



# ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management 2025

Building a Resilient Future:  
Advancing ASEAN's Post-2025 Vision for Disaster  
Management



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Grand Hyatt Hotel Singapore

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**Report on the conference organised by:** Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), ASEAN Secretariat

**Knowledge partner:** Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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### **Conference resources (including speeches and presentations)**

- SPDDM Official Webpage: <https://ahacentre.org/spddm>
- SPDDM 2025 Report Annexes: <https://ahacentre.org/spddm2025report>

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## Executive Summary

Preparing for the future is not only about drawing on the hard-earned lessons of the past but also about embracing innovation, collaboration, and new ways of thinking. Against the background of a rapidly evolving risk landscape, the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2025 provides a platform to reflect on progress achieved over 20 years of regional disaster management, while charting forward-looking strategies aligned with the goals of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 in response to emerging challenges. Under the theme, “Building a Resilient Future: Advancing ASEAN’s Post-2025 Vision for Disaster Management”, discussions focused on best practices, leadership, innovation, inclusiveness, and cooperation to strengthen disaster resilience. The dialogue brought together stakeholders and fostered knowledge exchange to generate insights to inform the next phase of ASEAN’s disaster management agenda.

This report summarises the key points in the dialogue. The keynote speeches highlighted ASEAN’s 20 years of progress in practising the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), the role of emerging technologies and innovation, inclusive and people-centred approaches, and the value of investment in proactive disaster management. The High-Level Panel explored systemic risks, people-centred governance, and cross-sector collaboration with an emphasis on aligning disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts. The Thematic Panel featured discussions on inclusive and people-centred disaster management, the benefit of tailored early warning information, and the importance of risk insurance and financing. The dialogue concluded with the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook Town Hall Session, an interactive session with participants where forward-looking priorities for the region’s post-2025 agenda and potential challenges and opportunities in achieving them were discussed.





## Welcome Remarks



**H.E. Ma Norith**, the Deputy Secretary-General of the National Committee for Disaster Management of Cambodia as the Representative of the Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), welcomed participants to SPDDM 2025. He expressed his appreciation to the organisers and acknowledged the European Union for its longstanding support of ASEAN's disaster management initiatives and efforts.

H.E. Ma Norith highlighted how Cambodia's chairmanship of the ACDM coincided with the 20th anniversary of the signing of the AADMER. Given this, the ACDM sought to advance regional disaster resilience under the theme, "20 Years of AADMER: ASEAN Vision for Global Leadership in Disaster Resilience." The recent conduct of the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) 2025 marks an effort to advance regional resilience. Meanwhile, the ongoing development of the AADMER Work Programme 2026-2030 serves as the region's roadmap for strengthening regional disaster management.

Underscoring the significance of the SPDDM as a flagship initiative of the ACDM, H.E. Ma Norith noted that the 10th anniversary of the dialogue reflects its vital role in shaping regional thinking and practice in disaster management ahead of the next phase of ASEAN's disaster management agenda. He commended Singapore, particularly SCDF, for its leadership role in championing the dialogue since its inception in 2015.

## Opening Remarks by the Guest of Honour



**Mr Edwin Tong**, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, delivered the opening remarks as Guest-of-Honour of the dialogue. The year 2025 marked two important milestones: the 10th edition of SPDDM and the 20th anniversary of AADMER. In his speech, Mr Edwin Tong highlighted ASEAN's progress in disaster management, underscored by the recent mobilisation of the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) regional stockpiles and the deployment of ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) members in response to Tropical Cyclone Wipha. The response efforts also demonstrated regional solidarity and collective response capability.

Three priority areas for ASEAN's disaster management over the coming decade were outlined: localisation, knowledge exchange, and innovation. Localisation was stressed as essential, given the diverse contexts and resources of ASEAN. The expansion of ASEAN-ERAT to 457 members, along with the strengthening of local ASEAN-ERAT pools, and initiatives such as Indonesia's Disaster Resilient Villages and Vietnam's inclusive evacuation plans, were cited as concrete examples of realising this priority.

