingya people in the camp has great expectations and fully rely on the ASEAN countries to do their part in allowing them to return and safely resume their lives in their homeland.



# 2



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE - EXPERIENCE SHARING



### UNHRD OPERATIONS – EXPERIENCE SHARING

#### SUCCESS FACTORS



##### Haiti Earthquake

Excellent civil-military coordination between the United States Armed Forces and World Food Programme



##### Palu Tsunami

- Clear objectives of what is available and required.
- A clear understanding between affected states and assisting states/organisation.



##### Cox's Bazar Rohingya Crisis

- Actual on the ground information.
- Good rapport with locals.
- The clear understanding provided seamless coordination operation.

### LEARNING FROM THE PAST: QUESTION ON FUTURE ASEAN HADR CAPACITY & CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT



2018: 17 million displaced person



- 7.7 million internally displaced people &
- 3.5 million refugees from outside

#### SUCCESS STORIES

##### Acheh Peace Process

- Peace agreement developed into national law.
- Legal framework allow for community and government capacity as well as services building.

##### Mindanao Peace Process

- Fast and swift action in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- Strong command and control from both parties.
- Patience and commitment to remain at negotiation table

### THE BUNDESWEHR IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF MISSION

#### INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- Strategic transport
- Tactical (in-theatre) transport
- Medical support
- Engineering Support
- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- CBRN capabilities
- Logistic support
- Maritime support
- Fire Fighting Capabilities

#### NATO KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE OPERATION CHALLENGES

- Lack of a NATO policy for participation in humanitarian operations
- The available NRF Package
- Absence of a lead nation
- NATO standards vs. local standards
- Disputed area
- Opposition to NATO forces
- Cultural boundaries
- Absence of central disaster management authority
- Lack of common guidelines and structures

# Session Two

## Humanitarian Assistance – Experience Sharing

### Welcome by Instigator



#### **Mr Shariman Lokman**

Fellow, Institute of Strategic and International Studies ISIS Malaysia

Mr Lokman began the session by introducing the speakers who will be sharing their experiences in working within the field of HADR. In order of appearance they were: Mr Carlos Miquel, Head of World Food Programme at the United Nations Response Depot, Ms Liliane Fan, Chair of the Rohingya Working Group from the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network and Lt Col Michael Piotrowski Course Director & Lecturer, from the Bundeswehr Center for Civil Military Cooperation.

### UNHRD Operations – Experience Sharing



#### **Mr Carlos Miquel Melendez Orbegoso**

Head of World Food Programme  
United Nations Response Depot  
WPP-UNHRD Kuala Lumpur

Mr Carlos Orbegoso began his session by speaking on two humanitarian operations, for the audience to be aware of the different types of operations and what can be learnt from each type of operations.

He cited the Haiti Earthquake in 2010 and mentioned that it was one of the most dramatic cases that caused casualties to around 20 percent government servants and responders. It was a case that highlighted excellent civil-military operations by which a staging area was created in a joint collaboration between the US military (USA) and the World Food Programme due to affected government's lack of capacity following the disaster. In addition, he mentioned that the ports and/or airport were completely managed by the military, which allowed up to 7 flights a day but 60% for military service support and 40% for monitoring.



Mr Orbegoso stated that the involvement of the military should be avoided save in very dire circumstances. In the event that the military is deployed, its role should be limited to providing structure support such as running ports and airports, building bridges, providing security or providing cargo transport services.

He continued by highlighting the operation in Palu which had very clear objectives in terms of what was available and what is required. He mentioned that the government with the support from the AHA Centre created staging area in Balikpapan to handle the incoming international donations, coordinate the human resources to manage the donations, plan for the storage of the donations as well the transport needed to distribute the donations. Besides coordination, there must also be an understanding between the donating countries and the recipient or affected government less further complications arise due to misunderstandings which would restrict the flow of humanitarian assistance and donations.

Mr Orbegoso also shared the experience in Cox's Bazar – a humanitarian assistance operation, which was successful in delivering food in the first month to 42,500 people and later, 70, 000. This was due to the fact that they had the trust of the people, understood the circumstances on the ground and thus were able to prioritise their operation accordingly. The impact of local acceptance of aid operations should not be understated. He mentioned that the situation can be managed better when good rapport is established and that it is very important for organizations to understand the limits of their mandate based on the type of operational permits granted; is it only to send goods or also to distribute them.

Mr Orbegoso then spoke about the Malaysian experiences and their adoption of the Communication Coordination Collaboration (CCC) protocol. This assisted in the communication between the affected government and the responding states' various ministries of foreign affairs on

what is required which helped to reduce the volume of unsolicited and unneeded donations.

## Learning From the Past: Questions on Future ASEAN HADR Capacity and Capability Development



**Ms Lilianne Fan**

Chair of Rohingya Working Group,  
Asia Pacific Refugee Rights  
Network APRRN

Ms Lilianne began her session by stating that she wanted to encourage the audience to think of more ways in which we can be prepared to respond to complex crises. She continued by saying that ASEAN has in fact enhanced its role in disaster management. She continued by pointing to the fact that since WW2, the world has seen increasing levels of population displacement, with the highest level of displacement recorded, at around 17 million people, last year. ASEAN alone is home to 7.7 million internally displaced persons and 3.5 million refugees.

She then stated that since this problem is very complex and cannot be easily fixed, there should be a framework in place for the refugees to be hosted in a more humane way and for the effort to be more sustainable for the host country. She stated that the primary factor behind the continued large displacement of populations is the lack of successful and enduring political solution back home. In many parts of the world where we see armed conflicts, they are usually protracted and can last for years if not decades. When these conflicts are left to continue, displaced populations will continue to seek shelter and remain abroad as they do not feel safe to return.

Despite this trend, there are examples of successful political agreements that have brought an end to violent conflict. To support this, Ms Lilianne cited two successful peace processes which are the Aceh and Mindanao Peace Processes.

### Acheh Peace Process

In this peace process, the involved parties have agreed to end the conflict and developed an agreement that has been transformed into national law. It has contributed to stabilizing the situation on the ground and institution building after decades of institutional deterioration and stagnation due to conflict which was further compounded by natural disasters such as the tsunami which struck the area in 2004.

As a result, a legal framework was put in place to rebuild the community as well as government capacity and services which has greatly benefited the Aceh region.

