

# ASEAN STRATEGIC POLICY DIALOGUE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

## THE FUTURE OF DISASTER RESILIENCE IS NOW: ARE WE READY?

Event Report  
19 August 2022

**Event Report**

# **ASEAN STRATEGIC POLICY DIALOGUE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT (SPDDM)2022**

**THE FUTURE OF DISASTER RESILIENCE IS NOW:  
ARE WE READY?**

**Rapporteurs:**

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**Edited by:**

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**19 August 2022**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2020, COVID-19 has impacted the way we work and function globally. In particular, the disaster management sector has had to prepare for and manage disasters against the backdrop of COVID-19. Considering that the types, dynamics, and dimensions of disaster threats will be more complex in the future and require far more strategic analysis and preparation, it will be beneficial for humanitarian organisations to re-think strategies and transform to strengthen capabilities and capacities for the future.

Under the theme “The Future of Disaster Resilience is Now: Are We Ready?”, the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2022 facilitated a discussion on forward looking ideas that can potentially enhance disaster resilience in the future with an emphasis on the importance to act and invest now. This report summarises the key points from the panel discussions and presentations. The Keynote Presentation on “Planetary Health: Interlinkages between Climate Change and Disasters” emphasised the need for disaster management practitioners to identify opportunities for disaster risk reduction and prevention through the lens of planetary health. The High-Level Panel Discussion on “Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) Factors: Riding the Wave towards Disaster Resiliency” examined the relationship between ESG and disaster resilience, highlighting ESG strategies for achieving disaster resilience targets. The Thematic Discussion on “Innovations Driven by Crisis” highlighted the need for process-driven innovations, as opposed to simply relying on product innovations.



# **OPENING CEREMONY**

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## **WELCOME SPEECH BY ACDM CHAIR**

### **Mr Boontham Lertsukekasem**

*Director-General Of The Ddpm Thailand*



Mr Boontham Lertsukekasem, Director-General of the DDPM Thailand, delivered the welcome speech. He welcomed participants to the SPDDM and lauded its status as one of the most important platforms in promoting dialogue among ASEAN policymakers in disaster management. He also highlighted its role in providing strategic direction for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and contributing to the effective implementation of our AADMER Work Programme.

Mr Lertsukekasem stressed the importance of connection and collaboration in disaster management. The disaster management community needs to work very closely together to prevent losses from disasters, for instance, in the form of sharing early warning information. There must be collective action toward achieving a global standard of health and well-being, and the region should aim to lessen the evolving risks of climate change. The region also needs to promote investment in building resilience with due consideration to social protection and good governance, while ensuring that these efforts do not adversely impact the environment. He also underscored the importance of promoting innovative solutions for effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) in ASEAN.

## OPENING REMARKS BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR

### **Mrs Josephine Teo**

*Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs*



Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, delivered the opening remarks. She highlighted evolving challenges in disaster management, in particular the interlinkages between climate change and disasters. The ASEAN region is among the world's most impacted by climate change. With sea levels rising, and more extreme changes in weather patterns, the intensity, occurrences, and impacts of natural hazards are increasing. In 2020, ASEAN experienced 530 natural disasters. In 2021, this almost tripled to about 1,400. This has had catastrophic consequences on lives and livelihoods.

She then highlighted ASEAN's significant progress in disaster management over the years. This included the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025, which has incorporated the main provisions of the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals. The new work programme focuses on DRR, capability and capacity building, and partnerships.

Mrs Teo suggested three areas to focus on: building resilience, partnerships, and innovation. There needs to be a mindset change, to recognise the importance of investing in infrastructure resilience and early warning systems.

She highlighted that, in April 2022, the ACDM endorsed a Concept Note for “Strengthening the ASEAN Multi-Hazard End to End Early Warning System for Natural Disasters”, which aims to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the state of ASEAN’s early warning systems and will be useful for ASEAN countries to identify areas of improvement.

Mrs Teo encouraged all disaster management stakeholders to work on strengthening partnerships. Given the complex nature of disasters, disaster management stakeholders in the region cannot afford to work in silos. ASEAN should collaborate with partners in building disaster resilience. Besides government-to-government cooperation, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and the business community can play key roles in disaster management.

