WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Policy Report
March 2017

Edited by
Alistair D. B. Cook

RSiS
Nanyang Technological University
S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), held a policy discussion on the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) - Implications for the Asia-Pacific in Jakarta on Monday 14 November 2016. The policy discussion brought together some 40 experts, all attending in their personal capacities. The policy discussion focused on the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, frameworks for action, stakeholder engagement and strategic priorities. The event was part of the Commemoration to Life: Journey of Partnership and Progress – Fifth anniversary of the AHA Centre in Jakarta. The key findings of the discussion include:

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process was successful in bringing together a wide-range of state and non-state actors and served as a starting point for reforming the global humanitarian system. The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management consolidates the humanitarian assistance and disaster management components of the ASEAN Vision 2025 for the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC). The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management and subsequent five-year work plan demonstrates the commitment of ASEAN to implementing WHS Core Responsibilities and advancing the Agenda for Humanity in a tangible way at the ASEAN level. It also recognises the changing landscape since the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) was signed, notably the establishment of the AHA Centre and the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response.

Despite these achievements, challenges remain to the achievement of these goals by 2025 in the Asia-Pacific, particularly in the ASEAN context. Some participants articulated that there was a need to further broaden the conversation within the regional body. The AADMER Partnership Group (APG) was identified as an avenue to do this by expanding its membership at the regional level. It was also recognised that many local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were unlikely to travel regionally to attend meetings. It was suggested that APG accelerate the creation of national level chapters to facilitate the broadening of the conversation at the country level and for national chapters to feed into the regional policy-making processes to voice the concerns and ideas of more local NGOs. The second significant area of discussion was on the mandate, capacity and resources of the AHA Centre. Some participants questioned whether the AHA Centre should be an all-hazard centre beyond natural disasters by 2025. While some considered that this was possible, this is subject to the mandate given by the ASEAN countries, and the capacity and resources of the AHA

Centre. It was also articulated that this would be a regional first within the global system and one avenue to increase regional ownership of humanitarian assistance and disaster management.

However, one caution was raised by identifying the importance of project evaluation to ensure projects reach those at risk. It was then suggested that a strategic approach is needed to ensure the implementation of a people-centred approach and that it contributes to reducing by 50% the number of disaster-related deaths in the region by 2025. One of the important steps to achieving this would be to appreciate the coping mechanisms at the community level. When assessments are made on vulnerabilities, risk and resilience it is important to recognise underlying tensions and fragilities in communities. Through the integration of a protection lens like the IASC All Disaster Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) and drawing on ICRC definitions, a more comprehensive and effective response is achievable. It was also noted that there is a need for AHA Centre in its operations to communicate with local actors the commitment recognised in AADMER and international law to protect affected populations.

One participant raised that if ASEAN responds outside of its own region to proximate regions like South Asia and Central Asia there is a need to consider the humanitarian needs in conflict scenarios. The participant indicated contingency planning for complex humanitarian emergencies and a protection lens would need to be considered as part of the operations. There was general discussion on whether to bridge natural disasters and conflicts. One participant warned against bridging the wall between the two. Another participant pointed out the complexity of situations in field. However, it was recognised that the AHA Centre response to disasters outside the region can capitalise on individual member state disaster response experiences in the Pacific.

Another issue that was discussed was the future of the humanitarian system and its dependence on the sum of its parts within the region. The importance of supply chain management on the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance was identified. It was recognised that there is a substantial amount of supply chain knowledge both within countries and across the region. It was argued that there was a need to further leverage this knowledge within the humanitarian space as academia, private sector and humanitarian communities have not interacted as much as they should to share knowledge. The identification of locations for Humanitarian Response Depots, ensuring adequate coordination at the national and sub-national levels is in place, the need to train the trainers, and the importance of hand-over of joint operations were identified as priorities. It was argued that the experiences from Indonesia in this need to be shared with partners to facilitate the establishment of effective supply chain systems for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief across the region. Some participants noted that educational institutions, foundations, think tanks

and policy research organisations/institutions have yet to reach their potential particularly in Southeast Asia.

Participants concluded the meeting by suggesting policy topics to move the region forward. Suggestions included the bringing together of the APSC, AEC and ASCC under the relevant mechanisms to bridge the three ASEAN Communities on humanitarian assistance on disaster management and learning from the experiences at the technical level of the Joint Task Force on HADR that consists of ACDM (disaster management), SOMHD (health), SOM (political), SOMSWD (social welfare) and ADSOM (defence/military); strategies to build strong national level capacity; sharing the experiences of those engaged in peace operations with those readily deployed for disaster relief; fully explore mechanisms under the APSC to promote peace building, early warning, conflict resolution, and human rights; further embed partnerships of research, private sector and NGO communities with AHA Centre; develop data-collection and data-sharing network among research community in ASEAN; identify commonalities between local and global responses; and assess the feasibility of regional risk pooling mechanisms for managing disasters. All these suggestions were made cognizant that the relevant capacity, resources and mandate are determined by ASEAN Member States.

By examining the strengths, challenges and future of the humanitarian system in the Asia-Pacific, this volume offers insights from scholars and practitioners into the debate on reforming the humanitarian system developed at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and the implications for the region.

UNDERSTANDING GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ASEAN HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS

Jonatan A. Lassa

The World Humanitarian Summit 2016 called for more comprehensive humanitarian reform. Importantly, the third core responsibility identified in the outcome document is to "honour our commitment to leave no one behind which requires reaching everyone in situations of conflict, disaster, vulnerability and risk". This suggests that the execution of a universal humanitarian imperative should not discriminate against any type of hazard, disaster or crisis. Humanitarian action has often been trapped in reactive humanitarianism – a form of systematic humanitarian action and intervention that is often made ex-post disasters. The global commitment for a more proactive humanitarianism is best represented by the successful endorsement of the Sendai Framework for Action (SFA) 2015 where countries were again pushed to invest in disaster risk reduction (DRR). To some degree it also calls for the creation of an alternative model of anticipatory humanitarianism that seriously invests in pre-disaster arrangements to mitigate future losses while continuing to improve existing disaster response and preparedness. Some observers have already highlighted that Southeast Asia has emerged as one of the most populated humanitarian communities in the world. This begs the following questions:

1. What does humanitarian reform mean in the context of Southeast Asian regionalism?
2. Who should lead humanitarian reform and DRR reform in ASEAN?
3. Can ASEAN play a role in humanitarian reform in ASEAN? If yes, how can ASEAN humanitarianism take shape in the next decade?

There are at least three paradigms that currently dominate the debate on what an alternative model of humanitarian reform needs to look like in the context of ASEAN over the next decade. First, a more idealist view suggests that ASEAN as an institution as well as a community needs to firstly get the principles and the mandates right. This suggests *principles and mandates before resources*. It requires ASEAN to able to scale up and scale out the present pathways of ASEAN humanitarian intervention as demonstrated by the AHA Centre and ACDM. This view suggests a humanitarian vision where ASEAN needs to take some revolutionary or utopian steps, as identified in the Real Utopias Project, to leave no one behind regardless what future crises hold.