### Mindanao Peace Process

This process is at the point of national law and that currently commitments to build peace and trust have been expressed from all sides involved in the conflict. Ms Lilianne believes that there are valuable lessons that can be learned from this ongoing process. Among them is that to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response, fast and swift action is needed, in addition to strong command and control as well as patience and the commitment to remain at the negotiating table.

She concluded her portion by commending the Malaysian government and the Foreign Ministry for their effort in formulating a strategy on the Rohingya situation in Cox's Bazar especially with regards to health care.

## The Bundeswehr in National and International Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Missions



**Lt Col Michael Piotrowski**

Course Director & Lecturer,  
Center for Civil Military  
Cooperation, Federal Defence  
Forces of Germany *Bundeswehr*

Lt Col Michael started his session by declaring his topic as 'The Military Bundeswehr Armed Forces in National and International HADR mission and shared how Germany deals with disasters and major incidents. He stated that they have a legal framework where states are responsible for civil and disaster actions in peace time while the federal government is responsible in times of crisis or war. However, there are provisions which allow for the government to use its agencies in support of the states if the circumstances necessitate such an intervention.

He stated that Germany's principle is to deal with disaster at the lowest possible level, which in the context of the country's administrative hierarchy, are at the district and municipal levels. Thus, the federal states will deal with major or regional accidents and disasters. Each state government has its own agencies which are responsible to support lower levels in disaster relief. At the federal level, these agencies are the THW, The Federal Police and The Armed Forces. Support from the next level will only be given when the resources at the lower levels are insufficient and assistance is requested by lower level agencies.





Lt Col Michael also mentioned that in national and international support operations, Germany deals mainly in providing medical and logistical support, airlift, engineer, and maritime medical evacuation capabilities. Based on the country's deployment history several shortcomings have been identified, mainly:

1. There is no policy or doctrine for participating in any operation.
2. There is no lead nation for coordinating inside the affected country.
3. There is a discrepancy between NATO standards and local standards.
4. In the case of earthquake operation in Pakistan, there was opposition from Pakistan and there are also cultural boundaries that impede the execution of aid operation, as well as the absence of central disaster management.

Other take-aways mentioned by Lt Col Michael were that to render support, it is important to be well-versed with the guidelines and procedures, as well as the partners. He also concluded that in disaster management, the civilians such as international disaster organisations are in lead and the military are there mainly to support because the deployment of military assets are very costly.

It is also important to respect the humanitarian actors and their principles in conducting any support operations.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Questions

#### Q1. Mr Arnel Capule Capili

He directed the question to Ms Lilianne Fan asking about the possibilities of an archetype for ASEAN members of a venture into human-induced conflicts beyond humanitarian assistance. He went on asking her that if ASEAN is expanding its role into human-induced conflicts, then there would be an overlap with other agencies like UNCHR which were given the mandates to deal with such incidents.

Q2. Mr Arnel also sought Lt Col Piotrowski's perspectives of ASEAN sending militaries as the first responders to conflicts and what are the challenges that such a move entails.

#### Q3. Dr Asyura Salleh

She requested a perspective on whether there is a course of action for legal protection for the refugees against exploitation by drug smuggling and human trafficking groups as they operate along the migration route from Myanmar to Bangladesh.

Q4. Dr Asyura also asked about the type of operational support that can be used to tackle the exploitation activities, and to what extent should regional enforcement agencies be involved in protecting this migration route.

#### Q5. Capt Martin A. Sebastian (Rtd)

He put forth a proposal to Mr Carlos the feasibility of establishing a service-level agreement with leading providers regarding the in-flow of monetary contribution during disaster to avoid mismanagement of funds.

Q6. Capt Martin A. Sebastian also asserted that since Malaysia is a coastal country, the military is the best source for coordination, command and control in relief efforts, which stands in contrast to Lt Col Michael's presentation. He sought Lt Col Michael's view on the statement.

### Answers

#### A1. Ms Lilianne Fan

She concurred that in ASEAN there is strong reverence for the principles of sovereignty, mutual respect and non-interference. However, she believed that there is a space for certain issues where it does not get to the point of interference, such as in the matter of refugee response. She classified such response to be more than humanitarian response, and to be able to deliver effective humanitarian assistance, each member country cannot afford to misunderstand who they are assisting as well as the course of the crisis.

She resumed by stating a mandatory engagement of ASEAN in any political crisis cannot be insisted, however there is a fine line that divides ASEAN and interference. Such support could be in confidential manner such as the use of expertise in successful peace processes and this constructive approach will not undermine the international agencies that deal with disaster management.

**A2. Lt Col Michael Piotrowski**

He went on saying that he was quite shocked with the knowledge of the deployment of military in disaster relief because it is against all the international guidelines and procedures available. However, he believed that there must be a good reason for it to occur such as the lack of civil agencies and capabilities. He summarised that above all, he is still with the perspective of the military as the last resort in disaster relief.

**A3. Lt Col Michael Piotrowski**

Also stated that for the protection of the civilian, refugees and the migrants, in every German mission, they have a code of conduct which covers these aspects. In addition, any information regarding sexual exploitation of the refugees will be reported to UN agencies for further action.

**Ms Lilianne Fan**

In the refugee issue, criminal elements are targeting refugees for trafficking and in expanding their network. This is a regional security issue and ASEAN has a legally binding framework against human trafficking.

**A4. Ms Lilianne Fan**

She stated that there have been quite a lot of engagements regarding regional enforcement. For example, Bangladesh law enforcement's active involvement in monitoring the situation and routes as well as strengthening the intelligence in that area.

**A5. Mr Carlos Orbegoso**

He reminded the audience that the most important thing to consider when donating is that one must understand what is required. Often, donations come in without meeting the needs of the affected parties, causing a substantial amount donated goods that are never used. This can also cause logistical difficulties. Thus, he is with the view that a sort of agreement and understanding has to be in place prior to donations.

**A6. Lt Col Michael Piotrowski**

He agreed with Capt Martin's statement by saying that the amphibious capability can only be found in the military, thus it is possible for the military to be deployed for disaster relief.





# 3



## HADR MECHANISM AND TOOLS



### INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION MECHANISMS AND TOOLS

#### KEY HUMANITARIAN ACTOR



#### GLOBAL RESPONSE TOOLS

- UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams
- International Search and Rescue coordination (INSARAG)
- On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) + CMCoord
- Information Management tools
- Humanitarian financing tools
- Sector Specific tools

### AHA CENTER: ONE ASEAN, ONE RESPONSE

- Primary coordinating agency in the ASEAN region.
- Tasked to operationalise One ASEAN One Response, including the development of necessary protocols to prescribe measures, procedures, and standards as well as engagements with relevant sectors and stakeholders in ASEAN.



### INTEGRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (HADR) MECHANISM AND TOOLS IN MALAYSIA

	NATURAL DISASTERS	COMPLEX EMERGENCIES
Leading Agency	<b>NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NADMA)</b> , Prime Minister's Department (since October 2015)	(Co-Lead with ) <b>NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC)</b> , Prime Minister's Department
Main National Guidelines	DIRECTIVE NO.20 : National Policy and Mechanism of Disaster Management & Relief	Plus - DIRECTIVE NO.18 : Crisis Management & DIRECTIVE NO.21 : Public Order Threats Management
Main Regional Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)</li> <li>• ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP)</li> <li>• ASEAN-SASOP (CHAPTER VI)</li> <li>• Oslo Guideline – The Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief</li> <li>• Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN - Standard Operating Procedures For Regional Standby Arrangements And Coordination Of Joint Disaster Relief And Emergency Response Operations (SASOP)</li> <li>• Complex Emergencies Guideline</li> <li>• MCDA Guidelines</li> <li>• Use of Armed Escort for Humanitarian Convoys</li> </ul>



# Session Three

## HADR Mechanism and Tools

### Welcome by Instigator



**Capt Martin A. Sebastian, RMN (Rtd)**

Senior Fellow,  
Maritime Institute of Malaysia

Captain Martin began the session by introducing the speakers who will be presenting. The first was Mr Nidhirat Srisirojanakorn who spoke on international humanitarian coordination mechanisms and tools, followed by Mr Arnel Capule who shared on the One ASEAN Response Concept and Ms Murni binti Mat Amin who presented on integration of regional and international HADR mechanisms in Malaysia. Before yielding the floor to the speakers, he explained that the session was centred on experience and information sharing on existing mechanisms and tools available for HADR capacity building and operations in the region.

### International Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms and Tools



**Mr Nidhirat Srisirojanakorn**

Humanitarian Affairs Analyst,  
United Nations Office of  
Coordination and  
Humanitarian Affairs UNOCHA  
Asia and the Pacific

Mr Nidhirat started his presentation by stating the title as National, Regional and International Humanitarian Coordination: Mechanisms and Tools. He intended to share existing mechanism and tools available to provide for HADR capacity building and operation in the region and in the country. International Humanitarian Response supports the affected governments when the scale of the disaster exceeds the national capacity and when it is requested by the affected state.

He continued, stating that the people are the centre of any disaster responses, thus the first responder must always focus on the local community. This is especially important when considering external bilateral support, the

majority of which take a form most similar to the Malaysian efforts in Cox's Bazar.



He stated that traditionally, UNOCHA or any international humanitarian agency, work with the affected national government or national authorities in capacity building. There are also regional entities legally mandated to support ASEAN member countries. It can be said that should an assistance effort be conducted, it will always be a combination of international and regional elements in support of the affected state. Mr Nidhirat also mentioned that UNOCHA is currently looking at the modality of order of preference for the affected countries in the ASEAN region.



A significant contribution by UNOCHA in disaster response, preparedness, operation as well as capacity building is the Cluster System. This system focuses on 11 identified areas that are problematic to the affected countries in major emergencies or crises. The cluster can also be a source for capacity building as it lists which agencies should be involved in the emphasized areas.

The speaker went on stating the available tools from OCHA's in dealing with disasters, such as:

1. The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Teams.
2. The International Search and Rescue Group (INSARAG) which offers urban search and rescue capabilities to support local government.
3. Civil Military Coordination. The essential dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in humanitarian emergencies, in which principles and guidelines are discussed to fit into the Asia Pacific context. It is seen as a consultation platform to discuss civil military coordination in HADR.



## One ASEAN, One Response



**Mr Arnel Capule Capili**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
ASEAN Coordinating Centre for  
Humanitarian Assistance on  
Disaster Management AHA Centre

Mr Arnel began his session by stating that ASEAN has become a disaster-prone region over the last 18 years. This development has significantly changed how disaster management is approached in the region and this change has given birth to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) in 2005 as well as the establishment of the AHA Centre in 2011. AADMER is a legally binding document that all signatories must abide to its stipulated agreement while the AHA Centre is the operational engine of AADMER to coordinate the efforts of ASEAN members.



He explained that the function of AHA Centre is to facilitate cooperation and collaboration among member states as well as other relevant parties involved. He emphasized that a very important provision in AADMER is that AHA will not respond if it is not requested. This is a way to respect sovereignty of member states.

The centre has been involved in all types of crises, and while recently, its focus has been natural disasters, AHA has been asked to assist with the repatriation process in Rakhine state, Myanmar. But in dealing with its core business of disaster relief and management, AHA refers to the Standby Arrangement Standard Operating Procedures (SASOP) that defines how AHA offers and requests assistance and how member states are to coordinate with each other. The SASOP has been recently added a chapter on the use of foreign military assets. He mentioned that in the ASEAN region, the military is usually the first to respond due to the its available resources, capacity and discipline. This initial military response will then pave the way for civilian led efforts.

Mr Arnel went on stating that in times of emergencies, the AHA Centre will establish coordination at three levels:



**Strategic coordination:** Briefing and information sharing for a common operational picture will be organised at the AHA Centre EOC (Jakarta). High level stakeholders: ASEAN Secretary-General, Permanent Missions to ASEAN, Defence Attaches, heads of other ASEAN entities, heads of UN organisations, Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement, Civil Society.

**Operational coordination:** Coordination is established at the national level for joint planning with emphasis on the primary role of the affected country's National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO).

**Field coordination or tactical level:** AHA Centre deploys coordination tools e.g. the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), and the Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA). The JOCCA or the home of ASEAN on the ground, should be co-located with the NDMO of the affected country.

Mr Arnel talked about JOCCA, the on-site coordination mechanism of the AHA Centre to enhance ASEAN collective response during large scale disaster emergencies. It provides a direct coordination interface between NDMO of the affected country; a space for ASEAN members to interact, coordinate and collaborate to add value to affected member states.

He concluded by stating that any type of response in the region should not be a unilateral response, instead it should be a collective effort.