On knowledge exchange and collaboration, platforms such as the SPDDM and the upcoming Singapore International Disaster and Emergency Management Expo (SIDEX) to be held in November 2025 were identified as important avenues to share best practices and strengthen collaboration, including through engagement with ASEAN's dialogue partners.

Innovation was highlighted as a key driver of resilience with the youth recognised as vital actors in advancing new approaches. This was reflected through the participation of SPDDM's youth speaker, Mr Joshua Belayan, who represented youth engagement in climate action platform, as well as youth-led initiatives such as gamified disaster preparedness education by the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute YouthMappers. Technological advances, ranging from the use of AI in

forecasting systems and mass disaster alert communication technologies to experimental tools such as Singapore's cyborg cockroaches, which are piloted remotely and can navigate tiny and cramped crevices to support search-and-rescue operations during the March 2025 earthquake in Myanmar, showcased the potential of creative and innovative solutions.

Collaboration, solidarity, and shared learning were affirmed as essential for ASEAN as the region collectively faces an increasingly volatile disaster landscape. The SPDDM was recognised as an important platform to spark fresh ideas, generate valuable insights, and catalyse stronger cooperation as ASEAN prepares for its post-2025 phase of disaster management and resilience building.

## Remarks by the Secretary-General of ASEAN



Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, described the theme of this year's SPDDM, "Building a Resilient Future: ASEAN's Post-2025 Vision for Disaster Management," as both timely and visionary. It not only highlights the two decades of progress of AADMER but also reinforces the aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. He noted that the dialogue's coincidence with World Humanitarian Day served as a reminder of ASEAN's solidarity with the global humanitarian community.

SPDDM's 10th anniversary was particularly significant, with its progress since 2015 as a platform for policy-relevant discussion and knowledge exchange on disaster management. Such progress was attributed to the active contributions of ASEAN sectoral bodies, ASEAN external partners, civil society, academia, international organisations, and Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, among others. The collaboration not only enhanced resilience but ensured alignment with global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ASEAN's sustained progress under ACDM leadership remains anchored in preparing for the increasingly complex disaster risk landscape. In this context, Dr Kao Kim Hourn commended ACDM for the successful conduct of the recent ARDEX-25 and the ongoing development of the AADMER Work Programme 2026-2030.

The role of technologies such as artificial intelligence, satellite-based early warning, and real-time data analytics was emphasised, with platforms such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and digital innovation hubs as avenues for integrating such innovations into wider international and regional strategies.

In closing, Dr Kao Kim Hourn highlighted SPDDM as a testament to ASEAN's spirit of partnership and envisioned the dialogue to generate valuable insights to guide ASEAN's post-2025 vision and to inspire the continued commitment to building a people-centred, resilient ASEAN community.



## Remarks by the Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN



H.E. Sujiro Seam, Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN commended how SPDDM has been held in conjunction with significant events or milestones. The last SPDDM coincided with the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a disaster event which catalysed the development of AADMER and the establishment of the AHA Centre. This year's dialogue coincides with 20 years of AADMER, marking significant milestones in both the growth of SPDDM as a platform for dialogue on disaster management and ASEAN's progress in disaster management.

The centrality of preparedness in advancing ASEAN's disaster management agenda was highlighted. Preparedness, both in technical and financial means, was identified as a valuable tool for building resilience. Contingency planning and relevant mechanisms were noted as instrumental for ASEAN's response, while the timely access to resources and assets and risk financing mechanisms drew parallels for the EU side. This underscored the importance of cooperation between the EU and ASEAN.

The longstanding ASEAN-EU cooperation was recalled through the Joint Leaders' Statement adopted at the 45th ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in 2022; the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2020-2026), the Administrative Arrangement between the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office (ECHO) and the AHA Centre; as well as through financial support such as the Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (EU-SAHA) and the Leveraging AHA Centre Capacity for Emergency Response (LACER) Projects, with a cumulative contribution of EUR 9.2 million in ASEAN's preparedness and response capacities.