Second, a more realist perspective suggests that *once resources get fixed, the mandates can be adjusted*. This view suggests that the most fundamental problem of ASEAN in exercising its humanitarian imperatives is more about resources and financial capacity. Once its logistical hurdle is fixed, ASEAN's humanitarian imperative can be scaled up and scaled out beyond a natural disasters only

response. Therefore, this camp often has taken an un-problematising approach to the implementation of AADMER over the last 5 years. Rather than asking what is missing from ASEAN's humanitarian landscape, those who support this paradigm often take stock of what has been achieved by ASEAN. In this sense, much has been said about the relative success of the AHA Centre as an 'implementing machine' of AADMER.

While these paradigms have their strengths and weaknesses, they need contextual examination. Therefore, I offer the third paradigm from a critical realist perspective. It does not try to entertain both previous camps; rather it provides a more critical view of both camps while also doing justice to both realist and idealist perspectives. The successes of the AHA Centre or the AADMER must be seen in the context of its limited endogenous resources, the existence of competing priorities of its member states, the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre. Some successful mechanisms such as the emergency rice reserve take shape in the form of an ASEAN+ approach (e.g. AAPTER mechanism). While cognizant that regional mechanisms do not always work consistently, one should note AADMER's present success is an extension of the success of ASEAN regional governance as we have witnessed in other rather endogenous mechanisms such as the ASEAN Transboundary Haze Agreement. The first five year anniversary of the AHA Centre has however largely focused on institutional, logistical as well as the infrastructural setup in Southeast Asia. Finally, gaps still remain unfilled and much remains to be achieved in the future.

Currently, there is a need for systematic documentation of regional humanitarian systems in Southeast Asia. The rest of this policy paper answers the earlier questions, which are both practical and existential in nature. However, hopefully these questions inspire a more systematic study of humanitarianism in Southeast Asia. At present, AADMER targets are very much more a shopping list of activity-based targets rather than outcomes-oriented targets. Outcome-based targets of the AHA Centre or AADMER need to be focused on the real-loss reduction of human life and assets in ASEAN. In this case, AADMER's machines (AHA Centre and the ACDM) can play bigger roles to facilitate the AADMER Ministerial Meeting to set a target on disaster mortality reduction and economic loss reduction at the regional, national and local DRR strategy level. If the AHA Centre has 5 years to prepare itself to play a bigger role in DRR and resilience building, how well-placed is the AHA Centre to implement these tasks from 2020 onwards? The AHA Centre will need to adopt an all-hazard approach in its implementation because the AADMER already recognises this approach.

The AADMER understood "disaster risk" as an outcome of "interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions." Besides, AADMER's Work Programmes (2010-2015 and 2015 and beyond) adopted the spirit of the Hyogo Framework (2005-2015) and the Sendai Framework (SFDRR)

2015-2030. These frameworks also promote an all-hazard approach. The AADMER even recalled agreements such as the Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (2002), the Agreement for the Facilitation of Search for Aircrafts in Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Aircraft Accidents (1972), the Agreement for the Facilitation of Search of Ships in Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Ship Accidents (1975), Agreement on the ASEAN Food Security Reserve (1979), the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005). Therefore, humanitarian reform requires ASEAN to take an all-hazard approach beyond the more 'peaceful' approach to humanitarian crisis and disaster emergencies arising solely from natural hazards. Table 1 illustrates the fact or a perceived fact that de-facto, the AHA Centre does not take an inclusive approach to all types of hazards.

ASEAN must invest more in DRR. Unfortunately, the most dominant discourse and validated by the spending allocation of ASEAN intervention is still largely ex-post response. Grounded on the evidence of financial spending and annual agendas, DRR is still a step child in AHA-Centre. In the AHA Centre Annual Report 2015 it states that "For the AHA Centre, our first priority is providing emergency response at the regional level. Disaster Risk Reduction can be done internally by each ASEAN member state." I therefore believe that the AHA Centre can take a more balanced approach for ex-ante and ex-post disaster management intervention.

Some of the questions that need attention include:

- What are ASEAN imperatives for disaster risk reduction for increased resiliency of women, children and senior citizens amongst other vulnerable group?
- Should the future financial spending of the AHA Centre follow the terrain of disaster risks and vulnerabilities or should it follow its present business model?

Table 1 - Mandates of Institutions Operating in SEA

	All-hazards approach	All-natural hazards approach	Conflict & civil war
United Nations	X	X	X
AADMER/AHA		X	
NDMOs	X		
CSOs	X		
Dialogue partners		X	