## Integration of the International and Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Mechanism and Tools Malaysia



**Ms Murni binti Mat Amin**  
Principal Assistant Director,  
National Disaster Management  
Agency NADMA

Ms Murni intended to explain the whole HADR mechanisms and tools in Malaysia in her session. She then stated the role of NADMA as the disaster management focal point and head of humanitarian assistance in the country. The agency also deals with the initiatives of Disaster Risk Reduction Management, Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness, Disaster Response Coordination, Recovery and *Build Back Better* as well as Damage Assessment, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation.



She stated that it is the lead agency in disaster management in Malaysia, and its main national guideline is the National Security Council Directive No 20 and supported by Numbers 18 and 21. However she did mention that in Malaysia, NADMA works hand in hand with the military. Thus, for civil-military coordination on HADR, NADMA communicates and coordinates with the AHA Centre for regional level responses; which then expanded to UNOCHA for international responses. The guidelines referred are the AADMER, AJDRP and SASOP at regional level, whilst at the international level will be the Oslo Guideline, APC-MADRO, MCDA and the UN-CM Coordination Handbook.

Ms Murni also mentioned the first lesson learned in Palu Earth Quake in 2018. It is about the establishment of Reception Departure Centre (RDC) to register all the incoming actors who wanted to help the affected state. Malaysia has now adopted the same initiative since the importance of the RDC was manifested in Pa



The next lesson is the inter-operability of JOCCA and OSOCC. The uniqueness of this joint effort which paved the establishment of the Joint Operation Coordination Centre for International Assistance (JOCCIA).

In Palu as well, there was the application of the Cluster System, which proved to be a success. Subsequently, Malaysia has applied the same cluster system in its relief operations but narrowed it down to only 9 areas. There was also the establishment of the recent International HADR Working Group to assess whether Malaysia needed assistance in any crises as well as to assess the incoming requests from assisting states.

She concluded that NADMA will continuously enhance the key coordination elements during emergencies, especially in information sharing, task division and planning.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Questions**

#### **Q1. Dr Ayurah Salih**

Dr Asyurah asked about any extra regional collaboration that AHA has been involved with.



#### **Q2. Dr Hoang Oanh**

Dr Hoang asked Mr Arnel Capili on the causes of ASEAN member countries' reluctance in seeking AHA's assistance in managing disasters.

### **Answers**

#### **A1. Mr Arnel Capili**

Mr Arnel stated that AHA has been actively involved with other humanitarian agencies. He quoted several visits from The African Union and the South Asia Regional Cooperation to learn about the ASEAN experience in dealing with disasters and looking into setting up their own respective AHA centres.

#### **A2. Mr Arnel Capili**

Mr Arnel declared that it is possible that some member countries are unaware of the available ASEAN mechanisms and tools since they directly deal with the NDMOs.

This gap has to be addressed through close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since there are a lot of advantages or added value that they could gain by using the ASEAN mechanism in disaster management.



# 4



## DISASTER RELIEF - EXPERIENCE SHARING



### GERMAN FEDERAL AGENCY FOR TECHNICAL RELIEF (THW)



#### HISTORY

- Founded in 1950 via Federal law.
- Under the Ministry of Interior.



#### MANDATE

- Support of local and national disaster relief.
- International operations on behalf of the German Federal Government.



#### PERSONNEL

- 80 000 volunteers.
- 3000 full time employees (government officials).

#### KEY CAPABILITIES



CERN detection



Water purification @ high capacity pumping.



Flood rescue with boats



Logistical support (vehicles/centers).



Urban Search & Rescue (USAR).

### DISASTER RELIEF - EXPERIENCE SHARING: INDONESIA



#### CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED FROM MANAGING NATURAL DISASTERS

- Lack of institutional memory, lesson learned but not retained.
- Unpredictable conditions.
- Failure in geo risk governance
- Transfer failure of scientific knowledge into policy planning.

#### THE WAY FORWARD

- Strengthening regional response capacity.
- Strengthening military forces as the backbone of HADR response.
- Improving partnerships in resilience building.

### HADR IN THE PHILIPPINES: BEYOND RESPONSE, OUR ROAD TO RESILIENCE



#### RECENT DISASTERS/CRISES

- Typhoon Yolanda.
- Bohol Earthquake.
- Siege of Zamboanga.

#### MAJOR LESSONS

- Improvement of end-to-end early warning system
- Efforts in civil-military coordination vital.
- Multilateral commitment through multinational coordination center.
- Importance of pre-disaster risk assessment.
- Multi-faceted of whole government approach.

# Session Four

## Disaster Relief – Experience Sharing

### Welcome by Instigator



**Prof. Dr. Haslinda binti Abdullah**  
Senior Lecturer,  
National Defence University Malaysia  
NDUM

Prof Dr.Haslinda opened the penultimate session of the conference by introducing the three speakers slated to present and their respective areas of interest. The first speaker, Mr Klaus Buchmüller spoke on the THW and its experiences in conducting disaster relief operations. Moving on to the second speaker, Mr Medi Herlianto shared Indonesia's experience in managing the fallout of three recent major natural disasters. Finally, Prof Haslinda introduced Mr Edgar L Posadas who shared the function and responsibility of the Philippines' Office of Civil Defence and National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, among others.

### German Federal Agency for Technical Relief – THW



**Mr Klaus Buchmüller**  
Head of International Division, Federal  
Agency for Technical Relief THW  
Germany

Mr Klaus Buchmüller started his session by introducing the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) in Germany. It is a government organisation which consists mainly of volunteers and the presentation was to cover the international operations which the THW has been involved in the past. Some notable examples of which include several operations led by the UN and bilateral efforts within the EU.



The THW was given the mandate to support local and national disaster relief as well as international operations on behalf of the German federal government. It is composed of a pool of various specialists such as engineers, rescue specialists, water source specialists, and all personnel are sent for international training with the EU and the UN. The THW puts this training to good use, by training others in water purification, engineering, heavy USAR, capacity building, flood rescue with boats, logistics support, logistics centres, ICT/Admin, high capacity pumping as well as CBRN detection.

The speaker talked about some missions that the THW has engaged in as well as projects with EU member countries and some middle-eastern countries as well. The latest project that THW is involved in is called the TaFF, which stands for Tackling Flash Flood. This is a project that involves 28 member states or partner states of the EU and is focused on creating SOPs for civil defence agencies and the public on how to prepare and react to flash floods as well as the operational matters in dealing with the disaster.