Mrs Teo also pointed to the need to promote innovation in disaster management. Artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics have the potential to enhance the effectiveness of disaster responses. In recent years, the ACDM has been actively promoting greater application of science and technology in the field of disaster management. For instance, the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority and the AHA Centre co-organised the “AHAckathon”, aimed at promoting innovations to address challenges in humanitarian logistics in the ASEAN region.

## REMARKS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN

### Mr Ekkaphab Phanthavong

*Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community*



Mr Ekkaphab Phanthavong, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, emphasised that the disaster risk landscape in ASEAN is rapidly evolving and becoming more complex. ASEAN has been exerting its best efforts through continuously implementing the AADMER work programme 2021-2025, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, and ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Programme, to name a few. At the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bali, ASEAN also issued the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management to showcase the region’s commitment to strengthen forward-thinking and anticipatory actions.

He underscored the importance of ESG and its integration with resilience. The private sector needs to consider social, environmental, and governance factors in their business and financial processes. A “Think Resilience” approach should be prioritised for private investments, particularly in understanding and mitigating climate threats and their ripple effects to businesses and communities including climate impacts on micro, small, and medium enterprises.



Mr Phanthavong also stated that it is important for us to turn a crisis into an opportunity for building future resilience through innovative solutions. ASEAN has identified the need for innovations and worked towards harnessing the power of advanced technology, science, and innovations in the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook. It has also advocated for use of machine learning and AI to collect and collate data to better forecast hazards and strengthen our early warning systems, drone and satellite data for emergency response and recovery to mobilise resources, coordinate emergency response, and deliver humanitarian assistance faster and more efficiently.

## REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND TO SINGAPORE

### Ms Barbara Gonzenbach

*Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore*



Ms Barbara Gonzenbach, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore, delivered remarks on behalf of the Swiss government. She indicated that Switzerland's continued support to the SPDDM is a testimony to its commitment to provide a high-level platform to chart strategic directions for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management.

She drew linkages between the keynote presentation and the thematic discussion. On the topic of Planetary Health, she stated that Switzerland believes

that a healthy environment and thriving biodiversity are the bedrock of sustainable development. To this end, businesses need to be environmentally and socially conscious to avoid undermining resilience of communities and the health of the planet.

She also mentioned the Geneva Technical Hub, which was jointly launched by the UNHCR and the Swiss Government in June 2021. It brings together Swiss academia and expert practitioners to tackle technical problems and find solutions that can be applied in diverse UNHCR operational contexts. The hub provides field support, operational guidance, and capacity building. It will also further the resilience of displaced and host communities to climate-related risks and strengthen preparation and early-action.



# KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: PLANETARY HEALTH: INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

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## Speaker

### **Professor Ilan Noy**

*Inaugural Chair in the Economics of Disasters & Professor of Economics,  
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand*

## Moderator

### **Mr Said Faisal**

*Former Executive Director of AHA Centre*

Prof Noy took the lens of disaster economics to explain how climate change has and will continue to impact human capital in different ways. By human capital, he referred to the knowledge, skills, and health that are accumulated throughout one's life and help one realise economic potential. Climate change influences human capital through three channels, including various effects of climate change, mitigation, and adaptation. Prof Noy pointed out that extreme weather events should be adopted as an indicator of the economic impact of climate change, in addition to sea level rise and rising temperatures. Climate-induced extreme weather events cost US\$150 billion globally every year, adding to the losses caused by other natural hazards.

Prof Noy highlighted that people were affected by climate change differently, with certain groups affected more, such as women, children, and the poorer communities. Children are among the most vulnerable. Climate change threaten children directly by malnutrition, infectious diseases, stress during pregnancy, extreme temperatures, and pollution. There is also the risk of genetic changes as a result of climate change. Indirectly, children will be affected by loss of opportunities for education and health services due to the economic consequences of climate change. The impacts of climate change on adults include poor health effects, falling productivity, lack of employment opportunities, and low life expectancy.