Figure 1 a. Variation in DRM Capacity of ASEAN Member States

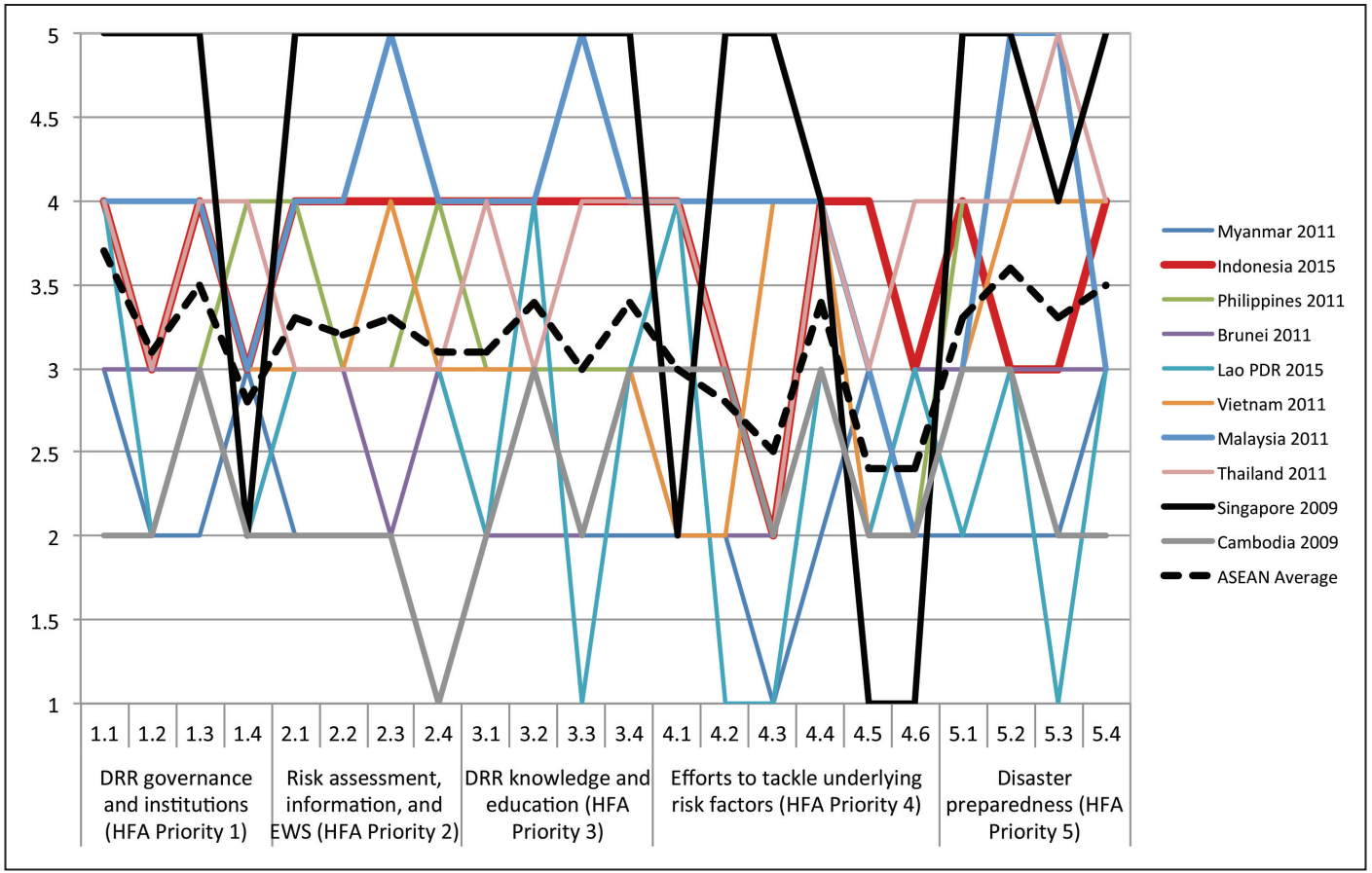
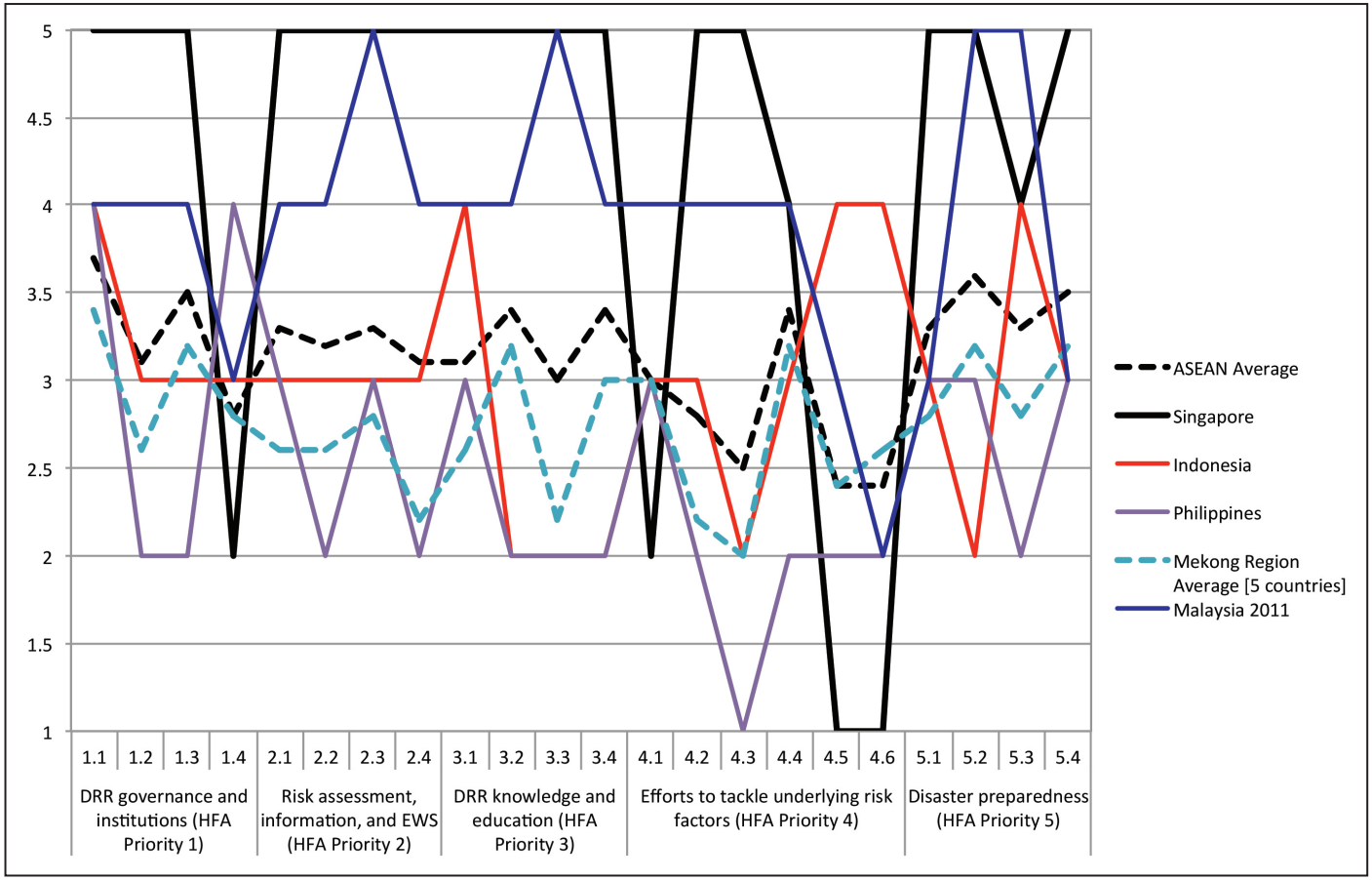


Figure 1 b. Selected Variation in DRM Capacity of ASEAN Member States



The AHA Centre can join hands with the UN, CSOs and the AHA Centre's dialogue partners to build a stronger commitment to resilience in more vulnerable states in the ASEAN-Mekong region (See Figure 1b) to develop a country-level strategy that sets the target for 2030, which would be informed by the baseline of loss and damage from 2005 to 2015.

Integration of ASEAN disaster management goals with global goals. AADMER can catalyse processes that promote the integration of SFDRR, Climate Change Agreements (CCAs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, national and local levels. Therefore, the ASEAN HADR system needs to realign with the multiple global goals emanating from SDGs, World Humanitarian Summit, Habitat III, Sendai Framework and Post Paris Agreement as well as relevant international frameworks such as Loss and Damage Assessment as stipulated by UNFCCC COP 2013. Fortunately, the AHA Centre has been mandated to bring added value to member states on strategic disaster management components such as pre-disaster management measures: Risk Assessment, Early Warning and Monitoring; And Prevention and Mitigation; as well as Post-disaster management measures namely Preparedness and Response; and Recovery. The question is how to operationalize such a streamlining of multiple global and regional goals?

Despite no formal government request for ASEAN humanitarian aid since Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar 2008, the establishment of the AHA Centre continues to successfully respond to recent 'natural' disasters in ASEAN. This trend will continue to pave several pathways including building mutual trust that has gradually formed through several joint simulation exercises such as the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) and Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) training. The ARDEX-16 was recently used to test the One ASEAN, One Response (OAOR) Strategy in Brunei and was an example in trust-building between ASEAN member states. However, the ASEAN-centric approach often limits the opportunity of non-state actors to participate and can also make OAOR rhetorical. So, we should begin to honestly discuss the terms of One ASEAN, One Response that emanates from the ASEAN Declaration on ONE ASEAN, ONE RESPONSE: "ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in The Region and Outside The Region inspired by one vision, one identity and one community."

