Expert Group Meeting on Regional Strategies towards Building Resilience to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific
26-28 October 2015, MR-H, UNCC, Bangkok
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of 10 countries with 600 million people. Every year, on average, the ASEAN region experiences losses related to natural disasters estimated at US$ 4.4 billion*

* Source: Advancing Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in ASEAN Countries, World Bank, GFDRR, ASEAN, and UNISDR
To reduce disaster losses and to jointly respond to disaster emergencies in the ASEAN region, ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed AADMER on 26 July 2005 and entered into force on 24 December 2009.
AADMER covers various aspects of disaster management and serves a common platform for disaster management and emergency response in ASEAN

- Disaster Risk Identification, Assessment & Monitoring
- Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
- Disaster Preparedness
- Emergency Response
- Rehabilitation
- Technical Cooperation & Scientific Research
- AHA Centre
AADMER outlines how ASEAN Member States can take actions in reducing disaster losses, for example in Risk Identification and Monitoring

1. Each of ASEAN Member States shall take appropriate measures to identify disaster risks in its respective territories in the following aspects:
   - Natural and human induced hazards
   - Risk Assessment
   - Monitoring of vulnerabilities
   - Disaster management capacities

The National Focal Point (NFP) of the ASEAN Member States to communicate the information to the AHA Centre.

The AHA Centre to consolidate, disseminate the information received from the NFP to each of the ASEAN Member States and where appropriate conduct analysis on possible regional level implication.

- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Vietnam

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AADMER also stipulates on activities to be conducted to reduce risk arising from hazards through prevention and mitigation

1. ASEAN Member States shall jointly or individually, develop strategies to identify, prevent and reduce risks arising from hazards.

2. Each of ASEAN Member States shall undertake measure to reduce losses from disasters which include:
   - Developing and implementing legislative and other regulatory measures, as well as policies, plans, programmes and strategies.
   - Strengthening local and national disaster management capability and coordination.
   - Promoting public awareness and education and strengthening community participation.
   - Promoting the utilising indigenous knowledge and practices.
   - Promote the development and use of new technologies for disaster management, Risk reduction and Climate change adaptation.

3. ASEAN Member States shall cooperate in developing and implementing regional disaster prevention and mitigation programme to complement national-level efforts.
The ASEAN Member States shall, as appropriate, establish, maintain and periodically review national disaster early warning arrangement including:

• Regular disaster risk assessment
• Early warning information system
• Communication network for timely delivery of information
• Public awareness and preparedness to act upon early warning information

The ASEAN Member States shall cooperate, as appropriate, to monitor hazards which have trans-boundary effects, to exchange information and to provide early warning information through appropriate arrangements.
As part of ensuring commitment in making ASEAN as a resilient region, Leaders of ASEAN adopted Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change at the ASEAN Summit, 27 April 2015

Some of the considerations of the declaration

Ephasing our commitments to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response,...

Recognising that exposure of ASEAN's peoples and communities to various natural hazards is rapidly rising, vulnerability to extreme weather events and climate change is spiraling, and this "new normal" leads to growing frequency and severity of disasters, exacting a tremendous toll on economic, social, cultural, physical, and environmental capital of countries and communities, which in turn stifles our region's sustainable development including our efforts towards poverty eradication;

..to build an ASEAN Community that is resilient to disasters and climate change, viewing resilience as a unifying but multifaceted process and outcome;
Some of the key points in the Leaders Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate:

Commit to forge a more resilient future by reducing existing disaster and climate-related risks, preventing the generation of new risks and adapting to a changing climate through the implementation of economic, social, cultural, physical, and environmental measures which address exposure and vulnerability, and thus strengthen resilience;

Allocate resources to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response and effectively support resilient recovery and rehabilitation, whether for extensive, small-scale and repeated shocks or disturbances or intensive, largescale catastrophic disasters, harnessing both ex-ante and ex-post financing measures, as well as to institutionalise pre-disaster recovery planning and adaptation programming at all scales to bounce forward and recover in a timely and efficient manner;

Agree to enhance cooperation and collaboration among ASEAN Member States to support the implementation of this Declaration and develop a cross-pillar and cross-sectoral collaborative ASEAN work programme for resilience building in the context of disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development; and
Thank You!