## Disaster Relief – Experience Sharing: Indonesia



**Mr Medi Herlianto**

Director of Emergency Restoration,  
National Disaster Management  
Authority BNPB

Mr Medi Herlianto began his speech by mentioning the three major disasters which struck Indonesia recently, which were in Lombok, Palu and Sunda Straits in 2018 and the horrifying impact each disaster left in their wake. He mentioned that despite the frequencies in natural disasters, some lessons were not heeded which led to the less than stellar management of the subsequent challenges. Adding to that, there is also the failure of geo-risk governance and the transfer failure of scientific knowledge into policy and planning.



The speaker then talked about the importance of the Indonesian military's contribution in disaster management. As stated in Law Number 34 Year 2004 for the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), disaster management as an operation other than war. The legislation states that the military's role in disaster management includes, and is not limited to, data and information sharing, equipment support and territorial monitoring. He also mentioned about the Indonesian Emergency Management System that they activate whenever a disaster occurs, which is divided into the city level, province level and the national level responses.



Mr Medi concluded by stating that the way forward for Indonesia is to strengthen regional response capacity through preparedness activities, strengthening military forces, as well as establishing partnerships in building resilience and communities-based response.



## Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in The Philippines: Beyond Response Our Road to Resilience



**Mr Edgar L Posadas**

Director III, Office of Civil  
Defense Philippines

Mr Edgar L Posadas stated that the Philippines have experienced several disasters and catastrophes, and they are third in the world in terms of risk to disasters, based on the World Risk Index Report in 2018. He went on to state his aim for the session that is to share their experiences and the way forward in disaster response.



The speaker stated that despite the location and situation of the Philippines, it is imperative for the country to proactively look for ways to address these recurring events. The paradigm shift that is “hazards-focused to vulnerability paradigm” influenced the crafting of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) in the Philippines with the enactment of Republic Act (RA) 10121 in 2010. The law called for the strengthening of the country’s DRRM system and to provide a comprehensive DRRM framework and plan. Prior to the enactment of RA10121, the disaster management in the country was administered by the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC), which then was heavily anchored on response actions.

Through the RA 10121, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) was created, replacing the then NDCC, and granted it with the overall policy-making, coordination, supervision, monitoring and evaluation functions focusing on DRRM.

## Republic Act 10121

From  
REACTIVE  
to  
PROACTIVE



Photo credit: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

To bring down the DRRM to the grassroots, RA 10121 further provides for the establishment of the “DRRM Network”, or the replication of the NDRRMC from the national down to the regional, provincial, city, municipal and barangay levels. A barangay is the smallest administrative division in the Philippines.

The law also stipulates for the development of the NDRRM Framework, which was approved in June 2011. From the original framework that provides for four equal shares based on the four thematic areas, eventually, our goal is for a framework that is heavy on prevention and mitigation, which is key to a more effective and proactive DRRM which will lessen reliance on the very costly response mechanism.

He quoted Typhoon Haiyan as the most powerful tropical cyclone in history and a total cost of damages reaching up to almost 90 billion pesos, while the losses amounted to almost 43 billion pesos, per the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report.

A total of PhP1.2 Billion worth of relief assistance was provided to the affected regions. Furthermore, personnel, vehicles, sea crafts, aircrafts and other assets from national, local and foreign agencies, responders and volunteer organizations were prepositioned and deployed to

various strategic areas to facilitate response and medical operations.

The NDRRMC, civic organizations, private institutions, international community, and other government partners together facilitated and provided immediate response and relief to the affected population, which included the formation of Task Force Yolanda, Task Force Food and Water Distribution, among others.

One of the main reasons for the loss of lives during Typhoon Yolanda was that people were not well-informed of the situation and unaware of the potential impact of the typhoon.

They have learned the crucial part of giving accurate, timely, relevant, and understandable warnings to the public, and at the same time enabling the public to put the information into action. Mr Edgar continued, stating that in 2014, a year after Typhoon Haiyan, another super typhoon, called Hagupit, hit the country. Learning from the importance of “warnings resulting to actions,” the NDRRMC issued specific warnings regarding its potential impacts, such as the notification to the public of possible occurrence of storm surge in areas where the typhoon is expected to pass. When Super Typhoon Hagupit exited the country, 1.4 million people were evacuated and relocated to the evacuation centers, resulting in only 18 deaths despite over 3 million individuals living within the affected areas.

With the need for effective early warning system in place, RA 10639, an act mandating private telecommunications companies to send free mobile alerts in times of disasters, was enacted and approved in 2014. This Early Alert Warning Messages (EAWMs) strategy was further enhanced making it area-focused, hazard-specific, and time-bound, making sure that everybody who needs to be informed will receive accurate and timely notifications from the NDRRMC.

The speaker then mentioned a few lessons learned from past disasters. Civil-Military coordination during typhoon Yolanda was considered one of the better examples of disaster response operations on a widescale event. As a reference for learning, the coordination between the civilian and military aid workers should continue and be enhanced to ensure the optimal civilian use of defense assets available on the ground.

## Recent HADR Activities



Photo credit: National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

The Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC) should always be poised to process and manage potential surges of incoming foreign military assets. Clear and consistent requirements from the responders on the ground as well as their counterparts in their respective operations centers should provide the MNCC the identified needs that the military could provide. The response operations during typhoon Yolanda demonstrated that the optimal use of defense assets is best coordinated through the MNCC.

Also a significant improvement is the institutionalisation of the Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA). PDRA is a process to evaluate a hazard's level of risk given the degree of exposure and vulnerability in a specific area. It presents the possible impacts to the populace and form as a basis to determine the appropriate level of response actions from the national level government agencies down to the local government units. The PDRA is hazard-specific, timebound, and area-focused.

The private sector's assistance during typhoon Yolanda allowed for a "quicker, bigger, and more effective" humanitarian response. This is also applicable for CSOs, NGOs, academe, and faith-based organizations that were already on the ground during operations. When closely coordinated with the government, the private sector multiplies a nation's surge capacity to meet the life-saving needs of the affected population.

As a testament to the changing and emerging role of the country, the NDRRMC spearheaded the two (2) Philippine Humanitarian Missions to Sulawesi, Indonesia. The PH mission teams travelled to Palu and Balikpapan, Indonesia both in October 2018 to turn over the assistance to the ASEAN Coordinating Assistance Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and Indonesian National Disaster Management Authority.

## Recent HADR Activities

### Central Sulawesi Earthquake

October 2018



Infographic:  
The AHA  
Centre

*Infographic: The AHA Centre*

Mr Edgar continued with talking about the long-term actions in disaster response. One of their priorities is to sustain the community-based DRRM trainings. When a disaster strikes, the government's intervention takes time, thus, people should be equipped and their capacities developed to cope with the effects of disasters. The Philippines government also adopted mainstreaming of DRRM-Climate Change Adaptation in all levels from the national down to the barangay.