There is a spirit of expansionism that could allow the AHA Centre to respond to disasters outside the ASEAN region with good reason as evidenced in the One ASEAN One Response Declaration. Such a spirit can be justified by universal humanitarian principles but this begs questions why such an extension of mandate does not occur for human-made disasters such as conflicts or civil war (e.g. the Rohingya crisis) and large scale emergencies (e.g. transboundary haze) within ASEAN? And can such an extension and expansionist spirit be

bending towards DRR and conflict-related humanitarian crisis? Inclusiveness can overall be more efficient. However, what kind of OAOR business model could be adopted by ASEAN? How can present and future ASEAN DRM systems promote the role of volunteers? How can we create a business model of OAOR that can promote disaster voluntarism which can probably breed and emerge as praxis for imagined communities of ASEAN?

Present OAOR can be viewed as a system dominated by the perception from state-centric responders and not from the people at risk. A solid imagination of ASEAN communities needs to build on efforts to form horizontal solidarity among ASEAN citizens – in that when one group or community in ASEAN gets affected by a calamity, other groups are bound by a shared humanitarian imperative to response to end or reduce the suffering of affected others. The state-centric approach to the risk reduction and adaptation agenda alone are often subject to political dynamics. This requires not only CSOs as mandated in AADMER and other business actors who may have the influence to create legitimate support, but also people especially volunteers' mobilisation. Furthermore, as an 'ASEAN citizen,' I question the formation of solidarity of ASEAN people. Should it be that when one gets hurt, others must help? Yes, under the spirit of humanitarianism and humanity but is this administratively possible to be formally carried out when it comes to cases like the Rohingya crisis?

I would argue that ASEAN has recently adopted a more asymmetric humanitarianism. One can question why the AHA Centre responded to natural hazard driven disasters but not to other humanitarian crisis? Is this because natural hazards are seen as more neutral and voluntary? At a deeper level, one can ask how universal is ASEAN's humanitarian values, mandates and imperative? I would argue that ASEAN's asymmetric humanitarianism *is the most criticised area and a source of confusion for most stakeholders*. ASEAN seems to be risk-averse and play-it-safe when it comes to the way it exercises its humanitarian response by limiting itself only to natural hazards and very reluctantly to human-made displacements, conflict, civil war and violence. One could argue that ASEAN faces a crisis of legitimacy when it comes to non-natural hazards. This could be arising from the existential gaps that appear in the mandates of ASEAN.

The good news is that the greater legitimacy of AADMER can be seen. At the national planning level, hazard-prone countries such as the Philippines have been complying with AADMER. For example, The Philippine Disaster Preparedness Plan 2015-2028 clearly mentions that it intends to "regularly inform the AHA Centre of its available resources for the regional standby arrangements meant to address disaster relief and emergency response". Such a positive tone has been shaped by the recent positive engagement with the AHA-Center during the 2013 and 2014 super typhoons Haiyan and Hagupit.

ASEAN faces a number of tasks to reduce the rate of regional disaster mortality, the number of affected populations and the consistent trend in per capita economic loss as stipulated by the Sendai Framework. Under all scenarios, the ASEAN Humanitarian and Disaster Management gaps will prevail: Financial resource gaps; human resource gaps; institutional gaps (e.g. potential delays in DRR/CCA institutionalisation); response gaps (lack of sound protocol for humanitarian crisis, struggled to be people-centric system), and so forth. There are several scenarios that offer potential solutions to consider. The first is an ideal solution where ASEAN can reach a more symmetric approach to humanitarian reform as well as DRR reform within the regional grouping. Unfortunately, this scenario will not likely occur in the near future. Predictions suggest that the future of ASEAN HADR/DRR will continue to diverge. Therefore, unfortunately, there is no first-best solution.

The second-best solution to the current challenges to HADR in ASEAN is the prevailing humanitarian asymmetry. Its humanitarian approach has been largely shaped by its constant avoidance of dealing with hard and difficult issues, such as humanitarian crisis resulting from displacement, discrimination, violence and human rights violations in member states. This assumes that ASEAN will likely to be able to take a non-indifference approach but it is likely that the non-interventionist approach will prevail. This will continue to be the case given the dominance of the "ASEAN Way" of non-interference in the domestic affairs of member states and consensus-building decision-making. In my view, the "ASEAN Way" has emerged as a discourse that allows a *business as usual* approach within the regional humanitarian system. Therefore the implementation of the humanitarian reform agenda in Southeast Asia cannot be governed by regionalism but rather needs to be governed by multilateralism or, at least, co-governed by both systems. This is partly due to the UN still having greater capacity to play a role beyond natural hazard-driven humanitarian crises.

Finally, the third-best potential option is that the AHA Centre and AADMER continue with the current trends. This assumes that the added value of the AHA Centre largely builds on the existing gaps within member states, especially those in the Lower Mekong sub-region. The difficulty is that the way it responds to risks in ASEAN will remain status quo. It is essential to consider the multiple options and potential pathways forward to engage in a full systematic review of humanitarian assistance at the national, regional, and multilateral levels and the potential for co-governance across these platforms.

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DECISION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCATION SELECTION AND DISASTER RELIEF NETWORK DESIGN – A PILOT STUDY ON INDONESIA

G. Timperio, G. B. Panchal, R. de Souza, I. Figgins, and D. Adriaens

Disasters have the potential of disrupting the nodes and arcs of a supply chain. Such disruptions might delay relief operations and affect the survival rate in affected zones. A prepositioned network of emergency response facilities would be highly beneficial in terms of agility in emergency supplies mobilization, and the “location” of the nodes heavily affects the performances of humanitarian operations.

From 2004 – 2013, Asia witnessed one of the most incidents of reported disasters and the highest reported number of victims, with causalities estimated at 66% of worldwide figures. Factors such as climate change, political and social instabilities and rapid urbanization of disaster prone cities are expected to further increase the number and scale of humanitarian crises.

From the supply chain standpoint, disasters can potentially disrupt the nodes (distribution centres) and arcs (logistics infrastructure) of a supply chain.

Therefore, the location of distribution centres directly affects disaster response performances. Particularly, an established prepositioned network would enhance the agility in emergency supplies mobilization through a smoother last mile domestic distribution (e.g. no custom clearance, no delays due to congestion of international entry points for relief goods) with the added benefit of supporting local economies.

Located on the edges of several tectonic plates, Indonesia is one of the most seismically active countries in the world. Furthermore, much of this activity is offshore bringing about a significant added risk of tsunamis. Recurring small-medium scale natural disasters are compounded by a high risk of less frequent but very large-scale natural disasters necessitating system-wide (‘Level 3’) international humanitarian response. Moreover, Indonesia’s size (5.200km from east to west), large number of islands (18.000), and size of exposed population, bring about ample operational challenges for humanitarian logisticians.

Also, national disaster response capabilities are further limited by inadequate and vulnerable transport infrastructures (supply chain arcs), and lack of facilities to store humanitarian cargo (supply chain nodes). As the latter is particularly critical for the performance of relief operations, we look at pre-positioning relief supplies in strategic locations across Indonesia to improve national disaster response capabilities and the research question (RQ) is formulated as

RQ: How to identify the most appropriate locations for establishing an efficient network of emergency response facilities in Indonesia?