The ASEAN Community Vision 2045 was described as guided by four key qualifiers: resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred. Resilience was linked to enhanced technical and financial capacities, innovation to emerging technologies, dynamism to adaptive planning supported by training and exercises, and people-centredness to the humanitarian imperative of bringing hope in times of crisis.



## Keynote Address on “Post-2025 Vision for ASEAN’s Resilience: A Perspective”



**Dr Kao Kim Hourn**, Secretary-General of ASEAN, attributed the timeliness of the dialogue to how it took place amid rising disaster risks in Southeast Asia driven by climate change, rapid urbanisation, and transboundary threats. It was recalled that the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, launched at the 2015 ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), envisions the region as a global leader in disaster management. As we now look toward a post-2025 horizon, it is vital to assess lessons and achievements, and identify key enablers for future-ready disaster agenda for ASEAN region. In this spirit, the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 adopted by the ASEAN Leaders earlier this year, provides a powerful opportunity to reimagine our regional resilience.

ASEAN’s disaster resilience was noted as central to safeguarding the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. Regional efforts in advancing disaster management were reviewed through three strategic pillars of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, namely: (1) institutionalisation and communications, (2) finance and resource mobilisation, and (3) partnerships and innovation.

On institutionalisation and communications, the AADMER and Leaders’ Declarations, such as ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response and ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Sustainable Resilience, along with operational tools such as the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangement and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP), and ASEAN Capacity Building Roadmap 2025-2030 were pointed out for their strengthening of the region’s prevention, preparedness, and response capacities. Altogether, these signified that the region’s institutional machinery has matured. Additionally, the AHA Centre’s role in advancing coordination, information management, and logistics was emphasised along with its mechanisms—ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet), DELSA, and the ASEAN-ERAT. Platforms such as the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Platform (ADRP) and technical

working groups, and how they enable cross-sectoral integration, were also commended.

On finance and resource mobilisation, the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief (ADMER) Fund and the ASEAN Roadmap for Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance were described as key to equipping Member States with financial tools and risk-transfer mechanisms to manage the economic impact of disasters.

In terms of partnerships and innovations, ACDM Open sessions and ACDM Plus consultations, as well as the ASEAN Disaster Resilience Forum (ADRF), were instrumental in deepening ASEAN's partnerships. The ASEAN ICT roadmap guides the use of science, technology, and innovation, aiming to strengthen regional disaster infrastructure for enhanced resilience. Overall, these three pillars reinforce ASEAN's role as a global leader.

It was noted that, despite this progress, ASEAN faces an increasingly complex and fast-evolving risk landscape characterised by climate impacts, rapid urbanisation, demographic shifts, environmental degradation, and unequal access to digital and green transitions, which compound vulnerabilities. Disruptions such as the more than 3,600 disasters recorded between 2021 and 2025 that displaced 7.5 million people and caused losses exceeding USD 3.1 billion trigger ripple effects on economic stability, food security, and humanitarian access far beyond Southeast Asia and call for decisive and collective action.

Seven key priorities were outlined for ASEAN's post-2025 disaster agenda: (1) aligning disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation; (2) building robust, end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems; (3) strengthening community and infrastructure resilience; (4) enhancing disaster risk financing and insurance; (5) improving preparedness and response for large-scale disasters; (6) prepare for large-scale disaster recovery in advance; and (7) strengthen ASEAN's global leadership.

Three conditions were identified to enable these recommendations: (1) harnessing innovation and advanced technologies, (2) strengthening human resource capacities, and (3) fostering partnerships and inclusivity as the foundation of disaster management efforts.

ASEAN's future in disaster resilience was underscored as being defined not by hazards faced but by the region's collective strength. The two decades of progress under AADMER are a testament to unity, preparedness, and innovation, which the ASEAN member states have demonstrated to be capable of, yet a changing risk landscape demands bolder action. Moving forward, resilience will depend on local expert knowledge, innovation, and placing communities at the centre of policy and decision-making. By doing so, this will enable ASEAN to face future disasters steadfastly, recovering stronger while also safeguarding development gains.

