

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF
TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS
(NADI) WORKSHOP ON**

**“ENHANCING NATIONAL CENTRES FOR DISASTER RESPONSE: BUILDING
CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE”**

**18-21 October 2016
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR**

1. The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) Workshop on “Enhancing National Centres for Disaster Response: Building Capacity and Expertise” was organised by Military Science and History Department, Ministry of National Defence of the Lao PDR, at the Santi Resort and Spa, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR from 18th to 21st October 2016.
2. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the Workshop. The list of participants is attached in Annex I.

**WELCOME REMARKS BY COL. SOULIVANH SENGCHANH, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MILITARY SCIENCE AND HISTORY DEPARTMENT,
CHAIRMAN OF NADI WORKSHOP:**

3. In his welcome remarks, Col. Soulivanh welcomed all the NADI delegations. He also expressed his deepest condolences to the Kingdom of Thailand for the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.
4. He recognised today's security challenges as non-traditional security threats hindering efforts to enhance regional and international peace, stability, security and prosperity. He also stressed the importance of the key agenda items of the workshop as a solid foundation for the ADMM as well as the preparation for the Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of NADI in the coming 2017. He thanked all the NADI participants for their active commitment and contribution to the Workshop.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

5. The workshop adopted the agenda and the programme, which are attached in Annex II and Annex III respectively.

SESSION ONE:

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Souphasay Komany, Director of Division for National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee Secretariat, Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR.

6. Mr. Souphasay made the presentation on “Natural Hazards and Disaster Preparedness and Responding Mechanism in the Lao PDR”. He briefed the participants of the workshop on the disasters that frequently occurred in the Lao PDR in recent years. These hazards include floods, storms, drought, landslides, disease outbreaks, pandemics, earthquakes and unexploded ordnance (UXO). He also estimated the costs of damage from such disasters in various Lao locations.
7. He stated that in response to the disasters, the Lao PDR has established the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee (NDPCC), which comprises of various organisational stakeholders ranging from central to local levels. These components consist of provincial, district and village DPCCs. Direct Responders to disasters in the Lao PDR have also been organised, and these authorities include the Ministries of National Defence, Agriculture and Forestry, Public Works and Construction, Public Security, Labour and Social Welfare, Planning and Investment, Public Health, finance, Foreign Affairs, Information Culture and Tourism, Education and Sports, Natural Disasters and Environment, and other concerned international organisations.

SESSION TWO: Presentations by NADI Delegations

Brunei Darussalam

Presentation by Dr. Norhermy Hidayat Ahmad Sah, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS), Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam.

8. Dr. Norhermy Hidayat Ahmad Sah shared that the intensity of disasters in the region serves as a constant reminder for countries to focus on these issues. She stated that Brunei Darussalam has its own share of disasters and recognise the importance to strengthen each other’s national centres through the sharing of knowledge and best practices. In Brunei, the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) plays a crucial role as the main disaster response centre locally and is the national focal point (NFP) regionally.
9. She highlighted NDMC’s numerous initiatives in building the country’s capacity and expertise including streamlining SOPs and adoption of Action Plan Framework, centralised point for disaster management, collaboration and volunteerism and having a better early warning system. NDMC also engages with the wider population who are usually the first responders during disasters as part of its community based programmes. Regionally, Brunei remains highly dedicated to provide support in disaster relief operations throughout the region and to contribute to the implementation of AADMER. In moving forward, countries could improve national capacity through efforts to leverage on technology such as UAV, strengthen the role of media and community participation as well as the continuous engagement among ASEAN member states and synergise various HADR initiatives and frameworks within ASEAN.

Republic of Indonesia

Presentation by COL. Afrizal Hendra on the paper of LT.GEN I Wayan Midhio, M. Phil, Rector of Indonesian Defence University.

10. COL. Afrizal Hendra stated that the Center for Disaster Management and Controlling Operation (CDMCO) is part of National Agency for Disaster Management (NADM). Due to enhancing its capacity as the focal point of disaster management in Indonesia, especially in disaster response, CDMCO needs some efforts and support from related parties, particularly, the capacity on hardware, software, and brainware.
11. He stressed that the full commitment and support from the stakeholders are expected, including the government, communities and other parties. CDMCO existence can be a good starting point for creating the environment which is more systematic and organized as well as through one gate policy system in Indonesia emergency response.