Climate mitigation generally has positive impacts. However, there are communities that will be affected negatively. Therefore, mitigation policies should consider measures to support these families and groups, such as those living in areas near the fossil fuel industries. Adaptation such as migration is necessary in most cases, creating better opportunities for education and employment. But unplanned migration can have more costs than benefits.

Prof Noy proposed several policy recommendations on how societies should address the impacts of climate change on human capital. DRR should be prioritised. Governments should invest more in areas that will have lasting impact on our disaster resilience, such as education and health services. The delivery systems for essential services should be adaptive. Social safety nets for those negatively affected by mitigation and adaptation measures should be established. International adaptation policies should be considered.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The questions raised to Prof Noy were about the difficulties in taking action, the challenge of increasing budget for disaster management, and the role of disaster risk insurance. He argued that more attention should be given to the intangible components of disaster resilience, such as education and public health. The emphasis on better reconstruction of infrastructure might not be sufficient. The translation of scientific research to policies and action takes time and the differences between the countries, regions, and communities affected by disasters must be taken into account in policy implementation. As disaster risks become more expected, public insurance schemes are increasingly introduced, replacing private insurance. However, the issue with public insurance is the possible interference of politics in policy decisions.

# HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION: ESG FACTORS: RIDING THE WAVE TOWARDS DISASTER RESILIENCY



## Speakers

### **Mr Jan Gelfand**

*Head of Delegation, Country Cluster Delegation for IFRC Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Representative to ASEAN*

### **Professor Joy Jacqueline Pereira**

*Climatic Hazards Programme Coordinator, Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*

### **Mr Suriyan Vichitlekarn**

*Executive Director, Mekong Institute*

### **Ms Danielle Welsh-Rose**

*Head of Sustainability Institute APAC, Aberdeen Investments*

## Moderator

### **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong**

*Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

As the world industrialises further and advances, the consumption of goods and natural resources inevitably accelerates, which negatively impacts the environment and hinders climate change efforts. There is a need to seek balance between development and a sustainable future. In recent years, the call to ensure sustainable growth has led to the rise of ESG factors. This set of factors evaluates and guides an entity's collective consciousness for sustainable growth throughout

its business operations. The finance industry and conglomerates are now leading ESG investments and actively advocating socially responsible activities. It is now widely recognised that ESG efforts and investments can bring about immense benefits towards disaster resiliency and risk reduction in the long run, if the indirect cost of actions to the environment is considered. The High-Level Panel discussed the relationship between ESG and disaster resilience, by showcasing ESG strategies and its capacity towards achieving disaster resilience targets.

For Mr Jan Gelfand, Head of Delegation, Country Cluster Delegation for IFRC Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Representative to ASEAN, sustainability should be regarded as “community sustainability”; he also questioned whether resilience can be conflated with sustainability. He noted that the ability of the current humanitarian system to really help people in the long-term and its reproduction of power dynamics is still questioned today. He noted that anticipatory action is gaining traction in the region, and that a part of it is “preparedness”. In other words, to take “response” and put it in a development context. One important factor in humanitarian response is localisation, as organisations can rely on local supply chains and reduce waste management by procuring resources locally. Cash transfers are also key in helping the economy recover after a crisis, while also providing affected populations with dignity and agency. Yet, struggles such as the difficulty in scaling up such initiatives due to the lack of sustainable financing and the inclusion of local voices when they may not have the capacity to understand administration continue to inhibit effective response. Accountability is also key. For the IFRC, risk assessments are critical when conducting projects and response activities. This ensures accountability not just towards their donors, but also the communities they serve. Mr Gelfand also noted that as part of the humanitarian mindset, there is an obligation for actors to listen to each other. With the increase in private actors in the humanitarian sector, corporate businesses should listen to humanitarians and their experiences and vice versa. After all, different companies and sectors have different work languages. In terms of ASEAN, Mr Gelfand noted that it has the capability to bring those from the different sectors together as a regional organisation. It can also help increase exposure between different stakeholders to improve inter-sectoral understanding of the different organisational languages.

