

Concept Note

Leadership meeting of National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies of Southeast Asia region.

Dialogue and Learning Session 2024

ASEAN - IFRC – National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (NSs) of Southeast Asia Region

4th of September 2024, Bali, Indonesia

Background and Rationale

On 25 May 2022, ASEAN and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) signed the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Strengthening of Community Resilience in Southeast Asia**, which outlined the scope and main areas of cooperation between ASEAN and IFRC on matters of mutual interest in supporting the strengthening of community resilience at regional, national and local levels in the ASEAN region.

The MOU lists areas of collaboration related to disaster management, disaster risk reduction, disaster law, health in emergencies, disaster relief and emergency response, gender, youth, and climate change. Investments in these critical areas will provide structural foundations in buttressing the ASEAN region against new, emerging and long-term disaster risks. The MoU also highlighted that ASEAN and IFRC *would endeavor to convene joint consultations once a year to evaluate the activities agreed by both Participants and explore ways to further and deepen cooperation in the future.*

Since the signing of the MoU in 2022, ASEAN institutions, Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (NSs), and IFRC have actively collaborated in the fields of disaster preparedness, response, youth and volunteer initiatives, trainings, and joint mapping exercises, all in accordance with the provisions of the signed MoU and respective role/mandates of NSs within their countries.

On 22 September 2023, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN (SG), attended and delivered keynote speech at the 20th Southeast Asia (SEA) Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting, in Phnom Penh. SG Dr. Kao highlighted the important role of the IFRC in disaster management in the ASEAN region, elaborated on ASEAN's efforts in strengthening community resilience in the implementation of the MoU, and encouraged the IFRC and the National Societies in the region to work collaboratively with ASEAN in disaster management.

Objectives, Proposed Concept of Event and Participants

The event is proposed to be divided into two main parts, which includes dialogue and knowledge sharing/learning session.

Part 1. The Dialogue session

1. The dialogue session aims to provide a venue for dialogue between the IFRC, NSs of SEA Region, and ASEAN to:
 - a. Explore and evaluate activities, ways, priorities, and collaborative opportunities (including funding opportunities) to strengthen the partnership in the future;
 - b. Stipulate directions for implementation of the MoU
2. The discussions during dialogue session can be brought as input to outcomes of SEA RCRC Leaders Meeting to build momentum and commitment/implementing strategy for partnership with ASEAN.
3. Proposed Participants:
 - a. ASEAN
 - i. Chair or Vice-Chair, ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (to be confirmed with ASEAN Secretariat)
 - ii. Secretary General of ASEAN or Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN
 - iii. Executive Director of AHA Centre
 - iv. Director and team of The Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA)
 - v. ASEAN Education, Youth and Sports Division.
 - vi. Other Divisions of ASEAN Secretariat as relevant for discussion
 - b. Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors of ASEAN based in Jakarta.
 - c. Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies and IFRC Secretariat
 - i. Presidents/Secretary Generals of National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies of SEA Region.
 - ii. IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Director
 - iii. IFRC Head of Country Clusters Delegations/IFRC representative to ASEAN

Part 2. Learning and sharing session:

1. The learning and sharing session aims to provide a venue for learning and knowledge sharing with a wider audience based on past and current collaborations, as well as an analysis of needs and trends/forecasts for disaster preparedness and response, and the roles of volunteers. It is intended to provide inputs related to the progress of collaborations, priorities for the next year, and other relevant recommendations.
2. Participants and speakers will receive "Discussion Briefs" prior to the event to guide the discussion.
3. Proposed approach, is focused presentations followed by panel discussions and roundtable discussions.
4. Proposed Participants:
 - a. ASEAN
 - i. ASEAN Secretariat
 - ii. AHA Centre
 - iii. ACDM representative (to be confirmed).
 - b. Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies and IFRC Secretariat
 - i. Leadership of Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies of SEA Region
 - ii. IFRC APRO (Regional Director and/or representative)
 - iii. Representative of SEA RCRC Youth network
 - iv. IFRC Heads of Country Cluster Delegations/Representative to ASEAN
 - v. Technical file holders from Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies (as per requirement of the session) and IFRC
 - c. Invitees from international organizations, government institutions, academia, practitioners, or other relevant organisations.

Time and Place

The event is proposed to be held on 4 September 2024 in Bali, Indonesia, as part of Leadership meeting of National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies of Southeast Asia region.

Agenda (enclosed)