Malaysia

Presentation by COL. Nasharuddin Mohamad from the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS).

12. COL. Nasharuddin Mohamad stated that in the modern days, calamities are forecasted but we have made mistakes by not preparing well to manage the disaster relief operation. Due to that, it is necessary to form a better structure of integrated 'organisation and course of action' to demonstrate seriousness in dealing with this issue and we need to act fast in terms of work force, transportation and equipment among the regional member states.
13. He highlighted that in order to successfully achieve the whole approaches and mechanism, an integrated inter-states and inter-agencies structure need to be focus continuously in responding to security challenges of the region. Due to these reasons, the ideas of ASEAN Disaster Relief Operation (ADROC) had been introduced as one initiative of preparedness for any inevitable disaster to reduce and minimizing disaster risk consists of several elements such as preparedness, early warning, mitigation, relief, recovery and rehabilitation. These phases emphasized on having an adequate level of development in disaster reduction and prevention, the ability to predict the disaster event, the reduction of impacts of potential disasters up until and whilst they occur, immediate response to reduce disaster impact after it happened, the process of restoring lives and dealing with the longer term effects of disaster for full restoration to development.

Presentation by LTCOL Abdul Rahman Alavi (Retired), Fellow Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM).

14. LTCOL Abdul Rahman Alavi highlighted that states often struck by disasters have crafted the government and the local organisation adept to disaster prevention and response. In many cases, the government that supposed to protect and deliver assistance to its people, sometimes incapacitated by the disaster itself. In such cases, international humanitarian organisations would usually take charge of the emergency response as in case of Haiti devastating earthquake in 2010. In mitigating such situation, the capacity of the local humanitarian organisation as

well as the national centres for disaster response should be enhanced by building its ability and competency in handling emergency response during a disaster.

15. He also noted that national centres for disaster response are enhanced by strengthening the organisational capacity through exercises and guidelines, partnership approach, collaborative efforts of civil-military cooperation and setting prior legal framework arrangement. Although disaster response is not the military domain but they possess the capabilities in rendering required assistance. The aim is to synergise the effect of cooperation in disaster management to allow national response centres to direct their priorities in saving lives and relief efforts.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Presentation by MAJ GEN. Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chief of the Office of the Armed Forces Training, Ministry of Defence, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

16. MAJ GEN. Soe Naing Oo emphasised that readiness, response and recovery are the three main steps to reduce effects of a disaster. Detailed action plans are designed to reduce destruction, effects, and to response to a disaster. Capacity building is critically important to implement the aforementioned three steps. Based on the definition of Capacity Building defined by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) which is “To encompass all aspects of creating and sustaining capacity growth over time. It involves learning and various types of training, but also continuous efforts to develop institutions, political awareness, financial resources, technology systems, and the wider social and cultural enabling environment.”
17. He highlighted that capacity building and training should be differentiated. Capacity building is more meaningful than training. There are three parts of capacity building:
 - (a) Human resource development;
 - (b) Organizational development;
 - (c) Institutional and legal framework development.

Further implementations of ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) had been facilitated by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).

The Republic of the Philippines

Presentation by Director Rolando G Jungco, Executive Vice President of National Defence College of the Philippines (NDCP).

18. Director Rolando G Jungco stated that Super Typhoon Haiyan is considered to be the strongest typhoon to make landfall in recorded history. Super Typhoon Haiyan brought socio-economic damages that shocked the Philippines. The unprecedented magnitude of the Super Typhoon Haiyan tested the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) framework of the Philippine Government on both the national and local levels. Consequently, it highlighted the challenge in the disaster response coordination between the national

government agencies and the local government units, International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs) and foreign militaries.

19. He emphasised that from its Typhoon Haiyan experience, the Philippine Government was able to draw lessons in disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and rehabilitation, namely; 1) disaster response efforts must be guided by the principle of “bayanihan” or collective heroism in a “whole-of-nation principle” since cooperation between the national government agencies, the local government units, the international NGOs and foreign militaries can effectively augment disaster response; 2) a disaster response framework must be institutionalized at the national and local levels to ensure efficient DRRM capacities; 3) national governments must prioritize the swift delivery of disaster relief efforts over the strict implementation of bureaucratic procedures; and 4) national governments must adopt a disaster response framework compatible with international standards to facilitate ease in disaster response cooperation.