Looking ahead, four priority areas were identified for ASEAN's disaster management agenda. First, the reconceptualisation of disasters and how we respond to them, to encompass not only those caused by natural hazards. Second, greater

investment in training, tools, and early warning systems, as a recognition of disaster management as an essential investment rather than a mere cost. Third, effective coordination as policy and tools only matter if they translate into swift action on the ground. Lastly, ASEAN must continue its open engagement with stakeholders across Member States, sectoral bodies, the community, and its partners.

As ASEAN charts its plan for the next decade/s, seven “P’s” were proposed to guide its approach: (1) Planning and Preparedness - regularly reviewed to remain fit for purpose; (2) Principles and Policies - grounded in humanitarian values; (3) Programmes and Plans of Action - implemented and renewed annually; (4) Progress - building momentum from past achievements; (5) Best Practices - compiled and shared across regions; (6) Partnerships - sustained through trust and expanded inclusively; and above all, (7) People - kept at the heart of ASEAN’s Vision 2045 as a people-centred and people-oriented community.



## High-Level Panel Discussion on Disaster Management Leadership: Driving Innovation and Capacity Sharing to Build a Resilient ASEAN



### Speakers:

**Dr Raditya Jati**, Deputy Minister for System and Strategy, National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), Republic of Indonesia

**H.E. Kiya Masahiko**, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN

**H.E. Joanna Jane Anderson**, Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN

### Moderator:

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

The High-Level Panel Discussion, moderated by Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, featured perspectives from Japan, New Zealand, and Indonesia.

**Dr. Raditya Jati** emphasised the growing complexity of systemic risks in the region, especially those driven by climate-induced disasters. He noted that the region's approach towards resilience should be under a people-centred lens, account for human mobility, displacement, and the fragility of interconnected systems. He also highlighted the need for ASEAN to synergise its climate change, disaster risk reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda through the support of innovative financing, innovation, and collaborative frameworks. Looking beyond 2025, he stressed the importance of a shift in

mindset—more proactive, that places communities at the centre of disaster governance and strengthens sustainable practices to mitigate compounding risks.

**H.E. Kiya Masahiko** reaffirmed Japan's long-standing commitment to supporting ASEAN in disaster management, noting the value of respecting regional ownership and mobilising local resources. He highlighted Japan's experience in strengthening infrastructure and community resilience and stressed the need for continued investment in human resources and disaster risk governance. As the SFDRR approaches its conclusion in 2030, he underscored Japan's intention to contribute its expertise while learning from ASEAN's collaborative approaches. He also pointed out that ASEAN's emphasis on collective action offers valuable lessons for Japan's own strategies and expressed a desire to deepen networks and partnerships across the region.

**H.E. Joanna Jane Anderson** drew on New Zealand's extensive experience in disaster risk management to highlight the importance of a partner-led approach. She identified three key assets in building resilience: (1) investment across the disaster cycle, (2) effective coordination, and (3) engagement through local organisations. She stressed that rapid response and recovery are essential to sustaining community resilience. In addressing current geopolitical challenges, she pointed to opportunities for ASEAN–New Zealand collaboration in climate adaptation and resilience, noting New Zealand's support for the AHA Centre and knowledge management frameworks. She concluded by emphasising the need for continuous dialogue to identify new and innovative forms of partnership.

## **Question and Answer Session**

A member of the audience asked about how ASEAN could better integrate disaster management and climate change frameworks, while also embedding disability inclusion. Dr. Raditya Jati emphasised the importance of breaking down silos and ensuring alignment through effective communication and cross-sector collaboration, noting that inclusivity must remain a core principle in this integration.

Another participant raised a question on how ASEAN could strengthen leadership in disaster management through innovation and capability sharing. Dr. Raditya Jati and H.E. Joanna Jane Anderson emphasised the importance of exchanging knowledge, fostering innovation, and cultivating a culture of collaboration among Member States to enhance their leadership capacities.

On depoliticisation, H.E. Kiya Masahiko emphasised that disaster management should transcend politics, serving as a common ground for cooperation. He argued that by focusing on humanitarian needs and human dignity, stakeholders can overcome politicisation and build trust, enabling more effective collaboration.

