

Photos by Ukraine Embassy - Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital and Love on Ukraine

We are pleased to bring you the sixth issue of Beyond Relief!

In our **Feature Article**, S. Nanthini, Senior Analyst, RSIS writes about anticipatory action and its effectiveness as a tool in the disaster management toolkit during a time of an increasing number of crises and shrinking humanitarian budgets.

This issue's **On the Ground** features some of the relief and fundraising efforts that Singaporean humanitarian organisations have undertaken.

Our members from the academic community have also been keeping themselves busy. This issue includes several commentaries, journal articles, and reports, covering a diverse

range of topics including the impacts of climate change on various sectors, resource coordination in humanitarian logistics as well as balancing disaster risk reduction and heritage conservation.

In the Spotlight features upcoming events and opportunities for collaboration. In this issue we have included the call for submissions of articles for the 4th Edition of ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR)!

Finally, we welcome your ideas and feedback, and look forward to supporting joint efforts in research, networking and knowledge sharing. Do get in touch with either Nanthini (isnanthini@ntu.edu.sg) or Al (iscook@ntu.edu.sg).



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ANTICIPATORY ACTION: A BEACON OF HOPE FOR UNDER-RESOURCED CRISES?

By **S. Nanthini**

Senior Analyst, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies



Photo by EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid via Flickr

Anticipatory action has been increasingly gaining traction in the humanitarian community over the past few years. It appears that many see it as a beacon of hope for under-resourced countries and crises in a time of ever-shrinking budgets and ever-increasing disasters. Anticipatory action – also known as early warning, early action and forecast-based action – refers to actions taken to protect people based on early forecasts or risk analysis before a disaster strikes.

Early-warning systems are not new. Indeed, the use of such advances in technology have been steadily improving our ability to predict geophysical hazards and hydrometeorological disasters, which has in turn, led to a decrease in human and material losses since the 1970s.

Anticipatory action goes one step further by aiming to reduce the impact of disasters through a series of pre-planned and pre-financed actions based on risk analysis taken just before a disaster event. These actions can include the distribution of equipment, cash transfers, early warning information and protection of infrastructure. Based on particular pre-planned triggers, these action plans are then implemented during that particular window of opportunity, which ideally mitigates the impact of the disaster and in turn, reduces the resources needed during disaster response operations.

This concept is of particular relevance to Southeast Asia, one of the most at-risk regions in the world. According to the [ASEAN Disaster Information Network](#), there has already been 180 disaster events in the region, affecting 3.4 million people and costing an estimated \$39.1 million USD in this year alone. Moreover, with climate change intensifying, the number of disasters in the region is set to grow as highlighted by the [2021 IPCC report](#), leading to costlier emergency responses and increasingly strained budgets.

With its main advantage of doing more with less funding, anticipatory action is a welcome boon to this part of the world as has been acknowledged through the launch of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s [Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management](#) in October 2022.

While anticipatory action is not new to Southeast Asia – as seen by [Philippines anticipatory action pilot by UNOCHA](#) and [other similar responses](#) – this is the first time that this has been reflected in an intergovernmental regional framework. Importantly, the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management integrates anticipatory action into the broader disaster management structure in ASEAN. Although this framework is not binding, developing a regional understanding of anticipatory action will enhance collaboration between the ASEAN

member states while still allowing enough flexibility for a more localised approach within each state.

On the other hand, anticipatory action may not always be effective. The strength of anticipatory action relies on the availability and functionality of the early warning mechanism. In cases where there are multi-disaster events, it may not always be possible to effectively provide a reliable understanding of the likelihood and effects of the forthcoming disaster(s), which in turn might not enable certain 'triggers' to be met. Moreover, anticipatory action may not be effective for all hazards – particularly seismic disasters that cannot be forecast in such as earthquakes, or even those which can only be forecast during a limited window such as tsunamis. As such, governments and other stakeholders should continue to invest in more traditional disaster risk management mechanisms as well.

Anticipatory action can therefore be one remedy to this current period of increasing disasters and decreasing budgets. However, stakeholders must ensure that anticipatory actions are taken in conjunction with other disaster management measures. While such measures can be used to mitigate the impact of disasters, it is equally important to invest in preparedness and recovery mechanisms to ensure a holistic response and recovery in the face of disasters.

ON THE GROUND



Singapore Red Cross Embark on Humanitarian Initiatives in Ukraine Communities

The Singapore Red Cross has embarked on various humanitarian initiatives to support Ukrainian communities facing a harsh winter.

Medical Equipment

Several hospitals were damaged, and SRC provided medical equipment such as an x-ray table and a shockwave physiotherapy device, to the Okhmatdyt National Specialised Children's Hospital and other medical facilities in Odesa, Kyiv, and Uzhhorod to ensure continuity of health services.

To make medical services accessible, SRC procured a mobile clinic and 10 ambulances for the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS). The mobile clinic has a portable

x-ray machine, pharmacy, laboratory, and emergency room for minor surgeries. Eight ultrasound diagnostic machines and five ventilators were also given to mobile health groups that provide medical services.

Lighthouses; Singapore-designed Homes

SRC has contributed towards power for 'lighthouses', where people can keep warm, charge their communication and medical devices, access clean water, food packs and other essentials.

SRC and its partners also supported the purchase and fuel costs of six power generators to provide power and electricity for 750 people per day. 10 modular houses were also constructed to protect people from the cold.

Water & Sanitation

There was heightened demand for clean water and emergency filtration systems as infrastructure providing water had been destroyed. With the help of donations, SRC provided 10 aquablock systems and two ROAMfilter systems and is currently procuring more water filtration systems for communities in Ukraine.