For Professor Joy Jacqueline Pereira, SEADPRI UKM, Malaysia, the current climate riskscape means the private sector needs to question the hazards that businesses are exposed to as well as the impacts of such events on supply chains, goods, and consumers. There is a need for everyone to mobilise including the private sector, the public sector, and civil society. Prof Pereira also noted that in Malaysia, there is an annual risk register that is used to coordinate and respond to incoming disasters. This register is a multi-hazard platform that can be used to forecast a disaster 3 days in advance. Moreover, as it also shows vulnerable areas and areas likely to be hit, this can be used to make response more effective. The concept of risk is therefore key to sustainability. This includes risk in transition

as well as risk in mitigation practices. However, there is a gap between big companies who can create such frameworks to manage these risks and SMEs. For SMEs, a targeted area-based approach is key due to the smaller scale of these frameworks. Another important practice to maintain is youth inclusion. Not only are they key in sustainability, but they also drive innovation. Prof Pereira concluded her time by noting that although policies regarding ESG, green transitions, and climate change exist, implementation is generally weak.

For Mr Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute, resilience is a key component of ensuring a healthy economy. As part of performance indicators for companies, there should be a need to include resilience, particularly through insurance. After all, disaster resilience is also a part of a resilient economy. He noted that there are three main issues to tackle currently. First, the behaviour of the industry when looking to tap on green finance. There is a need to advocate the benefits for all. Second, to incorporate disaster resilience as a part of performance indicators for ESG. The third issue is the need for accountability in disaster resilience in the private sector. For private-sector actors to work towards disaster resilience, they first need a deep knowledge of the specific area in which they operate, and how climate change is likely to affect this area.

For Ms Danielle Welsh-Rose, Head of Sustainability Institute APAC, Aberdeen Investments, the idea of a “just transition” is key to the idea of ESG and the approach of businesses to climate change. There is a wider view of risk and opportunities due to climate change, beyond the specifics of the markets, assets, and types of investment etc. For businesses, the key question remains – what is the different scenarios of the impact of climate change on their assets, investment, and clients? Ms Welsh-Rose noted that regulatory drivers are thus key in this need for transition as more regulations around climate change are emerging, particularly in Asia. Part of Aberdeen Investments’ response to climate change is scenario-based planning. She noted that they have built a tool to analyse climate scenarios and reflect its impact on planning, assets, and investment. This includes the physical impacts of climate change, businesses’ reaction to climate change, and how climate change might affect long-term strategic planning. In terms of thinking about climate change, the focus for the private sector has always been mitigation. However, it is now moving towards adaptation.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Some of the questions asked related to the adoption of interdisciplinary approaches to disaster management and enhancing interlinkages between themes such as biodiversity, climate change, and disaster management. For Mr Gelfand, there are already interdisciplinary approaches being used on the ground by humanitarian organisations. For example, the IFRC sends teams with

people from different specialty areas such as WASH, health, and protection. However, more can be done. There needs to be more emphasis on the context of these scenarios through the inclusion of other experts such as anthropologists. Ms Welsh-Rose reiterated this point as well. From the perspective of her organisation, she has noticed an increase in the number of social scientists and climate experts involved in risk investments. Their inclusion in risk investment teams ensures that any approach taken by the organisation has an operational element as well, not just strategic.

Other questions looked at the challenges in terms of incentivising companies to adopt ESG efforts and about the benefits for organisations which adopt these policies. Ms Welsh-Rose she pointed out that reputational benefits are key, particularly in terms of the growing public interest in any climate change related issue. Prof Pereira pointed out that public education on such important issues such as disaster resilience, green economy, as well as ESG are also key in maintaining any long-term sustainable approach. All humanitarian actors have a part to play in that – including the private sector, public sector, and non-governmental organisations. Mr Gelfand pointed out that organisations such as ASEAN have the capacity to bring entities from different backgrounds together to enhance and develop the adoption and implementation of ESG factors across the region, but it is likely to take quite some time. Mr Vichitlekarn pointed out that although adopting ESG efforts may drive up costs for companies in the short-term, over time there would be new methods to co-share the costs in part due to its co-benefits.