The discussion also touched on ASEAN's ability to respond as one entity outside the region, particularly in collaboration with partners such as Japan and New Zealand. H.E. Masahiko expressed optimism about ASEAN's goal of "responding as one" outside the region while also noting the importance of partnerships to enable the region's aspiration and capacity to contribute globally.

Concerns regarding the allocation of financial resources were raised, particularly the imbalanced focus on post-disaster recovery over resilience-building. Dr. Jati acknowledged this gap and called for a shift in mindset—to think more proactively in preparedness and resilience.

Questions on people-centred approaches were also highlighted, particularly what such approaches would look like in the coming decade. Drawing from New Zealand's experience, H.E. Anderson pointed to the importance of community engagement and local ownership. She argued that preparedness must be embedded within communities themselves to be effective.

The role of Information, Communications, and Technology (ICT) in disaster management was another concern, with questions about vulnerabilities and gaps in the region's systems. The panel collectively noted the need for ASEAN and its partners to strengthen technological collaboration, improve interoperability, and harness digital tools to close existing gaps.

Finally, questions were raised on ASEAN's positioning as a centre of excellence in disaster management, as well as the challenges in ASEAN–Japan collaboration. Dr. Jati highlighted the need for ASEAN to consolidate knowledge-sharing across research institutions, while H.E. Masahiko underscored the importance of broadening partnerships and addressing existing limitations to enhance joint efforts.



## Keynote Address on “Strengthening Resilience and Global Partnerships: Charting the Path for Disaster Management and Emergency Response between ASEAN and the World”



Mr David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development Coordination Office, highlighted that the region reached an important milestone 20 years after the establishment of AADMER. He emphasised that two decades of cooperation compel the global community, to make bold, forward-looking choices—not only in terms of disaster management, but also in shaping the future of resilience. He noted that we are living in a “polycrisis” where we face issues of climate volatility, economic turbulence, geopolitical stress, and widening inequalities, and underscored the potential of ASEAN to serve as a global reference for resilience cooperation.

There needs to be three policy shifts to adjust to this mounting crisis: anticipation, innovation, and investment. On anticipation, artificial intelligence can be used to power risk forecasting capabilities. This can provide early warning systems to cover transboundary hazards, such as heat waves, droughts, storm surges, and disease outbreaks. On inclusion, women, youth, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities are most exposed to disasters yet least represented in decision-making. ASEAN Member States must continue to enhance inclusive, integrated approaches to disaster planning. On innovation, there must be a shift from aid to investment. There are some promising models in the region, such as Indonesia's USD 12.6 billion sustainable development bond with private sector partners for resilient infrastructure and climate-smart agriculture.

Furthermore, it was emphasised that pooling sovereign and private capital has the potential to be truly transformative; resilience becomes investable when public priorities and private capital align. Public-private partnerships must be expanded to include people, essential for disaster management, noting Mr David McLachlan-Karr's observation that 70% of disaster responses begin with local businesses before international aid arrives. These

partnerships can allow for knowledge sharing for tailored responses.

The next AADMER Work Programme 2026-2030 presents the UN with a new opportunity to cooperate with the region. With the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP30 around the corner, this gives ASEAN a platform to lead with a unified voice. This is particularly important for the full and rapid operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, especially for the Pacific Island nations.

ASEAN is not waiting for global systems to change, and it is already testing what is next. ASEAN is showing some of the best practices, and the UN is ready to help amplify ASEAN's efforts. ASEAN is already leading with global best practices and urged that the next chapter must make resilience anticipatory, inclusive, and investment-led.

