

# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting

5-6 September 2024

## Session 5 Overview

<b>Session Title</b>	
Report on the engagement between ASEAN with SEA RCRC Leaders	
Presenter(s) and National Society(s)	Chair(s) and National Society(s)
Benjamin William Secretary General/CEO Singapore Red Cross	Viet Nam Red Cross

Key Objectives of the Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Summarizes the outcomes of the discussions with ACDM, ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and ASEAN member States on 4<sup>th</sup> September.</li><li>Discuss priorities for the next year emerging from the discussions.</li></ul>

## Background and Current Issues - *Key Insights & Contextual Factors*

### Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Signed in May 2022, the MOU between IFRC and ASEAN emphasizes disaster management, disaster risk reduction, health in emergencies, gender, youth, and climate change. This agreement aligns with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its work programmes, aiming to bolster regional, national, and local disaster resilience ([IFRC, 2022](#)).

A specific session was held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, responding to the commitment to host an annual regional dialogue with ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and ASEAN member States on the implementation of the MoU. The Dialogue was comprised of four topics:

- Strengthening collaboration in disaster management in the ASEAN region,
- Learning from response to disasters in SEA region: Enhancing Preparedness and Response to Heightened Risks of Climate Change.
- Learnings from Youth Exchange initiatives and role of Volunteering, and
- Engaging with Ambassadors to ASEAN

This session will summarise the outcomes from the discussions on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and include reflections from all SEA societies, IFRC and ICRC and agree on next steps in the engagement with ASEAN.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the ongoing exchange of support and participation of events with AHA Centre on emergency response and preparedness related to ASEAN ERAT, ASEAN ASCEND, ACE LEDMP Programme, the following initiatives have been undertaken since the start of the MoU in support of stronger engagement:

- In August, 2023- PMI/IFRC organized the first online consultation call with leadership of SEA NSs with focus on cooperation with ASEAN. Side meeting discussing ASEAN engagement during the 2023 SEA RCRC Leaders Meeting in Cambodia, led by PMI SG was organized by PMI and IFRC
- ASEAN Secretary General attended the 2023 SEA RCRC Leaders Meeting in Cambodia, and joined the dedicated ASEAN – IFRC – SEA NSs dialogue session, resulted in the Phnom Penh Statement points related to ASEAN
- The ASEAN ERAT (Emergency Response and Assessment Team) is a rapidly deployable response team to support the affected ASEAN Member States (AMS) during major sudden and slow on-set disasters. IFRC contributed to the ASEA-ERAT through providing resource persons/facilitators in trainings/simulations. Last 3 events of which IFRC contributed were in Da Nang (Vietnam) in February 2023, Bogor (Indonesia) in May 2023, Pattaya (Thailand) in October 2023. Representative from Vietnam RC contributed as facilitator during the event in Vietnam.
- The ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) is an initiative of the AMS that provides regionally recognized competency standards and a certification process for disaster management professionals across ASEAN. IFRC contributed to the initiative by providing resource persons in trainings and simulations, and development of standards and certification assessment. Last 3 events were in Bogor (Indonesia) in November 2022, Cebu (Philippines) in August 2023, and Penang (Malaysia) in February 2024.
- ACE LEDMP (AHA Centre Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management for ASEAN Programme) Executive Level: training programme for professionals from AMS in disaster management. IFRC and ICRC joined to provide a 2 days RCRC Movement Induction Course as part of the programme in October 2023. IFRC CCD

Jakarta HoD was invited to provide lectures on the topic “humanitarian leadership during emergency situations”. Representative from Philippine Red Cross and Indonesian Red Cross also contributed to the event in person, and shared about the profile, mandates and activities of the NSs. IFRC and ICRC also joined to provide a 2 hours on session on IHL and IDRL in ACE LEDMP Middle Manager Level, January 2024 .

- AHA Centre invited the IFRC for the 4th ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) Workshop in Jakarta, 16 – 17 November 2023. The event was then attended by leadership of 4 NSs (PMI, Brunei Darussalam RC, Singapore RC, and Myanmar RC), IFRC APRO (Health, Disaster, Climate and Crises Regional Head) and IFRC CCD Jakarta.
- ASEAN Volunteers Exchange Program related to CBDRM (Community-Based Disaster Risk Management). The project was initiated by ASEC Education, Youth and Sports Division, aims to foster the spirit of a caring and sharing community among the youth of ASEAN through volunteering activities. The activity is supported by 3 NSs: PMI, the Philippines RC and the Brunei Darussalam RC. On 27<sup>th</sup> of March, The IFRC Representative to ASEAN, and the representatives of NSs attended closing event in Jakarta and delivered presentations with experiences from Exchange Programme Implementation. 27 March 2024.
- AHA Centre launched the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of ARMOR (ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review) on 14 March 2024 in Surabaya. ARMOR is AHA Centre’s publication consisting of articles and papers with contributors coming from humanitarian agencies. IFRC’s Regional Anticipatory Action Coordinator contributed to this 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by submitting an article on Anticipatory Action. The Article is co-written with colleagues from FAO Asia Pacific, World Vision South Asia and Pacific, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, UN Women, WFP and Plan International Asia Pacific. IFRC (AP Regional Director and CCD Jakarta HoD) attended online.
- Colleagues from AHA Centre attended IFRC’s AP Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action, November 2022 in Bangkok and May 2023 in Kathmandu. DMHA ASEC attended the event in Bangkok online.
- The launch of Disaster Law and PHE Mapping Research Report in the next ACDM Meeting in Brunei Darussalam took place in May 2024. The Disaster Law and PHE Mapping Report has been launched and available on the following link: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ASEAN-Disaster-Law-and-Public-Health-Emergencies-Mapping-and-Guidelines.pdf>

- In May, 2024, IFRC Representative to ASEAN and SG of Brunei Darussalam RC attended ACDM meeting in Brunei Darussalam, and delivered Power Point Presentation on IFRC-SEA NSs- ASEAN engagement and planned consultations in Bali.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, Secretary General/CEO of Singapore RC and IFRC Representative to ASEAN are confirmed to attend ASEAN SPDDM meeting in Singapore, including panel discussions.