Another emphasis is given to building back stronger and more disaster resilient infrastructure. Infrastructure such as evacuation centres should be disaster-proof. Damaged structures in the Philippines are now being rebuilt or retrofitted to be able to withstand large-scale, high-impact disasters. An NHA-design was approved by the NDRRMC in 2018 as a standard evacuation centre design.

Risk financing, disaster risk insurance and other forms of risk-transfer strategies is also one of the programs being given importance right now in the Philippines. It is considered to be an effective tool in addressing the effects of calamities and lessen the burden on the government especially in financing post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery programs. This will allow the government to focus more on other vital and tangible needs of the affected population.

The speaker went on stating that they are improving in the emergency preparedness and response through synchronizing existing national capabilities to create new surge capacities. The DRRM policies, plans and programs are continuously innovated and enhanced in acknowledgement of the fact that natural and man-made disasters are increasing in terms of scope, magnitude, frequency and complexities.

He concluded by stating that since hazards are unstoppable, they will continue to incessantly attain a safer, adaptive, and disaster-resilient Philippines that is geared towards a sustainable development.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Questions

**Q1. Vice Admiral Dato' Ganesh Navaratnam**

Dato' Ganesh asked Mr Medi about the measures taken in addressing the lessons not learned from the frequent natural disasters in Indonesia.

**Q2. Dr Azwan from Malaysia**

Dr Azwan directed the question to Mr Medi regarding the earth quake and tsunami incidences in Palu that caused a huge loss, but is still considered as a national disaster. He then asked the type of guidance used to determine whether certain disasters require international assistance.



He added, that when a disaster occurs, the central government will respond in support of the local government, but they will not hesitate to accept international assistance if it is offered, as they did in Palu.

**Q1. Dr Ayurah Salih**

Dr Asyurah asked about any extra regional collaboration that AHA has been involved with.



**Q2. Dr Hoang Oanh**

Dr Hoang asked Mr Arnel Capili on the causes of ASEAN member countries' reluctance in seeking AHA's assistance in managing disasters.

### Answers

**A1. Mr Medi Herlianto**

Mr Medi stated that natural disasters are unavoidable in Indonesia. After the Lombok and Palu incidents, Indonesia realised the need for 'permanent preparedness'. He voiced out his personal opinion on the question by stating that it is a challenge for Indonesia to enhance their risk governance capacity because they are not allocated with sufficient financial support from the national government.

**A2. Mr Medi Herlianto**

Mr Medi reiterated his statement in the presentation that there is no national disaster in Indonesia except in Aceh in 2004. However, there are some basic criteria set by BNPB in distinguishing the two levels, and they are as follows:

- a. Number of missing people.
- b. Number of infrastructure losses.
- c. Whenever local government is incapable to handle the disaster.

### Answers

**A1. Mr Arnel Capili**

Mr Arnel stated that AHA has been actively involved with other humanitarian agencies. He quoted several visits from The African Union and the South Asia Regional Cooperation to learn about the ASEAN experience in dealing with disasters and looking into setting up their own respective AHA centres.

**A2. Mr Arnel Capili**

Mr Arnel declared that it is possible that some member countries are unaware of the available ASEAN mechanisms and tools since they directly deal with the NDMOs.

This gap has to be addressed through close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since there are a lot of advantages or added value that they could gain by using the ASEAN mechanism in disaster management.



# 5



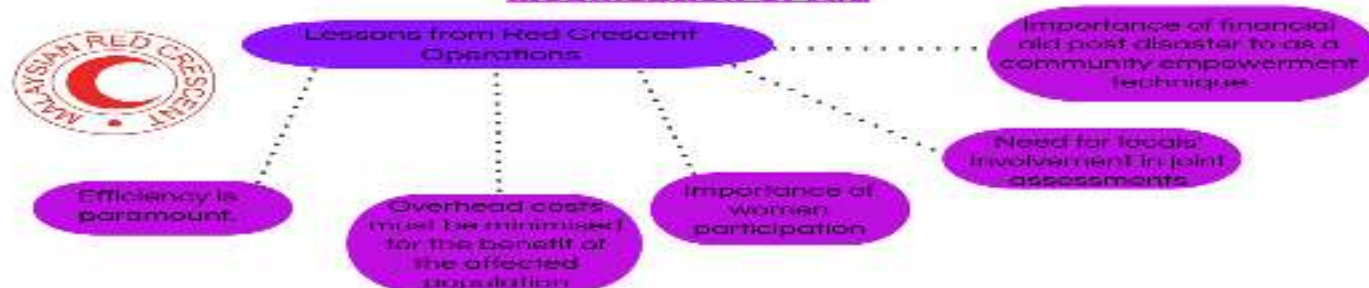
## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE REGION?



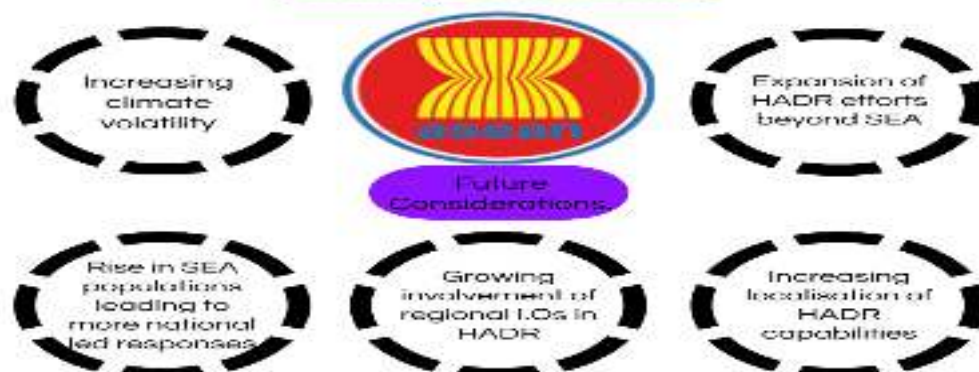
### The Union Civil Protection Mechanism: EU Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Assistance



### Empowering Communities in HADR and Mobilisation of Aid



### ASEAN 2025 Vision on HADR and Its Impact on Regional Defence and Security Communities



### ASEAN Regional Approach to HADR

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AHA CENTRE



- Investing more in disaster risk reduction, raising resistance and resilience.
- Providing tailored support programs for each member state.
- Greater engagement between ASEAN orgs with vulnerable groups.