Volunteers trained in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) also conducted training on WASH and the proper usage of the filtration systems, for Polish and Ukrainian volunteers. Besides providing access to clean water, SRC worked with volunteer-led groups to provide care packages comprising food, hygiene items, diapers and essentials for mothers and babies, the elderly, children and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine. Read more [here](#).



Relief Singapore Organise Collection Drive for Turkey/Syria Earthquakes

After devastating earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria on Feb 6, Relief Singapore (RSG) organised a collection drive for urgent medical supplies as requested by local partner Hayrat Yardim, which had humanitarian operations in both countries. Five truckload-full of

donations-in-kind were then handed over to the Turkish Embassy here in Singapore for forwarding to Turkey: <https://www.facebook.com/relief.sg/>.

As the road to recovery is long, and the needs are still great, RSG is preparing to launch a second response to help the affected, particularly in areas that are underserved.

Relief Singapore Return to Cox's Bazaar to Scope New Programmes

Relief Singapore recently returned to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh to reestablish contact with local partners. It will resume mental health interventions later in the year, and scope out new programmes for education.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

News Articles and Commentaries

Next Steps for Disaster Resilience in ASEAN

Alistair D. B. Cook and Christopher Chen
RSIS Commentary
11 October 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

Cybersecurity in the Humanitarian Sector: New Challenges and Solutions

Christopher Chen
RSIS Commentary
18 November 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

Climate-induced Disasters as an Evolving Threat to Southeast Asia's Maritime Security

Lina Gong
Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative
25 November 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

China and the Long Game on Climate

Marina Kaneti
The Diplomat
1 December 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

Countering Disinformation and Misinformation in Humanitarian Relief Work

S. Nanthini
RSIS Commentary
7 December 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

ASEAN: A Multilateral Model of Disaster Management

S. Nanthini
Observer Research Foundation
15 December 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

Disaster Management in Southeast Asia: 20 Years of Progress and Challenges

Mely Caballero-Anthony,
Alistair D. B. Cook and Jonatan Lassa
RSIS Commentary

2 March 2023

[Click here](#) to read more.

Journal Articles / Chapters

Beneficiary-Centric Decision Support Framework for Enhanced Resource Coordination in Humanitarian Logistics: A Case Study From Asean

Giuseppe Timperio, Tanmoy Kundu,
Matthias Klumpp, Robert de Souza, Xiu Hui Loh, Kelvin Goh

Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review,
167(102909), 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.

'Singapore: Migrant Workers, a Vulnerable Community during COVID-19' in Noel M. Morada, Mely Caballero-Anthony (eds), Covid-19 and Atrocity Prevention in East Asia

S. Nanthini
London: Routledge, 2022

[Click here](#) to read more

Imagining Cooperation: Cold War Aesthetics for a Hot Planet

Marina Kaneti
Global Storytelling: Journal of Digital and Moving Images, 2(2), 2023

[Click here](#) to read more.

Rebuilding Historic Urban Neighborhoods After Disasters: Balancing Disaster Risk Reduction and Heritage Conservation After the 2015 Earthquakes in Nepal

Patrick Daly, Sabin Ninglekhu,
Pia Hollenbach, Jamie W. McCaughey,
David Lallemant, Benjamin P. Horton
International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 86 (103564), 2023

[Click here](#) to read more (open access)

A Data-Driven Approach to Rapidly Estimate Recovery Potential to Go Beyond Building Damage After Disasters

Sabine Loos,, David Lallemant,
Feroz Khan, Jamie W. McCaughey,
Robert Banick, Nama Budhathoki &
Jack W. Baker
Communications Earth & Environment,
4(40), 2023

[Click here](#) to read more (open access).

Reports

ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue On Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2022

Alistair D.B Cook, Christopher Chen,
Lina Gong and S. Nanthini
Event Report October 2022

[Click here](#) to read more.



Photo by Unsplash

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Call for Abstract! Submissions for ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Re-view (ARMOR) 4th Edition

The AHA Centre is calling for aspiring experts, researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and entrepreneurs of ASEAN Member States, and those working in the ASEAN region to contribute article(s) for the 4th edition of ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR).

For this edition, ARMOR will take focus on Sustainable Resilience. With the rapidly increasing level of risk of disasters exacerbated by the effects of climate change, the discussions are now focus on the efforts and urgent actions required to ensure that resilience is sustainable.

Interested parties are expected to send their Expression of Interest, consisting of the following information: proposed chapter

title, 300 words of abstract, and 50 words of prospective author(s) profile. Expression of Interest should reach ARMOR Board of Editors by Friday, 17 March 2023 by email to sadhu.janottama@ahacentre.org with cc to caroline.widagdo@ahacentre.org. Interested parties are encouraged to refer to the Theme for ARMOR 4th Edition and Authors' Guidelines.

For more details, please look [here](#).



ONE ASEAN
ONE RESPONSE

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

ASEAN RISK MONITOR AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT REVIEW (ARMOR) 4th EDITION

THEME:

"Rendering 2023 Disastergram*: Is ASEAN going to the right path for Sustainable Resilience?"



LAST SUBMISSION: 17 MARCH 2023

For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/ARMOR4thEdition>

**'Disastergram' derives from the word 'Disaster' and 'Diagram' which provide a holistic illustration of disaster setting in the ASEAN region including the level of risk, disaster management efforts, and disaster management-related research, innovation, and latest technology.*