Ms Manja Vidic, Head of OCHA Philippines, stated that while there have been numerous discussions regarding innovations and the use of new technology in humanitarian settings, there has generally been a lack of discussion about the public sector's role in this agenda. She also stated that instead of adopting pre-developed innovations that do not fit the needs of communities, innovation needs to be demand-driven. Ms Vidic highlighted that innovation needs to be allowed to fail. This practice is generally acceptable in the private sector but is not embraced as much in the public sector. She also indicated that there are non-technological innovations as well. For example, during COVID-19, UN OCHA had to adapt pre-existing evacuation protocols and processes to fit the situation. Last but not the least, funding is always important when trying to implement new innovations or scaling up existing technology. Hence, there needs to be significant buy-in from key stakeholders and decision-makers.

Mr Ling Young Ern, Deputy Commissioner (Future Technology & Public Safety), SCDF, emphasised that disaster responses are often fast-paced, highly complex, with high impact. As such, innovations do not mean that we can automate everything. While the SCDF has been exploring the use of robotics and unmanned systems in disaster management, it acknowledges that we cannot completely remove the human component out of the loop. There is also a need to make sure that technology is reliable before being deployed in the field. This is because the cost of failure is too high i.e., death. He also emphasised the importance of change management. Before implementing a chain of solutions that follow a particular innovation, mindsets need to change. Speaking on the impact of COVID-19 on innovation, he stated that crisis brings with it opportunities. For example, SCDF took time off during the pandemic to reassess its digital transformation strategy. Successful innovation also requires us to identify key areas and prioritise these areas to channel funds into. Scaling up requires conviction from the top as well as partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Mr David Pong Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Wateroam, stated that innovation does not start from research and development (R&D) labs; it starts in the field. Very often, organisations have the notion that they can just fund R&D labs and expect instant, viable results. However, successful innovations need to take into account contexts and needs, which can only be identified on the ground. He also pointed out that there is insufficient sharing of success stories and failures, and that it is often challenging to get funding to scale up innovation, especially as a start-up. Mr Pong also argued that it is important to consider applications beyond disaster settings. For example, Wateroam's water filtration products are designed to be used in other contexts other than disaster settings. Finally, he emphasised that there is a need to articulate theory of change and show long-term sustainability of the product for it to be considered a successful innovation.

## QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

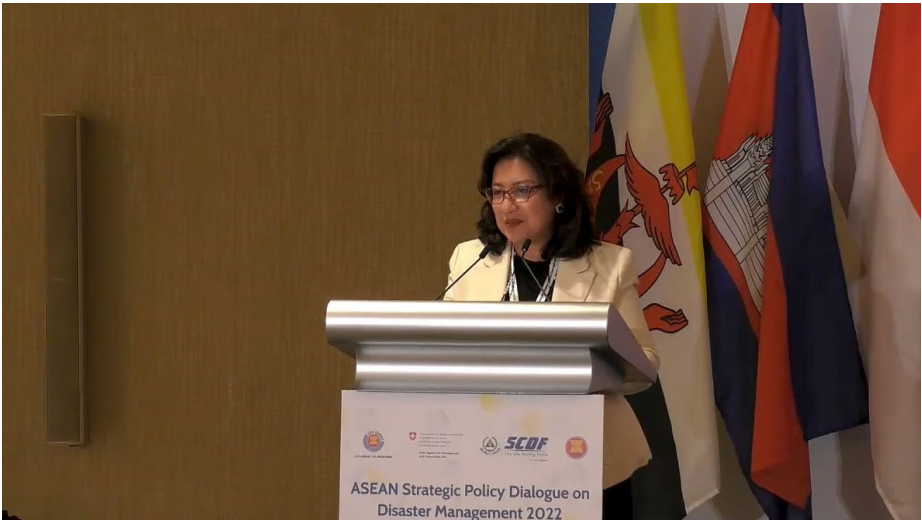
A member of the audience asked a question regarding ownership of donor-led innovation products in affected communities. In response to this, Ms Vidic stated that innovations need to demonstrate that they can help build resilience in communities and empower people. She called for the implementation of resilience markers in future requests for innovative solutions and products. In response to a question on how to scale up innovations in resource-constrained settings, Mr Pong shared about Wateroam's lean start-up methodology, and how it could be a way to quickly bring products to the market. The methodology relies on using the least amount of money and resources to create prototypes and implement it in the field. Feedback is then sought from communities, which is used to improve the product iteratively. In response to a question on how ASEAN could spur innovation in the region, Mr Ling replied that facilitating more inter-sectoral partnerships and sharing sessions can help push more innovative solutions to the forefront.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

