

## ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum)

### **(ARF 4 Chairman's Statement: Annex B)**

#### **Recommendations of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster relief, Wellington, 19-20 February 1997**

1. Exchange of information and informal networking on national approaches to disaster relief is useful and should continue.
2. Enhancing disaster preparedness in the region, in particular through the sharing of expertise, research and training, for example:

**a "train the trainers" workshop, and other courses in areas of national expertise;**

making wider use of the training resources of existing national and regional institutions within the region, such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok; establishment of expert groups and a directory of experts;

exchanges and cooperation on preventive, preparedness and response measures on maritime disasters in the region;

exchanges and cooperation in meteorological services to provide early warning of disaster;

3. Enhancement of operational delivery of disaster relief in the region:

**building upon existing regional cooperation, and development of common approaches to disaster management appropriate to the Asia-Pacific region:**

exploring scope for standardisation of procedures in such areas as communications, possible delivery points, planning, medical support, airspace clearances and customs facilitation, as well as integration of prevention, mitigation and preparedness initiatives;

a regional data-base of national disaster relief capabilities/assets and requirements building on existing arrangements;

facilitation of faster exchanges of information and responses when a disaster occurs.

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