Republic of Singapore

Presentation by Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeng, Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

20. Mr. Henrick Z. Tsjeng highlighted that NADI, from its beginning, has made HADR one of its core topics for discussion. NADI has conducted workshops with HADR as its central theme, culminating in the completion of a book comprising the national perspectives of the NADI members on HADR. NADI has proposed substantive recommendations on how to strengthen national level coordination centres, as well as to improve regional cooperation on HADR. While ASEAN and ADMM have made efforts towards addressing these recommendations, further measures could be implemented to improve regional HADR cooperation and coordination. These include the enhancement of existing focal points into national-level coordination centres, as well as the improvement of human resources, capacities and expertise among ASEAN Member States (AMS).
21. He stated that given the mounting humanitarian crises and the preponderance of natural disasters in the region, the following recommendations are proposed for consideration:
 - a. Each AMS could enhance its current focal point into a national coordination centre that will include the military, civilian disaster response agency and other related organisations. In the larger AMS, this national coordinating centre could be linked up to provincial centres.
 - b. There is a need to enhance the human resources, capacities and expertise at the national level so that the national coordinating centre will be effective in responding to any national crisis or disaster. The

ADMM could conduct more workshops, training courses and exercises to build human resources, expertise and interoperability. These could also be hosted by the ADMM-Plus to involve extra-regional countries so as to facilitate capacity building and the transfer of expertise from these countries to AMS.

- c. In addition to existing organisations such as the AHA Centre, ACMM, AMRG, the RHCC and the IFC could be part of the regional coordinating efforts to develop a better and more effective regional level response to national disasters and crises in the region.
- d. ASEAN, in particular the ADMM, should continue to study the possibility of establishing a “Regional Crisis Management and Response Centre” to coordinate HADR efforts with the proposed national coordination centres.

Kingdom of Thailand

Presentation by COL. Kitti Kongsombat, Deputy Director of Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters (RTARF HQs).

22. COL. Kitti highlighted that Natural Disaster is one of the most important NTS threat affecting Thailand, SEA region and countries around the world. It is difficult to prevent or reduce its impacts to people and properties effectively by only one country, one organization but every country must do cooperate and integrate all efforts, means and mechanisms to reduce its greatly damages together. Thailand supports all mechanisms to enhance the capacity building among Thailand and AMS on disaster reliefs.

23. In view of the foregoing, he introduced a new training centre as a mechanism to support capacity building for disaster relief operations. In this regard, the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarter (RTARF HQs) has set up Training Center for Disaster Relief Operations (TCDRO)’s Project in Chacheongsao, Thailand since 2015 and will be completed by 2019. It is planned to be a training center for the military personnel and civilian, units, sectors and agencies on disaster relief operations. He recommended that the TCDRO is one of significant mechanisms to strengthen capacity building among related authorities and organizations in dealing with disasters within the country and region that will benefit to AMS.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Presentation by LT. GEN Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Duc Hai, Director General, the Institute for Defense Strategy, MND of Viet Nam on “Viet Nam’s Efforts in Response to Natural Disasters”.

24. LT. GEN. Nguyen Duc Hai stressed that Viet Nam is geographically located in *one of the most disaster prone regions of the world*. Every year, Viet Nam has to

fight against dozens of tropical typhoons, floods, landslides, and severe droughts. The work of natural disaster prevention and search and rescue has been well conducted with the participation of many forces, of which the Viet Nam People's Army plays a core role. At present, Search and Rescue bodies under the Government consist of Viet Nam National Search and Rescue Committee, Central Committee of Prevention of Natural Disasters and search and rescue bodies under province and municipality are Provincial or City Committees of Prevention of Natural Disasters. There are also search and rescue bodies under the Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Transportation.

25. He also mentioned that the Government of Viet Nam has always attached importance to the work of search and rescue and considers it one of the most important and regular tasks, and has taken synchronous and effective measures to build capacity in response to natural disasters for related State and local bodies such as increasing investments on prioritized natural disaster prevention constructions and acquisition of search and rescue equipment, modernize and improve capacity of search and rescue force; promoting the application of modern science and technology in the prevention of natural disasters, developing meteorological and hydrological database management software for the work of command, guiding and controlling the prevention, response and recovery of natural disasters; conducting regular training courses and exercises on the prevention, response and recovery of natural disasters; enhancing the propagation of knowledge and practical experience, skills in response to natural disasters, climate change to the whole population to raise their awareness of natural disasters.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Presentation by MAJ. Phaivanh Vongsaiklam, Head of Foreign Relations Section, Military Science and History Department.