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### ***Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony***

*President's Chair in International Relations and Security Studies; Head of Centre of Non-Traditional Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*



Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony highlighted some of the themes that emerged from the dialogue. She echoed Prof Noy's reminder that we need to go beyond the traditional understandings of resilience and building back better and focus on the well-being of individuals. Furthermore, Prof Caballero-Anthony said that this is akin to reclaiming the idea of human security, which talks about the well-being of individuals, societies, groups, communities. As such, in the process of investing in resilient infrastructure and programmes, the human element should be placed at the centre of such endeavours. On the topic of partnerships, she emphasised that there needs to be multiple voices and pathways in disaster governance. On innovation, she reiterated Ms Vidic's point that it is not just technological innovation that is necessary; there is a need for process innovation as well.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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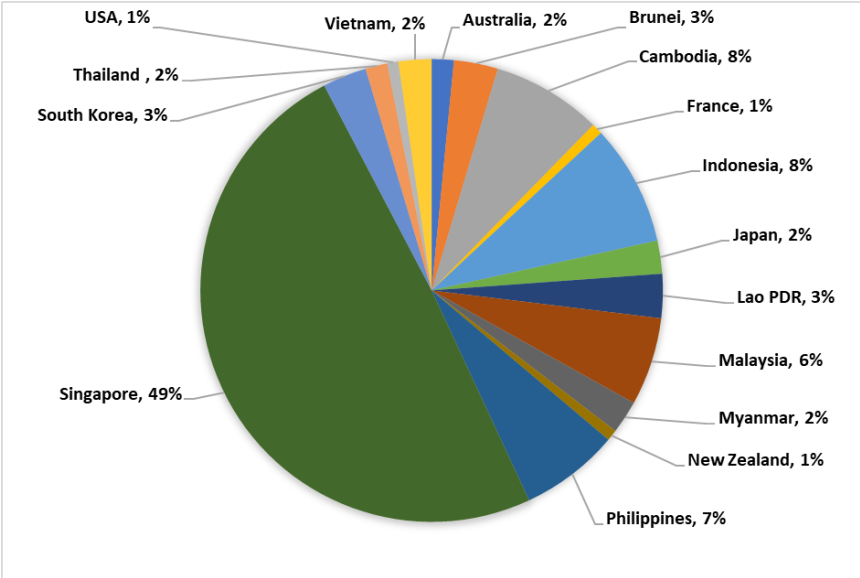
### **Mr Lee Yam Ming**

