

**A Tri-Sector Conversation:
Promoting Disaster Resilience and Collective Action in ASEAN
August 11, 2015**

Background

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. The region also accounts for more than 60% of the world's hungry people with more than 930 million people living on between \$1.25 and \$2 a day.

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) was signed by ASEAN in 2005 and entered into force in 2009. One of the principles of AADMER is the active participation of stakeholders, which is in line with the ASEAN Charter's purpose to promote an open, inclusive and transparent people-oriented ASEAN. In 2009 the AADMER Partnership Group (APG), a coalition of seven NGOs, seized this policy opening and began engaging ASEAN bodies by lending support and sharing expertise to strengthen capacity. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, is currently developing the post-2015 AADMER Work Programme, including stronger partnerships with stakeholders.

In addition, the UN Millennium Development Goals will be succeeded by the next generation Sustainable Development Goals, targets for international cooperation on poverty eradication. The SDGs will cover a range of economic, social, environmental, and governance issues, will apply to all UN member countries, and may include targets directed to business and other stakeholder groups.

In this environment of natural disasters and significant poverty, collaborative approaches are a practical way for government, business and civil society to collectively tackle underlying problems and mitigate risks.

Objectives

The conversation is designed to:

1. Provide a forum where selected representatives from each public, private and civil society sector can spend time getting to know one another and begin the process of building new relationships - getting comfortable with the different perspectives and priorities. No specific commitments are expected at this forum.
2. Exchange ideas; explore existing collaboration and collective action initiatives particularly in the area of disaster management and risk reduction in the ASEAN region.
3. Consider next steps for discussion and action.

Desired outcomes

1. Leave with a clear understanding of the ASEAN context around disaster management.
2. Establishment of new relationships.
3. Exchange of perspectives leading to improved understanding of the different sectors in this context.
4. New ideas and potential next steps.

Event details

Date: August 11, 2015, 09:00 – 16:00

Venue: Singapore, hosted and facilitated by Singapore Management University (SMU),
School of Social Sciences

Testimonials

Orla Murphy, Regional Humanitarian Manager, Oxfam and Chair, AADMER Partnership Group: “An inspiring space that allowed us all to step outside of our comfort zone, to look beyond bi-lateral partnerships and see the strength and possibilities of ASEAN tri-sector partnerships. A real understanding that we need to look at partnerships that support humanitarian response and risk reduction – tri-sector partnerships if realized can realize impact at scale.”

Sohni Kaur, Public Policy Manager, SE Asia, Twitter: “It was a great opportunity to engage in deep dialogue, brainstorming and reflection with amazing individuals from the region. Inspired to do more for disaster relief in ASEAN. #twitterforgood #lovetocollaborate

Caroline Whately, Head of Corporate Engagement Centre, Save the Children: “Engaging discussions and conversation from all sectors – there are lots of opportunities for us to work collaboratively and overcome barriers to form true tri-sector partnerships by continuing this dialogue.”

Dr Alistair D B Cook, Research Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies: “It brought together NGOs, civilian government agencies, the private sector, and academic/policy worlds in a spirit of openness and cooperation to map out ways forward to respond to natural disasters better in the ASEAN region.”

Col Abdul Razak, Director, Public Affairs Department, Singapore Civil Defence Force: “A fruitful session where I learnt much about the crucial role which the private sector can play in HADR. Looking forward to success stories of public sector-private sector-civil society collaboration in One ASEAN One Response.”

