



ASEAN COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (ACDM)

EXPERIENCES GAINED BY NEW PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

AND POSSIBLE MEANS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AT REGIONAL LEVEL



Thematic Session 5.2. Part 3: Humanitarian Preparedness
Ikuta Meeting Room, 19 January 2005, 12:00 – 14:00

by Puji Pujiono
Expert on Disaster Management
ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management

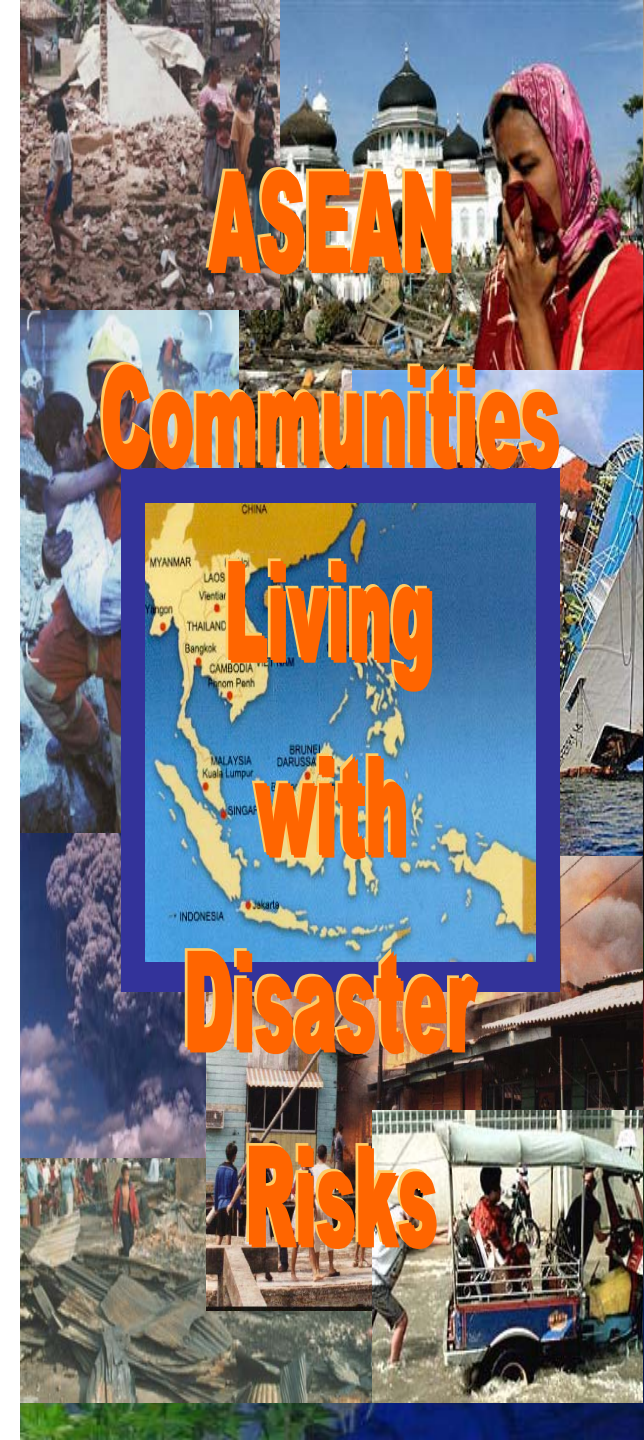
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- Mutual assistance in disasters is one of ASEAN's founding and prime principles for the last 4 decades

- State of the art of ACDM:

- created and sustained momentum in 03/04
- Launched and implement a regional programme
- Builds partnerships with key partners
- Drafted and mandated to formulate regional framework for DMER

- The recent Tsunami aftermath Summit in Jakarta strengthened ASEAN DM mandate and momentum (*Para 1-b: inter alia, to explore the establishment of "standby arrangements at the global level for immediate humanitarian relief"*)



Assessing the State of the art of

Preparedness

in ASEAN



Preparedness Elements

**Regular
Assessment**

**Early Warning
System**

**Information
Management**

**Response
Mechanism**

**Coordination
Management**

**Resource
Mobilisation**

**Emergency
Response Plan**

**Training and
Exercises**

**Int'l and Reg
linkages**



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1. Regular Assessment

1. No systematic and updated regional risk profile as basis for policy, programme and activities
2. Disaster risk surveillance and assessment are haphazardly and serendipitous
3. Need to organise **regular regional assessment missions**
4. Requires a **uniformed platform and parameters** to ensure useful outputs



2. Emergency Response Mechanism

1. Various existing bilateral and multilateral arrangements
2. Also separate specific arrangements
(SAR for aircraft & ship, Haze, Food security Reserve, etc.)
3. ACDM drafted and obtained mandate to formulate a **regional instrument on disaster management and emergency response**
4. This was affirmed by the declaration from the recent summit in Jakarta



3. Emergency Response Plan

1. ASEAN Response Action Plan is one of the priority components of the ARPDM
2. **Regional standard operating procedures** (e.g. committed resources, personnel and facilities) to be derived from the ASEAN regional instrument
3. Standby arrangements of sectors, countries, partners to be incorporated into **regional contingency plans**



4. Early Warning System

1. EWS has been and will continue to be the subject of discussions in this conference and beyond.
2. There are existing capacities, facilities and practices that when combined with the global enthusiasm, would propel ASEAN to move forward



5. Coordination Management

1. There is an established rotated leadership mechanism in ACDM
2. Programme coordination is based on 'lead shepherd country' concept
3. Lessons learnt from the recent disaster may broaden coordination constellation beyond ACDM



6. Information Management

1. ASEAN has launched the ASEAN Disaster Information and Communication Network (**ASEAN DiscNet**) in collaboration with the Pacific Disaster Center.
2. www.acdm.net network is operational for a year and continues to be developed
3. ASEAN Earthquake Information Center
4. Need for coherence and side-by-side with the development of early warning capacities



7. Resource Mobilisation

1. Resource is not a problem in large scale disaster
2. But 95% disasters are local and small scale
3. Challenge: how to mobilise resources before disaster
4. An ASEAN trust fund?
5. Partnership and resources mobilisation as regional programme component?



8. Training and Exercises

1. Plenty of trainings in ASEAN region but lacking coherence
2. ASEAN regional programme prioritises **refresher courses and expertise development**
3. Bilateral and multilateral exercises are conducted among Member Countries and partners
4. Some exercises to approximate UNDAC/INSARAG are scheduled in 2005
5. Exercises will correlate with ASEAN instrument



9. International & Regional Linkages

1. Existing initiatives and outfits within ASEAN need closer linkages
2. ISDR Asia Partnership promises linkages and networking
3. OCHA facilitates ASEAN link with INSARAG Asia and Pacific regional grouping
4. Challenge: how to bring linkages towards improved effectiveness



Recommendations

1. Learning from the recent tsunami, facilitate EXCHANGE of preparedness good practices among regional outfits
2. To assign a working group to draft a PRIMER containing basic elements and processes involved in Emergency Response Preparedness
3. To device and promote interagency CONTINGENCY PLANNING as a framework for preparedness at various levels



Conclusion

1. There are preparedness initiatives going on in the ASEAN region
2. There is an unprecedented momentum and there is a framework set forward by ASEAN
3. Challenge: to pull them together to improve the state of disaster preparedness at national and regional level in the ASEAN region.