*Executive Director, The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)*

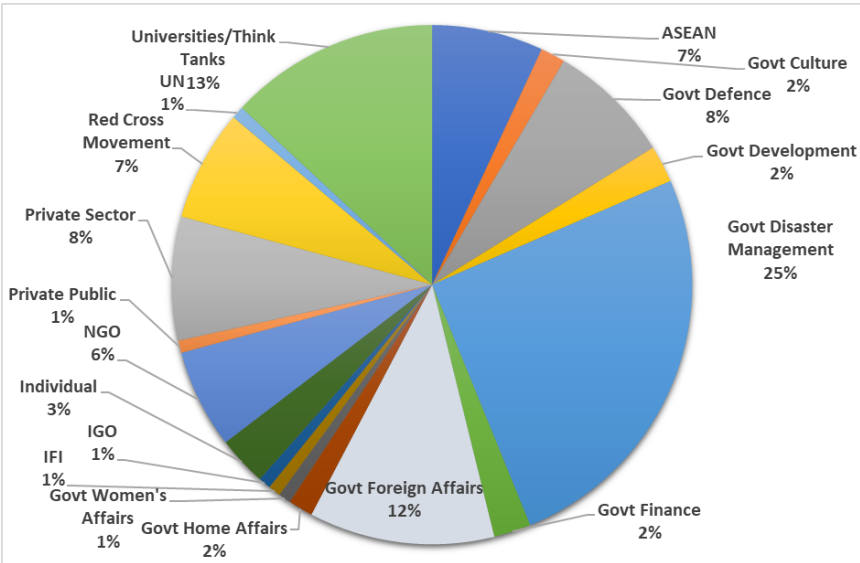


Mr Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director, AHA Centre, delivered the closing remarks. He extolled the dialogue's importance, which allowed for the exchange of views on potential enhancements on disaster resilience in the future, with an emphasis on the importance to act and invest now. He conveyed his sincere gratitude to all speakers and participants for sharing insights and perspectives. He also expressed his hope that the ideas shared would become the seeds for new initiatives and potential partnerships that can enhance disaster preparedness and responses in the region. Last but not the least, he encouraged all participants to bring the discussions beyond the policy dialogue and turn them into tangible actions and solutions to enhance ASEAN's efforts in disaster management.

# PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY (TOTAL: 130)



# PARTICIPANTS BY ORGANISATION (TOTAL: 130)



## **KNOWLEDGE PARTNER**

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### **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)**

RSIS served as the knowledge partner for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management 2021. The **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)** is a global think tank and professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. An autonomous school, RSIS' mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. With the core functions of research, graduate education, and networking, it produces research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-traditional Security, Cybersecurity, Maritime Security and Terrorism Studies.



NTS Centre conducts research and produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building the capacity to address non-traditional security (NTS) issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The Centre addresses knowledge gaps, facilitates discussions and analyses, engages policymakers, and contributes to building institutional capacity in Sustainable Security and Crises. The NTS Centre brings together myriad NTS stakeholders in regular workshops and roundtable discussions, as well as provides a networking platform for NTS research institutions in the Asia Pacific through the NTS-Asia Consortium.

For more details, please visit [www.rsis.edu.sg](http://www.rsis.edu.sg) and <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre>. Join us at our social media channels at [www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-social-media-channels](http://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-social-media-channels) or scan the QR code.

# **ORGANISERS**

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## **ASEAN Secretariat**

The ASEAN Secretariat was set up on 24 February 1976 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. Its function is to provide for greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities. While building a people-centred, people-oriented ASEAN Community that is globally respected, the ASEAN Secretariat's mission includes, among others, facilitation and coordination with ASEAN stakeholders in realising the purposes and principles of ASEAN as reflected in its Charter. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## **The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)**

The AHA Centre was established on 17 November 2011 by the ASEAN member states through the signing of the ASEAN Agreement on the Establishment of the AHA Centre. It was established following the mandate of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) in order to facilitate cooperation and coordination among ASEAN member states and with international organisations such as the United Nations for disaster management and emergency response. The AHA Centre facilitates joint emergency preparedness and response. It also operationalises the regional coordination mechanism for emergency preparedness and response. The Centre is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## **Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)**

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) is the national authority that provides fire-fighting, rescue, and emergency ambulance services in Singapore. SCDF is also responsible for mitigating hazardous materials incidents, as well as formulate, implement, and enforce regulation on fire safety and civil defence shelter matters. SCDF's Ops Lionheart contingent is classified as a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team by INSARAG since 2008. SCDF is also the national focal point for ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).



## Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The Swiss Humanitarian Aid is one of the four departments of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and part of the Swiss Confederation. In Southeast Asia, Switzerland contributes to the implementation of the AADMER in the context of the ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Partnership. In support of AADMER's Practical Cooperation Area on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, the Swiss Humanitarian Aid provides technical and financial support for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue in Disaster Management (SPDDM) from 2018–2020.



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(QR Code and link to YouTube recording)



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