26. MAJ. Phaivanh briefed on the roles of the Lao People's Army (LPA) in recent HADR activities such as Search and Rescue operations to help people affected from landslides, floods, and typhoons in the southern part of Laos. He also pointed out that coordination and collaboration between civil and military organisations are closely engaged in HADR operations. In recent years, the LPA has played the lead role in carrying out HADR operations within the country and has also participated in the ADMM and ADMM-Plus HADR activities.
27. He regarded the conduct of meetings, seminars, workshops, education and training and exercises as foundations for capacity building in HADR in the LPA. Establishing Search and Rescue (SAR) and Medical Emergency Response Teams as well as exchanging expertise, knowledge and technical skills and best lessons learnt from the AMS and ADMM-Plus countries in HADR are also critically important for enhancing HADR capacities for military personnel of the LPA. MAJ. Phaivanh also identified some of the challenges faced by the LPA including the lack of human, technical and financial resources.

SESSION THREE: Recommendations

28. The meeting acknowledged the importance of enhancing national centres for disaster response. Human resource capacities and expertise should be developed and further upgraded at the national and regional level. To achieve these objectives, the meeting made the following recommendations to the ADMM:

- a) Each AMS could enhance its national focal point into a national coordination centre that will include the military, civilian disaster response agencies and other related organisations. In the larger AMS, this national coordinating centre could be linked up to provincial centres.
- b) There is a need to enhance the human resource capacities and expertise at the national level so that the national coordinating centre will be effective in responding to any national crisis or disaster.
- c) Organisations such as the AMRG and ACMM could conduct more workshops, training courses and exercises to improve interoperability in AMS. Additional workshops and seminars could also be conducted in the context of the ADMM-Plus to facilitate capacity building and the transfer of expertise from these countries to AMS. Participation in TCDRO training activities could also enhance capacity building for the AMS.
- d) Existing organisations and centres such as the AHA Centre, ACMM, and AMRG, the RHCC and the IFC could be part of the regional coordinating efforts to develop better and more effective regional level responses to national disasters and crises in the region. The AMRG could also be operationalised towards this effort.
- e) The establishment of a “Regional Crisis Management and Response Centre” to coordinate HADR efforts with the proposed national coordination centres.

OTHER MATTERS

29. NADI 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book.

Mr Tan Seng Chye, Head of NADI Secretariat, briefed the Workshop on the establishment of NADI in 2007. He updated that RSIS is in the process of publishing the 10th Anniversary NADI Commemorative book. In his recent letter, Mr Tan has requested Core NADI Institutions to provide a 300-word Foreword for the book. He also asked for official written permission from Core NADI Institutions to use the photographs in the CDs in the book.

FORTHCOMING NADI ACTIVITIES

30. The meeting noted the updates on upcoming NADI activities:

- a) Indonesia (IDU) will organise a NADI workshop on “Enhancing Maritime Security Cooperation in order to Prevent Transnational Crimes on the Region”, in Bali, Indonesia, on 20th to 23rd November 2016;

- b) Thailand (SSC) will organise a NADI workshop on “Countering Extremist Narratives: Integrated Efforts and Approaches within ASEAN” in Chachoengsao, Thailand, (Date TBC).
- c) The Philippines (NDCP / OSSSM) will organise the 10th NADI Annual Meeting on 27-31 March 2017. Further details will be provided in November.
- d) Singapore (RSIS) will organise the NADI 10th anniversary commemorative workshop in May/June 2017.
- e) Indonesia (IDU) will organise a NADI workshop in July or August in 2017.
- f) The Philippines (NDCP / OSSSM) will organise the NADI Retreat and workshop in 4th quarter of 2017 (date TBC).

CLOSING REMARKS

- 31. The Chairman of the NADI workshop extended his sincere appreciation and thanks to all the delegates for their participation in and constructive contribution to the workshop.
- 32. The NADI participants expressed their appreciation to the MSHD for their hospitality and the successful hosting of the workshop.