- Utilizing the advantages of technology in HADR

- Greater coordination issue between militaries and mil-civil.
- Ensuring greater financial sustainability of HADR funding.
- Encouraging partnerships: external countries, international organizations, civil society, private sector, diasporas.
- Ensuring extra-regional engagements effective, timely, and cognizant of regional realities.

# Session Five

## What's Next For The Region?

### Welcome by Instigator



**Ms Aishah binti Amin**

Regional Cooperation Coordinator,  
International Committee of  
Red Cross ICRC Malaysia

Recapping some of the topics covered by previous sessions, Ms Aishah proceeded to open the final session of the conference by inviting both attendees and speakers to ponder the future direction for HADR in the region. She then introduced the speakers who will be speaking on topics relevant to the central theme of the session. First, was Mr Klaus Buchmüller who spoke on the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism. Second, was Dr Selva Jothi, who shared his ideas on the importance of community engagement in HADR initiatives, past and future. They were then followed by Mr Arnel Capule, who presented on ASEAN's 2025 HADR Vision and Dr Hoang Onh who elaborated on the ASEAN approach to HADR.

### The Union Civil Protection Mechanism: EU Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Assistance



**Mr Klaus Buchmüller**

Head of International Division,  
Federal Agency for Technical  
Relief THW Germany

[Audio](#)

Mr Klaus Buchmüller started his session by stating that his presentation would be similar to the AHA presentation the day before, in which he would explain about The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) as a similar mechanism within the EU. He continued by stating that in the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), there are two complementary tools that are also applied by the UCPM and they are as follows:

#### 1. Humanitarian Aid.

It is a shared competence as stated in Article 4 of the TFEU: EU and EU countries are able to legislate and adopt legally binding acts. EU countries exercise their own competence where the EU does not exercise, or has decided not to

exercise, its own competence.

#### 2. Civil Protection.

This is a supporting competence as stated in Article 6 of the TFEU: the EU can only intervene to support, coordinate or complement the action of EU countries. Legally binding EU acts must not require the harmonisation of EU countries' laws or regulations.

He went on stating that the UCPM supports Participating States during the whole disaster management cycle (response, preparedness and prevention), specifically with regards to:

#### A comprehensive support during the whole Disaster Management Cycle



#### 1. Response.

a. The key role of the ERCC is the coordination of assistance and the deployment of modules, teams and relief items;

#### 2. Preparedness /prevention.

a. Over 100 offered response capacities from 23 Participating States are pre-committed to a "European Civil Protection Pool"

b. 1 000 European Civil Protection experts are being trained every year;

c. 3-5 large exercises a year are co-financed and organise;

d. Modular system, including CP Modules exercises and training for response capacities;

e. Advisory missions; as well as

#### f. Scientific analysis and expert support

The UCPM prevention and preparedness are done mostly via trainings and exercises and the prevention and preparedness projects. Response is coordinated by the ERCC and includes EUCPTs, modules and experts, capacities from the ECPP, and in the future, rescEU capacities. Responses can include the use of Copernicus Emergency Management Service as well as scientific analysis (European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership, ENHSP-ARISTOTLE) and expert support. The available scientific support can also include ECDC, DG SANTE, DG JRC, etc. Basically from the UCPM, the responses are co-financed in terms of expenses for operation and transport.

He also mentioned about The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) main functions:





community to recover after a disaster is cash. In any recovery process, instead of bringing relief contribution from overseas, a very good alternative is for donors to transfer cash to the community, just as what the international Red Crescent Society is currently adopting. This will help to increase the economy and the localisation of mobility of goods. He suggested that donors bear trust in the local community they are assisting, otherwise they can exercise pilot small scale donation and observe how they use it to recover. This is an empowering technique and assists them in building their capacity to survive in disasters.

The speaker quoted a project in a disaster-prone area in Ulu Terengganu, Malaysia. The team developed a three-year program there, in terms of disaster preparedness, response and logistics assistance. The community were given boats and trained how to handle them whilst the local government were inserted into the program by looking into the maintenance of the boats. It is working well so far that the Red Crescent do not have to physically be there to assist the community for two years consecutively.

Another important point mentioned by the speaker was the need for a joint need assessment. In any assessment, the locals have to be integrated in. This as mentioned by the speaker is also a form of cultural awareness and respect for local culture. He urged the local administrators and local NGOs to interact with the community to penetrate the inner circle of the community and get their support.

He also highlighted the importance of getting women to participate in the integration process as women are seen to possess tact and gracefulness that any community can associate with and bring about a lot of progress. The speaker then talked about the challenges the Red Crescent are dealing with. Firstly, he mentioned about lack of flexibility in donation or funding. Next, he talked about the limitation in the overhead costs for the locals. Thirdly is the funding competition between assisting parties, without looking into the needs of the local community. Lastly, he mentioned about influence of an efficient system that will render effective response by engaging the locals.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of engaging and empowering the local community so that they can have long term disaster resilience.

## ASEAN 2025 Vision on HADR and Its Impact on Regional Defence and Security Communities



### Mr Arnel Capule Capili

Deputy Executive Director, ASEAN  
Coordinating Centre for  
Humanitarian Assistance on  
Disaster Management AHA Centre

Mr Arnel presented his five points for the Future for ASEAN, and they are as follows:

1. As member states are growing in population, so is their capacity to respond to disasters. Thus, in the future, he foresees that more national-led responses will take place. The principle of subsidiarity is applied as well as giving the member states the empowerment to make decisions and to sustain in the longer term.
2. The effects of climate emergencies are going to be the next agenda for ASEAN responses. This is to be anticipated as the climate emergencies will cause more movement of the population and more conflicts.
3. Next is the change of paradigm for the ASEAN. The region has been the recipient of assistance for so long, and it is emerging to extend its collective assistance outside the region.
4. More regional organisations are involved in humanitarian assistance as regional responses are more acceptable to member states as we share the same value and understanding. Additionally, this can help to avoid more logistical burden to the affected states in managing a vast collection of international assistance.
5. Last but not least, ASEAN member states are looking into localisation. This is to improve member states capabilities by building the in-country capacity to respond to disasters. In a way, they are empowering the existing resources in the country so that the disaster can be dealt with more effectively and more efficiently.