In order to select the locations for the nodes of the Indonesian National network of emergency response facilities, a novel approach that integrates Geographic Information System (GIS) and Multi-Criteria decision making techniques (i.e. fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Process) has been designed. The modelling exercise encompasses the following five main steps:

1. Identification of potential candidate cities (network nodes), using advanced spatial analysis (GIS) and inputs from local supply chain experts;
2. Definition of a comprehensive set of location criteria for site selection, using relevant literature and inputs from local supply chain experts;
3. Determination of criteria weightage (score) that measure the relative importance of each criterion as compared to others, using cross-comparison of location criteria and f-AHP;
4. Determination of scores that reflect the value of a location's expected performance on the criteria, using GIS;
5. Definition of network configuration, using cross-comparison of candidates and score of location criteria.

For this pilot case, a comprehensive set of eight criteria for site selection have been defined, and 39 local supply chain experts have contributed in the formulation of the model. Inputs were collected through ad-hoc workshops and surveys.

Results show that decisions related with selection of sites for the Indonesian network of emergency response facilities are mainly driven by four of the eight criteria. Locations need to guarantee high accessibility to disaster prone areas (lead time), low exposure to disaster events, high population coverage, and high accessibility to infrastructure. Findings highlight that the combination of the scores (weights) for these four criteria affects the 77.15% of the decision making process.

With regards to scores that reflect the value of a location's expected performance on the criteria, candidates are clustered in six groups according to their locations, and geographical analysis of quantitative data performed. Expected performances of candidates on the criteria provide an analysis of the alternative candidates in terms of overall appropriateness of the site, independently from the criteria weights. Finally, a combination of criteria weights (humanitarian logistics sphere) and alternative's expected performance on the criteria will determine the ranking of nodes.

The proposed approach provides a sophisticated decision support framework for location selection to government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies. Decision makers are to focus their efforts on strategic planning of relief operations, with the aim at enhancing supply chains resilience and robustness. For this, preposition of strategic stockpiles at key localities can be a good strategy to look at. Looking beyond the design of a network of Distribution Centres within the borders of a single country, the following questions are yet to be answered:

1. How will the impact of a major calamity on commercial service providers affect the effectiveness of humanitarian relief operations?
2. How can a national network of emergency response facilities be designed to respond beyond national boundaries?
3. How can a national network of emergency response facilities be designed to serve the business community during peaceful times?
4. Can shared capacity policies in the Pacific region be implemented?

These questions have risen from a grand set of many others that will be in turn addressed. Work is currently underway. However collaboration from leading institutions of the humanitarian community in ASEAN region such as UN OCHA and AHA Centre are warmly welcomed. This would elevate the strategic impact of this study, which ultimately aims to reinforce the architecture of the humanitarian response through a well-coordinated framework within which all humanitarian stakeholders can significantly contribute.

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CIVILIAN PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTER PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Cecilia Jacob

When natural disasters hit regions affected by armed conflict or political instability, the protection needs of populations are exacerbated by pre-existing vulnerabilities that reduce resilience to cope with the impact of disaster and the potential for human rights violations in the post-disaster recovery phase. Examples of specific protection needs that may occur in such contexts include physical vulnerability to the elements and renewed displacement of populations already displaced by conflict and living in displacement camps as was the case in Sri Lanka during the 2004 Tsunami and the Philippines during the 2008 Typhoon, denied or restricted access to humanitarian workers to deliver assistance as seen in the aftermath of the 2008 Cyclone in Myanmar, or the forcible recruitment of children displaced by natural disasters into armed forces, which is seen by the AISC as the foremost protection consideration in disaster-hit conflict zones.

The prospect that natural disasters may transform into complex humanitarian crises (extensive violence and loss of life, massive displacement of people; widespread damage; need for large-scale, multi-faceted humanitarian assistance, hindrance of prevention of humanitarian assistance, security risks for humanitarian workers as defined by the UN) is significantly increased in the context of pre-existing armed conflict and political instability given the compounded effect of intersecting political and humanitarian crises to which states may be ill-equipped to manage. Pre-existing tensions between populations, non-state armed groups, and national militaries further complicate efforts by national militaries to play a constructive role in emergency response and recovery.

> Preparing for coordinated humanitarian assistance in complex scenarios therefore requires **comprehensive strategies** for effective response, and must incorporate a **protection lens** to account for potential human rights violations in periods of heightened vulnerability and population displacement.

The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management has stated the goal of the organisation to become a global leader in disaster management and response, seeking to 'position ASEAN as a pioneer in transforming disaster management landscape in the Southeast Asian region and beyond…' There are a number of armed conflicts persisting in Southeast Asia and it is imperative that strategies for disaster preparedness, response and recovery incorporate contingency for the full-spectrum of protection needs that emerge when natural disasters strike. This is pertinent not only for its regional capability, but for its visions of

being ‘able to extend its expertise further afield by 2025’. Proximate regions such as South and Central Asia where ASEAN would most likely extend its humanitarian assistance, host numerous high intensity conflicts and areas of deep political instability. As a result, incorporating a comprehensive strategy, and building capacity to respond to complex humanitarian emergencies, is crucial to ASEAN’s vision of leading disaster management in both the immediate and longer-term period.

The UN reports that in the past decade, the size of the global population in need of international humanitarian assistance has trebled. Further, 80% of humanitarian crises responded to by the UN involve situations of armed conflict or complex humanitarian emergencies, and the number of armed conflicts world-wide has started to increase again following a declining trend in the early 2000s according to Erik Melander, Therése Pettersson and Lotta Themnér; in 2015 the number of global conflicts was at its highest levels since the immediate end of the Cold War.

Commensurate with these trends is the challenge of displacement. In 2016, the number of displaced persons worldwide surpassed 60 million, unprecedented since the end of WW2 according to the UNHCR. As of 2015, Southeast Asia hosts 847,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) alone according to the Norweigan Refugee Council. The UN has specifically called for a recognition of the evolving and increasingly complex humanitarian landscape in which natural disasters occur and has called on local, national, regional and international level actors to increase coordination, cooperation, and accountability in the development of comprehensive strategies to respond to these contexts.

Three implications emerge from these global trends for ASEAN:

1. The likelihood that natural disasters will create complex humanitarian disasters is increased due to the growing number of populations already affected by armed-conflict and displaced, and therefore face heightened vulnerability to the impact of natural disasters.
2. In order for ASEAN to achieve its objectives to create a leading model for regional humanitarian management and response, risk analysis and preparedness should include strategies to anticipate POC-related concerns that are:
    a. Internally focussed – there are a number of situations of concern ongoing in the Southeast Asian region that include armed conflict and political instability;
    b. Externally focussed –ASEAN humanitarian assistance capability outside the region is a strategic goal, AHA should develop capacity to anticipate the contingency of operating in conflict situations outside the region in line with this strategic goal.

3. In order for ASEAN to meet its international commitments to the United Nations and Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN) established in 2015, it needs to adopt a comprehensive approach to protection in alignment with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

A key take-home message from the 2015 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is that in the context of increasingly complex humanitarian crises, there is a need for humanitarian actors to develop comprehensive strategies for responding to the full range of sources of vulnerability. Armed conflict and political instability are among the most significant sources of vulnerability for populations. Indeed, political leadership to prevent and end conflicts was identified as the first priority in the WHS 'Agenda for Humanity' to strengthen the global response to humanitarian crises.

