

21st Annual Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting

5-6 September 2024


Session 7 Overview

Session Title Recovery – Memory of Tsunami 2004	
Presenter	Chair
(Mr/Mrs/Ms xxxxx) Indonesia Red Cross	Khun Tej Bunnag Secretary General Thai Red Cross Society

Key Objectives of the Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remembering the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the loss of life and the unprecedented relief and recovery operations• Reflect on lessons learnt from the tsunami operation, coordination of international humanitarian assistance and improvements in approaches to disaster response and preparedness• Discuss strengthening NS cooperation in SEA in response to large scale disasters

Background and Current Issues

The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was an unprecedented event. Never before had such a massive emergency response been launched after a natural disaster, requiring complex international coordination of assistance. To date it is still the IFRC's largest disaster response and recovery operation. Since the tsunami, there have been numerous disasters where lessons learnt from the tsunami operation have been put into practice and shaped the way communities, local and international organisations prepare, respond and recover from complex, protracted and climate-induced crises. The lessons from the tsunami operation also led to the development of the IFRC's disaster law program and guidance for states on International Disaster Response law (IDRL), which has also resulted in many states revising or adopting stronger legal frameworks for disaster management.



Within the ASEAN region, a review of learnings from DREF Operations and Emergency Appeals concluded that focus is still needed on international coordination of humanitarian assistance, building trust within communities, locally-led approaches, volunteer management as well as integrating technology into humanitarian assistance. The Hanoi Call for Action also reflects the renewed commitment from Asia Pacific societies to focus on coordinated international assistance, protection and safety of volunteers as well as enhancing locally-led action under Seville 2.0.

This session will include remembrance to those that lost their lives during the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. It will include a focus on Indonesia Red Cross's response and recovery operation as well as lessons learnt and lead to a broader discussion on preparedness for response to large scale crises in SEA. The discussions on lessons learnt during the session with ASEAN on 4th September will also give good background to this session on ongoing challenges to disaster response operations in SEA.