

H412N

H326

Working Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management
29-30 October 2001, Bangkok, Thailand

Regional Body/ Cooperation	Background/ Status	Future Directions/ Projects
<p>Asean Regional Forum- Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ARF-ISM-DR)</p>	<p><u>Establishment</u></p> <p>Established in 1993 within the framework of the ASEAN</p> <p><u>Status</u></p> <p>ARF meets annually and a Meeting of Senior Officials for the ARF provides support and follow-up. The Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) at the intergovernmental level and the Inter-Sessional meeting (ISM) are convened to assist the Chairman of the ARF- Senior Officials Meeting</p> <p>There are several suggestions from participants which request the ADPC to provide assistance on the promotion of DM in the region</p>	<p><u>Future Directions</u></p> <p>Following are agreements reached During the 4th ISM-DR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of experience and information sharing, in particular, updated data on disasters and early warning information • Enhancing individual and regional capacities for disaster preparedness and disaster relief through mutual assistance and networking • Training with emphasis on providing specific skills in disaster management • Promoting greater awareness of the government agencies and the public in disaster preparedness and disaster relief • Promotion of military to military and civil to military operations during disaster
<p>Haze Technical Task Force (Regional Haze Action Plan)</p>	<p><u>Establishment</u></p> <p>In June 1995, in the light of the haze experiences the ASEAN Environment Ministers agreed on a Regional Haze Action Plan within the ASEAN's broader Cooperation on Transboundary Pollution.</p> <p><u>Status</u></p> <p>Subregional Firefighting Arrangements (SRFAs) have implemented Immediate Action Plans (IAPs) Field Training Exercise for Prevention and Control of Land and Forest Fires in West Kalimantan (2000-2001) and Riau (first quarter of 2001). Activities of the IAPs include development of Fire Suppression Mobilisation Plans (FSMPs), which lay out the procedures to be followed in carrying out fire suppression to ensure that all suppression resources can be used as efficient as possible. IAP in West Kalimantan also included community-based fire</p>	<p><u>Future Directions</u></p> <p>ASEAN in finalizing its Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution following numerous negotiation sessions in 2001 to discuss the policy and technical elements regarding monitoring, assessment and prevention mechanisms for co-ordination lines of communication, procedures for deployment of people, materials and equipment across border in the event of transboundary haze pollution and expects to be conclude at the next session to allow signing of the Agreement during the ASEAN Summit in November 2001 in Brunei Darussalam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agreement was signed at the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze in June 2002. <p>Ministers agreed to work towards the ratification of the Agreement as soon as possible.</p>

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	<p>management component, i.e. a workshop to explore traditional values of the local community in fire management</p> <p>The ASEAN's Regional Haze Action Plan Coordination and Support Unit (RHAP-CSU) continuously monitors the haze situation on a day-to-day and region-wide basis and shares its findings through its ASEAN Haze Action Online website. Its sources of information include relevant central and provincial government agencies, NGOs, relevant websites and media</p>	
<p>Regional Consultative Committee On Regional Cooperation In Disaster Management (RCC)</p>	<p><u>Establishment</u></p> <p>Established in March 2001 within the framework of the Advisory Council of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)</p> <p><u>Status</u></p> <p>The first meeting of the ADPC Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (RCC) was held in November 2000 in Bangkok was attended by 35 RCC delegates from 17 countries and territories. The meeting identified the needs and priorities of Asian countries and developed recommendations for action to promote regional cooperation in following thematic areas among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity, training and public support for disaster management and mitigation • Development of national disaster management plans and information systems • Improving legislative and institutional arrangements and enhancing political will for disaster management and mitigation • Integration of disaster risk reduction into national development process • Scientific and technical inputs for disaster management (including early warning) 	<p><u>Future Directions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expansion of membership 2. Phasing-in and cooperating with other organizations 3. Periodic Information dissemination in the region 4. ADPC to serve as facilitator, convenor, regional focal point and technical resource for RCC 5. To be elevated to the Asian Ministerial meeting in 2 years and hold a multi-stakeholder conference. 6. To publish a vulnerability atlas for Asia and an Asian State of Disaster Management Report 2002 7. Assist, through the ADPC, in preparation of national disaster management plans, legal and institutional arrangements, disaster MIS, conduct related researches and demonstration projects and provide training and capacity-building activities to members. 8. Share technical and scientific information related to DM.

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<p>Typhoon Committee</p>	<p><u>Establishment</u></p> <p>The Committee was established in 1968 through the endorsement of ECAFE (UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East now called ESCAP) in cooperation with WMO with view to promoting and coordinating efforts to minimize typhoon damage in the ECAFE region</p> <p><u>Status</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working group was formed to review the Regional Cooperation Program Implementation Plan (RCPIP) • Other activities include the conduct of the Seminar on Development of Non-structural and Emergency counter Measures for Sediment and Flood Disaster held in Manila, Philippines from 8 to 12 May 2000, adoption of the use of Asian and Pacific names for tropical cyclones in the Typhoon Committee Region and related procedures during the 32nd session of the Committee which took effect on 1 January 2000, Workshop on Doppler Radars held in Hefei, China from 7 to 10 December 1999 jointly organized by TCS and TSU in close cooperation and coordination with WMO, and Workshop on the Impact of El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)/La Nina on Meteorology and Hydrology in the TC Area was organized by TCS in cooperation with ESCAP and WMO in Macao from 29 June to 1 July 1999 • Moreover there was continued effort by member countries to upgrade observational network and develop better and faster communication systems under the meteorology action program. In hydrology, efforts were geared towards the establishment and improvement of flood forecasting and warning systems in major river basins and in the implementation of comprehensive flood loss prevention 	<p><u>Future Directions</u></p> <p>The 34th session of the Typhoon Committee Honolulu will be held in Hawaii 28 November to 4 December 2001 to review progress in typhoon damage prevention</p> <p>An International Working Group on the development of the Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan (RCPIP) as endorsed by the 33rd Session of the (ESCAP/WMO) Typhoon Committee has been tasked to develop the typhoon committee's regional cooperation programme action plan for 2002-2006. The working group met at the Japan Meteorological Agency in July 2001 to review the draft. With the favorable response of the Committee the plan will be finalized and proposed for adoption at the November 2001 typhoon committee meeting in Honolulu.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member countries also undertook various measures in disaster prevention and preparedness. In China, strategies for mitigating oceanic disaster was initiated such as the establishment of an integrated body at provincial level to coordinate disaster mitigation activities, and drawing up relevant laws to prohibit large-scale destruction of ecological environment. The Philippines and Thailand, intensified its information, education and communications on hydro-meteorological hazards. Vietnam and Thailand on the other hand improved/reinforced the quality of their dike systems along their riverbanks. In the Philippines community-based flood forecasting system is being developed by PAGASA <p><u>Recent Activities/Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOFFS - Developed by WMO, for the Tropical Cyclone Project (TCP) the Management Overview of Flood Forecasting Systems (MOFFS), a point-scoring system, provides a measure of the effectiveness of performance of the forecasting system with respect to each forecast location and each major flood event. It summarizes the results on a single sheet of paper. Adopted for use by all TC Regional Bodies, the MOFFS quickly highlights problem areas for appropriate remedial action • Technology Transfer - Progress has been made under the TCP in the transfer of technology through specialized training events, conduct of field experiments, special projects and publication of scientific guidance materials in combination with activities under the operational and technical plans of all the TC Regional Bodies. 	

Source: Minutes of meeting of the AEGDM, RCC, Web pages of ADPC, ASEAN and UN