Aligning the outcomes of the WHS with the strategic vision of ASEAN Disaster Management entails not only a strengthening of the organisation's natural disaster response capability, but an enhancement of ASEANs conflict management capabilities in the region. Conflict management should focus on both prevention of armed conflicts, and resolution of existing conflicts where they occur. Activities such as coordinating conflict early warning systems, research/regional lessons learning, training/capacity building on conflict management, engagement in conflict resolution/mediation, and peacekeeping with a protection focus are areas of conflict management in which regional organisations such as ASEAN could invest in further to bolster efforts to build resilience and reduce vulnerability across the region. Incorporating a focus on conflict management would also require a stronger alignment with international law on the protection of civilians and developing clear civilian protection strategies for humanitarian crises onset by both manmade and natural causes.

The official definition of protection employed in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters is instructive for this objective:

> *The concept of protection encompasses all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. HR law, IHL, refugee law).*

According to international standards, any humanitarian assistance strategy needs to include a protection lens in the preparedness, relief and recovery phase that is centred on human rights and dignity. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has identified the following protection concerns related to the aftermath of natural disasters in the Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disaster, illustrating the range of human rights related protection concerns that need to be factored into planning in the recovery phase of relief assistance:

1. Lack of safety and security (e.g. rampant crime, secondary impacts of natural disasters, etc.);
2. Gender-based violence;
3. Unequal access to assistance, basic goods and services and discrimination in aid provision;
4. Abuse, neglect and exploitation of children;
5. Family separation, particularly for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other individuals who may rely on family support for their survival;
6. Loss/destruction of personal documentation and difficulties to replace it, in particular due to inadequate birth registration mechanisms;
7. Inadequate law enforcement mechanisms and restricted access to a fair and efficient justice system;
8. Lack of effective feedback and complaint mechanisms;
9. Unequal access to employment and livelihood opportunities;
10. Forced relocation;
11. Unsafe or involuntary return or resettlement of persons displaced by the disaster; or
12. Lack of property restitution and access to land.

In addition to these challenges in which human rights create the overarching basis for designing protection strategies, disaster response efforts in conflict-zones needs to uphold international humanitarian law, and in accordance with the international Protection Of Civilians (POC) framework documented by OCHA. Unique challenges that humanitarian actors may face in conflict situations include denied or restricted humanitarian access, the need to negotiate with non-state actors and parties to conflict that are non-compliant with international law.

Armed conflict and political instability increase the complexity of humanitarian assistance efforts in the wake of natural disasters. Furthermore, the upheaval of populations by natural disasters creates new forms of vulnerability and protection concerns. In order for ASEAN to prepare for the contingency of operating in complex environments, and ensure the longer-term protection of disaster-affected populations, it should integrate a protection lens into all its disaster preparedness, relief and recovery efforts. A protection lens should be founded on a human rights framework for identifying risk and vulnerability, and should incorporate POC strategies consistent with international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law when responding to crises in areas affected by armed conflict.

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PROMOTING AN ASEAN APPROACH TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Jessica Ear and Deon V. Canyon

Advancing ASEAN's regional and global leadership in disaster management and emergency response, as envisioned in the ASEAN's 2025 Vision for Disaster Management, is predicated on the organization's ability to be financially independent and reduce disaster mortality rates among vulnerable populations.

The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) encouraged the participation of a large number of people to foster open and productive dialogue in a massive information-sharing endeavor. It facilitated explicit and elevated, sector-wide, formal and informal policy discussion on humanitarian systems, structures and funding. However, its very existence implied recognition of dysfunction in the humanitarian system and it failed to adequately address systemic issues and focused on piecemeal technical solutions. For instance, there was a considerable focus on financial solutions during the summit, but only diluted reforms emerged after the negotiation process. Very little was developed that substantively addressed the humanitarian aid gap or the need for flexible multiyear financing and longer assistance timeframes.

The WHS promoted local ownership and leadership in humanitarian action, which are essential precursors to structural reform. ASEAN's member states experience more disasters than the rest of the world and bear the bulk of the financial response and recovery burden globally. Economic success in Asia has been accompanied by increased economies, urbanization and climate change, which have driven the costs of disasters upwards by US$4 billion per annum over the past decade. ASEAN has developed considerable experience with disaster preparedness and response over the past decade and for them, humanitarian aid should no longer be only about the UN and their donors. ASEAN should consider decreasing reliance on this highly centralized model in which local and national NGOs only receive 0.2% of OECD Development Assistance Committee aid funding while UN agencies receive the rest and thus are positioned to set the terms of engagement and international support.

What ASEAN needs from a global or regional humanitarian body is a decentralized and transparent approach to coordinating international responses, and managing the flow of funds from governments and the cloud. Such an agency would be able to end the divide between aid organizations and the security sector, which was caused by the UN-developed humanitarian principles to which the UN does not always adhere. The fifth focus of the World Humanitarian Summit framework, "Investing in humanity," is essential, but actions in this area do not go far enough to provide ASEAN what it needs. For ASEAN, financial independence

is an imperative for self-sufficiency. Advancing ASEAN's vision for "sustainable, predictable and flexible financing" can only be realized if complemented by a concrete plan of action specifically designed to cater for the ten member states.

Not all ASEAN countries are at the same level in terms of disaster preparedness and capacity to manage disasters. Rather than stepping in with a bureaucratic humanitarian model, centralizing all the funding, and projecting control where capacity is deemed insufficient, a global or regional ASEAN humanitarian agency would recognize the different states of disaster capacity and provide tailored support pre, during and post disaster. In this manner it would directly and proactively assist member nations in their transition towards higher capacity and resilience.

As a leader in disaster management and emergency response, ASEAN needs to be a strong advocate of the third WHS core responsibility: Leave no one behind. Mega disasters, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and the 2008 Cyclone Nargis, resulted in disproportionate female mortality that could have been mitigated if vulnerabilities associated with gender roles were better addressed during disaster risk planning. Women in the Asia-Pacific region are the largest component of socially and economically disadvantaged populations. During disasters, women are greatly impacted by access to and control of resources, such as education, livelihood, human and property rights, which are associated with vulnerability.

If ASEAN is to position itself as a regional or global leader in disaster management, it needs to reduce the disparities in economics, health and opportunity that are faced by women and other vulnerable populations. Guaranteeing access to resources and promoting the rights of women will greatly reduce the damaging effects of disasters on vulnerable populations and related mortality in Southeast Asia. ASEAN's commitment to ensuring the inclusion and participation of women in key decision-making positions in communities and at different levels of government will foster the emergence of high quality female leaders.

ASEAN's AHA Centre is well positioned to advance the ability of member states to address gender-based mortality as well as promote women and children as "change agents" through its disaster risk and response management approaches. By serving as a hub for gender disaggregated impact data, the AHA Centre can fill a key gap. Member states can then advance the WHS core priority of "Leave no one behind," as well as achieve the Sendai Framework target to reduce disaster mortality.