## ASEAN Regional Approach to HADR



**Dr Hoang Oanh**

Research Fellow  
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Dr Hoang Oanh talked about the ASEAN collective efforts on HADR. The efforts have met the need of member states and the whole region by applying the “ASEAN Way” approach. She highlighted that the AADMER and AHA Centre are relatively successful in performing their legal roles as part of the ASEAN community building effort.



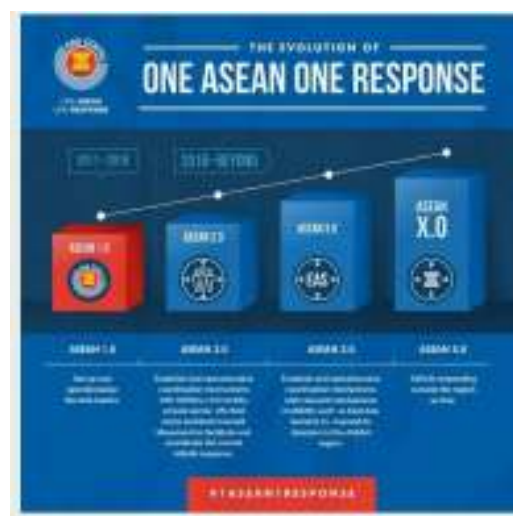
The speaker talked about the role of AHA Centre in its responses to disasters in the region, and they are as follows:

1. Responds to requests from states that seek assistance in disasters without precluding states from approaching Assisting Entities directly.
2. Functions as a data management, analysis, and co-ordinating centre for disaster risk, and facilitates joint emergency response.
3. Tasked with co-ordinating technical co-operation and facilitating research and may be called on to facilitate processing of personnel, equipment, facilities, and materials for assistance in disaster response.
4. Facilitates coordination between the affected government and external actors

However, she mentioned that there are certain gaps that still remain unfilled. For example, at the operational level, its role in relief efforts was limited to basic information-sharing functions, without substantial logistics and funds. Many aspects of AHA's operation still rely on the contribution and cooperation of individual member states,

which is acceptable for self-sustained countries, but some member states need more assistance. There is also a lack of clarity in guidance, especially military coordination that impedes consistent and coherent operational responses', leading to ad hoc responses which renders it to be underused as states prefer to receive offers from external players or bilaterally-channelled aid, such as in Haiyan typhoon, Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami.

At the strategic level, the AADMER/AHA narrowly focuses on natural disaster and the “One ASEAN One Response” mandate is extended out of the region instead of to other types of disaster within ASEAN. It also prioritizes ex-post response, leaving disaster risk reduction and resilience building for member states. The absence of specific reference to vulnerable groups such as women and children; is also another unaddressed gap mentioned by Dr Hoang.



She continued by stating that there are new challenges that will make it difficult for AHA to achieve its ambitions. The first is climate change that leads to unprecedented natural disasters in terms of frequency and intensity. There is also the scenario of multiple, simultaneous emergencies due to a combination of multiple causes such as disasters induced by a mix of human and natural causes; natural disasters transforming into complex humanitarian crises (public health, extensive violence, massive displacement of people; etc.) particularly within the context of pre-existing armed conflict and political instability; and natural disasters triggering technological disasters. The unresolved man-made crisis also poses a challenge in this sense.

The speaker then voiced her recommendations for AHA disaster management, and they are as follows:

1. Investing more in disaster risk reduction, raising resistance and resilience by providing tailored support programs for each member state.
2. Increasing the inclusiveness for vulnerable groups (women, children, displaced communities, immigrants, etc.) need to get more attention by

engaging with ASEAN institutions such as AICHR, ACWC in the AHA Centre activities.

3. Address the coordination issue between militaries and mil-civil.
4. Ensuring greater financial sustainability of HADR funding.
5. Encouraging partnerships: external countries, international organizations, NGOs, civil society, private sector diasporas.
6. Ensuring extra-regional engagements effective, timely, and cognizant of regional realities.
7. Utilizing the advantages of technology in HADR.

The speaker concluded by inciting the audience to think about considering humanitarian assistance in non-natural disasters and conflict scenarios.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Questions**

**Q1. Lt Col Safri from Royal Malaysian Air Force Headquarters** Lt Col Safri asked how the THW that is mostly made of volunteers coordinate with NGOS and military in the perspective of the EU and German government.

**Q2. Mr Hisham Rusli from MiDAS**

Mr Hisham asked Mr Arnel on the authority that decides when external assistance is needed by member states; the party that determines that the member states

have done everything in their capacity but there ought to be more assistance needed.

### **Answers**

**A1. Mr Klaus Buchmüller**

Mr Klaus stated that the volunteers are organised in 68 local stations where they are based, and those are the places where they get the basic training as well as gain trust of the local community. It has been well organised for over 16 years, so they are quite localised in their responses and they are closely linked to the local population and authorities. He stated that this is a whole coordinated approach.

**A2. Mr Arnel Capili**

Mr Arnel stated that it happened before in Myanmar when the country was reluctant to accept international assistance until ASEAN paved the way, then other international actors came in to support. The assistance will still be offered, but the member state should be at the forefront leading the response and ASEAN at the back, augmenting and supporting the capacity of the response.

He then thanked Vice Admiral Dato' Ganesh Navaratnam, Chief Executive MiDAS for his team in supporting the event, also to the Ministry of Defence, the German guest with their THW model on HADR which were able to attend even the event on such short notice. Thanks were also expressed to the German embassy who were also able to attend the event with their newly arrived Defence Attache and his deputy. Lastly, he thanked all the participants and other guests for their support and participation in this conference.

# CLOSING REMARK

## Closing Remarks

### Wolfgang Hruschka

Country Director Malaysia Office  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung KAS



In his concluding remarks, Mr Hruschka hopes that a publication collecting the presentations and opinions shared during the conference could be made available online to allow easier access for the participants. He expressed his gratitude to the MiDAS organising team, the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Minister as well as the attendees whose excellent participation in the conference brought about an intense exchange of ideas and thoughts. He also extended his thanks to the German embassy which sent its newly arrived defence attaches to attend the conference and the other two German representatives, especially the gentleman from the THW, who he believed brought a unique perspective due to the quasi voluntary nature of the organisation.

He hopes that MiDAS and KAS will continue their cooperation in the future, maintaining the Konrad Adenauer Foundation tradition of facilitating discourse and building connections between people from various disciplines.



# Photos from the Conference

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# NOTES