The World Humanitarian Summit, while imperfect in its outcomes, does provide some key areas for ASEAN and the AHA Centre to capitalize on and advance its 2025 Vision for Disaster Management. By anticipating the need to create

financial independence through concrete plans for new partnerships and innovative methodology for sustainable and self sufficient funding, ASEAN will be able to conduct humanitarian assistance in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN way. With increased resources however, comes greater responsibility to save lives and reduce suffering. ASEAN and the AHA Centre can best accomplish this mission by emphasizing and supporting gender sensitive disaster management among the member states through regional disaggregated data collection and sharing.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are witnessing within ASEAN, the evolution of a naturally evolving ecosystem of diverse actors that collectively represent and work for common humanitarian objectives. The need to work cooperatively is driving the call for reform globally and ASEAN must prioritize its member state needs and not allow international pressures to dominate or compromise its position. Actions taken now will influence how civil society, political entities, the humanitarian sector and the security sector work together in the years to come. A firm and carefully considered approach to the financial and inclusion aspects of disaster management will go a long way towards making ASEAN's vision of becoming a global leader in humanitarian assistance and emergency response a reality.

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The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND A MORE RESILIENT ASEAN: IMPERATIVES FOR A SEAMLESS COLLABORATION AMONG ASEAN'S THREE-PILLARED COMMUNITIES

Mely Caballero-Anthony

The ASEAN Vision 2025, adopted by ASEAN officials in 2015, had chartered out what the ASEAN Community should mean for the peoples of the region. Among the many visions outlined in the post-2015 'people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN' is one of a "resilient Community with enhanced capacity to continuously respond and adapt to current challenges and emerging threats."

The goal of being a resilient community amidst the constant onslaught of natural disasters in ASEAN is a tough challenge. As noted in many studies on disaster relief, the ASEAN region is highly vulnerable catastrophic disasters, particularly in light of extreme weather events brought on by climate change. From 1970-2010, Southeast Asia's annual average loss of life and damage due to natural disasters, both per capita and relative to land mass is a colossal $4.3 million per 1,000 square kilometers, or $4,285 per square kilometres (ADB, 2013). Among ASEAN member states, the Philippines and Indonesia lose more than USD 1 billion annually to natural disasters. From 2004-2014, more than half of the total global disaster mortality was in Southeast Asia, that is, 354,000 or the 700,000 total deaths in disasters worldwide. It is also estimated that about 191 million people have been displaced and rendered homeless (either temporarily or permanently) as a result of disasters, affecting a total of 193 million people. This meant that one in three to four people in the region had experienced different types of losses to property and life.

Against the multi-faceted impact of disasters on communities in ASEAN, there is a more compelling reason to examine how much more needs to be done to keep the peoples in the region safe, secure and resilient. While acknowledging the significant progress made by ASEAN in establishing regional mechanisms to deal with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), providing assistance comes in many forms and more often than not, requires the involvement and participation of a multiplicity of actors—from government officials in charge of disaster relief operations to non-state and private actors extending assistance and reaching out to affected communities to meet their needs. It should also be noted that the involvement of multiple actors is not confined to the period following the aftermath of the disaster but is required even before disaster strikes when communities need help in preparing for the onslaught and in the post-disaster phase when survivors start to rebuild their lives.

A quick review of ASEAN's work on HADR has shown that a wide spectrum of the HADR agenda is already being undertaken under the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). With the adoption of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (ADMEER) in 2005, a number of cooperation frameworks have been established within the APSC to bring together civilian agencies and military forces in HADR operations. Aside from the Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Response (HADR) Operations, the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) began in 2009. ASEAN member states have also been involved in the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX). Moreover, within the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM+, joint HADR activities have also formed part of their respective agendas.

Within the ASCC and building on the AADMER framework, the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Action for Disasters (AHA Centre) was established in 2011, and was followed by the establishment of the ASEAN Disaster Response and Monitoring System (ADRMS) in 2012 with the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT) as a core regional mechanism for disaster management and response. What needs to brought into the HADR work are the officials and relevant actors working within the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), where the role of the business and economic sectors working in tandem with the other actors in the APSC and ASCC can fill the gaps in areas such as logistics and distribution challenges, and providing services, among others.

To be sure, HADR operations go beyond providing immediate disaster rescue and relief operations. Particularly in cases of devastating disasters like the Aceh tsunami, Cyclone Nargis and Typhoon Haiyan, protection issues of vulnerable communities emerge which cannot be addressed solely by security actors like the military and police. The protection needs of women and children, the disabled and elderly are complex. Similarly, promotion and protecting the rights of displaced communities can be challenging, thus requiring the assistance and intervention of international humanitarian organisations and civil society groups including local faith based organisations. Humanitarian actors, including the military, need to be sensitized to the protection needs of different vulnerable communities. They should also be held responsible to the need to observe and abide by internationally accepted norms. In this regard, ASEAN institutions within the APSC such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) should be part of the conversation on HADR. Both institutions must be engaged in the work of the AHA Centre, participating in the discussion on how best to advance many of

the AHA Centre work plans that need to be implemented, and helping out in addressing issues that need to resolved particularly as they relate to political and security matters. Similarly, the business groups in ASEAN under the AEC must be engaged in helping to ensure business continuity in times of disasters and more importantly, in helping the rest of the communities build resilience in times of crises.

What is becoming clear to the region and to the rest of the world is that the humanitarian agenda has widened and has become much more complex. To be able handle the immensity of the challenge therefore requires multi-stakeholder participation and a multi-sectoral approach. The 3-pillared community of ASEAN which brings together the political-security, economic and socio-cultural officials and agencies provides a suitable framework for the multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to be advanced. Moving forward, the challenge is to be able to develop a seamless environment where all communities are engaged, and are working together with all relevant non-state actors to engender a robust regional response to disaster risks and security problems.

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DEVELOPING AN ASIA-PACIFIC STRATEGY FOR HADR

Alistair D. B. Cook

In 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit brought together key stakeholders to discuss the reform of the global humanitarian system. The outcome of the Summit was an Agenda for Humanity, which focuses on five core responsibilities – Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts; uphold the Norms That Safeguard Humanity; Leave No One Behind; Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid To Ending Need; and Invest In Humanity. The Asia-Pacific saw the launch of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management which set out a roadmap to develop capacity in the region on disaster management and humanitarian response over the next decade through three mutually-inclusive elements – Institutionalisation and Communications; Financing and Resource Mobilisation; and Partnerships and Innovations. Both the global 'Agenda for Humanity' and the 'ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management' reinforce the commitment of stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific to build a more resilient region. There are three policy themes which can generate significant reform and build a more self-sufficient and efficient humanitarian system. These three themes are frameworks; financing; and knowledge transfer.

In Southeast Asia, there have been several iterations of confidence-building measures over the course of the regional forum's history. These measures have evolved and include the development of Table Top Exercises (TTX) and Simulation Exercises (SIMEX). In the humanitarian arena, the region has witnessed the running of several TTX and SIMEX engaging stakeholders in a variety of bilateral and multilateral scenarios. As governments and communities become increasingly aware of conflicts and natural hazards in the region, some governments have also identified niche areas in which to drive the region forward in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) from the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Military Medicine in Thailand to the establishment of the Militaries Ready Group under the Malaysian ASEAN Chairmanship in 2016 and the Regional HADR Command-and-Control Centre in Singapore. Over the next decade it will be important to ensure the sustainability and comprehensive nature of those TTX, SIMEX and other HADR initiatives that deliver tangible benefits towards executing a more effective response. It would therefore be advisable to review these various measures within the first five year period to assess overlaps and duplication, and to consolidate the necessary TTX, SIMEX and other initiatives into a more cohesive catalogue of trust-building activities in HADR for the Asia-Pacific.

ASEAN was established in 1967 on core organising principles to facilitate regional cooperation. Over the past fifty years, the regional grouping has demonstrated resilience through the maintenance of these principles, and built trust between

member states not only within the regional organisation but as the organising principles for regional states and the international community. It provided a necessary bridge between the international community and Myanmar in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, but remains underutilised in providing a response mechanism to the violence in Rakhine State in recent years. While unpredictable and reliant on individual leadership it nonetheless remains an important method of engagement. However, there is nascent institutionalisation with the establishment of regional coordinating bodies highlighting a greater commitment to providing predictable HADR mechanisms. While there is a process in place for member states to request disaster relief, it remains underused as states prefer to receive offers of assistance from others. As such, conditions established within ASEAN which activate HADR have not yet been established and remains a constraint on HADR in the region. Over the next ten years, it will be important to establish ways in which to minimise this unpredictability through the establishment a baseline of conditions to activate HADR responses across the Asia-Pacific.

Once the mandate for a humanitarian response is established, it needs to be sufficiently funded to be effective. While the AHA Centre mandate and regional role is clear, it's formal funding from each member state remains at $30,000 per annum. As a result, financing the operational capacity of the AHA Centre needs to be sourced from other stakeholders, and the niches of relevant stakeholders and forums identified. It will therefore be imperative that strategies and mechanisms are developed to ensure greater sustainability of HADR funding to identify and deliver a needs-based agenda drawing on the comparative advantage of processes and deeper institutionalisation in the Asia-Pacific. There are multiple options outlined in the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, which can also offer opportunities to other geographic areas of the Asia-Pacific. One of the significant opportunities is to develop an agreed strategy within the first five years to engage the diaspora. Diaspora communities are known to engage more in their own communities than elsewhere while living abroad. This engagement includes volunteering in disaster-affected areas; as developers of new ideas; utilising their personal and business connections; and to transfer knowledge back to their home communities.

Alongside the development of a diaspora strategy for the Asia – Pacific over the next five years is the potential to further develop regional humanitarian financing mechanisms. In the aftermath of a disaster, one of the challenges faced is the availability of cash to fund basic necessities for the affected population. The establishment of the Pacific Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program builds on an initiative between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, with financial support from the Government of Japan and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The experience in the Pacific offers insight into the development of

a regional humanitarian financing mechanism, which can be applicable to other areas of the Asia – Pacific, like Southeast Asia.

Finally, Asia-Pacific states have the highest exposure to natural hazards and experience in humanitarian response to disasters. They also contribute to humanitarian operations in conflict settings with notable contributions from Fiji in the Pacific Islands to Indonesia in Southeast Asia. However, it remains unclear how successful states in the Asia-Pacific are in utilising their experiences in one context to contribute to another, particularly the development of institutional memory and transferable skills. As a result, it is important to identify ways in which to capture this knowledge to build on previous disaster experiences to identify lessons learnt to adapt and reform based on experience. Over the next five to ten years there are several avenues to advance an Asia-Pacific strategy to improve humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. It will take a combination of stakeholders and forums, and for different geographic areas to share their experiences to ensure the region becomes better prepared and more capable when disasters happen.

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ABOUT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMME

The **Asia Pacific** is the most disaster prone region of the world. Between 2004 and 2013, more than **40% of natural disasters** occurred in the Asia-Pacific region. In the last ten years, **80% of deaths due to disasters** happened in Asia and the Pacific (ADB). By 2025, seven of the world's top ten mega-cities will be in Asia. Rabid urbanization and **climate change have led to more frequent and recurring disasters** with greater impact. (McKinsey & Co.)

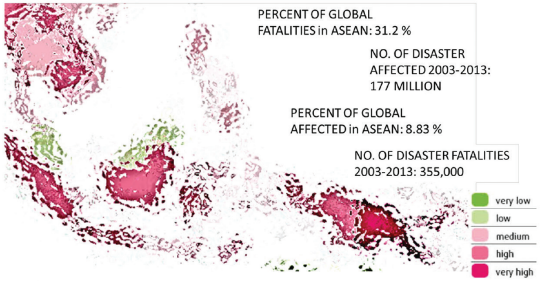
RSIS established the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme on 21 July 2015 to facilitate and enhance cooperation on preparedness and response strategies to the fragile and unpredictable situations we face in the Asia-Pacific.

Aside from comprehensively investigating regional emergency response frameworks, governance issues, disaster preparedness strategies and the identification and development of response niches for civilian and military actors, the programme also seeks to develop the next generation of global leaders in HADR through roundtable sessions, dialogues and workshops. **For more information, visit our website at http://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre.**

Foreign military forces assisted the Philippine government's relief efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Typhoon Haiyan killed at least 7,000 people and flattened many impoverished communities, triggering massive international humanitarian relief operations in the Philippines in 2013.

Natural Disasters: Humanitarian Response in ASEAN



Key Mechanisms:

- ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)
- ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)
- ASEAN Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises (ARDEX)
- Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT)
- Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Coordination Centre
- Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN

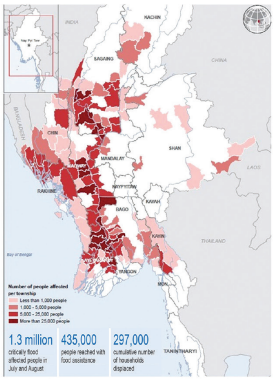


Figure 1. Number of people affected by recent flood in Myanmar
Source: www.unocha.org/myanmar

Myanmar Flood 2015

Heavy rains have caused floods and landslides in several parts of the country during the last two weeks of July. Cyclone Komen, that made landfall in Bangladesh on 30 July, has brought strong winds, heavy rains resulting in floods and landslides in several states and regions in Myanmar.

Photos of recent flood in Myanmar. The flood is regarded as one of the worst disasters in decades(Credit: www.channelnewsasia.com, www.flicker.com)

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES (NTS CENTRE)

The **Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)** conducts research and produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness, and building the capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in Asia. The centre addresses knowledge gaps, facilitates discussions and analyses, engages policymakers and contributes to building institutional capacity in the following areas: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; Food, Health and Energy Security; Climate Change, Resilience and Sustainable Development; and Peace and Human Security. The NTS Centre brings together myriad NTS stakeholders in regular workshops and roundtable discussions, as well as provides a networking platform for NTS research institutions in the Asia Pacific through the NTS-Asia Consortium.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (IDSS)

The **Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)** is a key research component of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). It focuses on defence and security research to serve national needs. IDSS faculty and research staff conducts both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific. IDSS is divided into three research clusters: (i) The Asia Pacific cluster – comprising the China, South Asia, United States, and Regional Security Architecture programmes; (ii) The Malay Archipelago cluster – comprising the Indonesia and Malaysia programmes; and (iii) The Military and Security cluster – comprising the Military Transformations, Maritime Security, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) programmes. Finally, the Military Studies Programme, the wing that provides

ABOUT THE S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. RSIS' mission is to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of security studies and international affairs. Its core functions are research, graduate education and networking. It produces cutting-edge research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Region Studies. RSIS' activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia Pacific.

For more information about RSIS, please visit **www.rsis.edu.sg**

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