## Thematic Panel Discussion on “Mitigating Spillover Effects: Overcoming Intersecting Risks and Transboundary Hazards through Innovative Partnerships”



### Speakers:

**Ms Koh Li-Na**, Director-General of the Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS) and the Director of the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC)

**Ms Bhagyashri Dengle**, Regional Director for Plan International Asia-Pacific

**Mr Joshua Belayan**, Meaningful Youth Engagement Consultant, Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)

**Mr Benedikt Signer**, Executive Director, Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF)

**Ms June Kunugi**, Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### Moderator:

**Mr Daniel Seet**, Deputy Commissioner (Future Technology and Public Safety), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

The Thematic Panel Discussion, moderated by Mr Daniel Seet, featured perspectives from a range of stakeholders, including the Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS) and the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), Plan International, the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The speakers



emphasised ASEAN's priorities in sector-specific solutions, inclusive and youth-led governance, and financial innovation to strengthen disaster resilience. The panellists highlighted early warning systems, gender and child-centred approaches, and parametric insurance as essential considerations for disaster management. The open-floor question and answer segment underscored knowledge-sharing, resource collaboration, and lessons from COVID-19 to advance transformative regional resilience.

**Ms Koh Li-Na** stressed the importance of tailoring meteorological services to different sectoral needs, such as aviation, shipping, infrastructure, and public spaces. It was noted that ASEAN's interconnected weather systems can be instrumental for regional cooperation. It was stressed that both top-down guidance from the World Meteorological Organization and bottom-up contributions from ASEAN Member States are needed to strengthen early warning systems for enhanced anticipatory strategies. Increased cross-sector engagement was also described as essential for determining specific data needs for climate adaptation planning.

**Ms Bhagyashri Dingle** highlighted Plan International's priorities for women and children, particularly the disproportionate risks they face during disasters. Plan International has a comprehensive approach, allowing for gender transformative programming, enabling the participation of young girls and women in effective community-level delivery. It was mentioned that Plan International works closely with the ASEAN Secretariat, which holds regular regional meetings to plan how governments can facilitate more gender and youth-inclusive disaster management. ASEAN should continue to make efforts to increase its leadership role in this realm.

**Mr Joshua Belayan** emphasised that young people should be recognised not just as future leaders but as current leaders. The need to "think beyond" was underscored considering that young people will one day inherit leadership responsibilities. This is especially important as there are 700 million young people in the Asia-Pacific region. It was also noted that strong engagement with young communities can enhance the "grassroots" work already occurring, allowing for stronger networks and knowledge exchange for disaster management.

**Mr Benedikt Signer** explained the role of parametric insurance as a pre-arranged financial instrument to efficiently provide governments with liquidity post-disaster. Furthermore, insurance can help put a price on risk, visualise the intangible costs of disasters, and help financial allocators understand the financial costs of decisions. Collaboration with both international organisations and local stakeholders is essential in this regard. Overall, insurance mechanisms help quantify risks and shift funding from reactive relief toward proactive risk reduction.

**Ms June Kunugi** highlighted that intersecting solutions are essential for the disaster resilience of children, requiring multisectoral approaches that bridge education, health, social protection, and climate adaptation. UNICEF has initiatives to provide equitable allocation to address child-specific needs, such as the Child Climate Risk Index and the Learning Passport, which provides digital education access during crises. UNICEF and ASEAN have engaged in joint efforts, including the signing of an MoU, to increase access to resources for children during times of crisis. This has helped UNICEF engage with at least

15 ASEAN divisions and sectoral bodies. Looking ahead to the ASEAN's strategic plan for disaster management in the immediate future, 2026-2030, she emphasised the importance of further expanding multisectoral approaches and fostering synergies.

### **Question and Answer Session**

A question was raised about future strategies in terms of how to deal with cascading climate risks. Ms Bhagyashri emphasised that Plan International wants to maintain its scale of activities, while working to reduce the duplication of disaster management strategies for increased resource efficiency. Mr Joshua noted that YECAP is continuing to turn to young leaders to understand their needs and implement programmes according to these needs. Ms Koh Li-Na echoed Ms Bhagyashri's point of not duplicating disaster management strategies, while engaging less conventional partners for the sharing of data and resources.

The panellists were also asked about how they seek to learn from past experiences, such as COVID-19, to devise more effective strategies for disaster management. Mr Signer conveyed that the pandemic increased the consideration of pre-arranged financing, to ensure liquidity is made available at early stages of emergencies. Ms Kunugi highlighted that routine preventative measures such as immunisation should be normalised, as these can be significantly more cost-effective than curative measures. Overall, maintaining continuity of routines during disasters is crucial, especially to guarantee access to resources for vulnerable groups.

## ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook: Preparing for a Future Beyond 2025



### Moderators:

**Dr Alistair D. B. Cook**, Senior Fellow; Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

**Dr Riyanti Djalante**, Head of the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, ASEAN Secretariat

**Dr. Riyanti Djalante** discussed the series of AADMER Work Programmes from 2010 to 2025, examining the progress made in regional disaster management efforts. She also recalled the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management that outlined three core pillars: (1) institutionalisation and communication, (2) finance and resource mobilisation, and (3) partnerships and innovation, citing this as a benchmark to gauge the region's progress in its goals. She also presented the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future, a compendium of six documents that envisioned long-term goals for the region.

**Dr. Alistair D. B. Cook** reflected on the 2021 midterm stock-taking exercise (ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook), which combined progress review with forward-looking inputs toward post-2025 and 2030 visions. He introduced a fourth pillar, anticipatory action in a complex risk landscape, stressing the need to break silos and adopt a whole-of-society approach.

### **Town Hall Session**

During the town hall session, participants of SPDDM were asked to discuss and answer two questions:

- (i) In line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, what should be the key priorities for ASEAN to strengthen its disaster governance and ensure a resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred future within the upcoming AWP 2026-2030, and also in the long term by 2045?
- (ii) What opportunities and challenges do you foresee in advancing regional disaster resilience in the coming decade/s? In what ways should ASEAN adapt its vision to respond to emerging risks—particularly transboundary hazards and intersecting risks? How can innovation and technology shape the region's ability to anticipate and address future risk scenarios?

For the first question, several themes emerged as key priorities. These included strengthening access to anticipatory action mechanisms and early warning systems; capacity building to align competencies region-wide; localisation and the inclusion of youth, women, persons with disabilities and marginalised communities in “people-centred” approaches to advance resilience; multisectoral cooperation and partnerships for knowledge sharing, coordination, and implementation; investment in critical infrastructure, financial literacy, nature-based solutions, innovative technologies, and risk communication; and reconceptualising disaster governance to break down silos and foster greater collaboration. Finally, the need for a clear and depoliticised disaster governance and standard operating procedures was underscored to support effective decision-making.

For the second question, participants highlighted persistent challenges and opportunities across key themes. On challenges, increasingly unpredictable climate-induced crises and other hazards that heighten vulnerabilities and strain disaster management; fragmented and inconsistent data, limited transparency and uneven access that hinder effective preparedness and early warning; underfunded disaster preparedness and resilience relative to response; bureaucratic hurdles that remain an impediment to effective implementation; and gaps in disaster governance and loss of skilled personnel.



At the same time, participants identified opportunities in innovative financing models, anticipatory investments, and resilient infrastructure through public–private partnerships. The participants highlighted that advances in digital tools, AI, remote sensing, and nature-based solutions could strengthen preparedness—provided that challenges related to misinformation, ethics, and uneven adoption are addressed. Participants also emphasised the importance of translating regional strategies into local action through decentralised early warning, community training, and public education, while ensuring inclusiveness so that youth, women, people with disabilities, and vulnerable groups are at the centre of disaster governance.

## Closing Remarks



**H.E. Ma Norith** delivered the Closing Remarks of the SPDDM 2025. In his remarks, H.E. Ma Norith highlighted the special significance of SPDDM this year, as it marks its 10th anniversary, serving as a reminder of how far the region has come in achieving collective efforts for disaster management. The importance of working together both within ASEAN and beyond the region was reinforced in light of increasingly complex, interconnected, and transboundary risks. Embracing innovation and enhancing knowledge sharing is key to tackling the escalating impact of climate change. ASEAN must build efforts that are inclusive and sustainable to respond to the needs of those at risk. He encouraged participants to leave the dialogue with a renewed determination to build a safer, stronger, and more resilient ASEAN for all our people.

## Annex 1: Participants' Profile

Participants by Country (Day 1: 189, Day 2: 133)



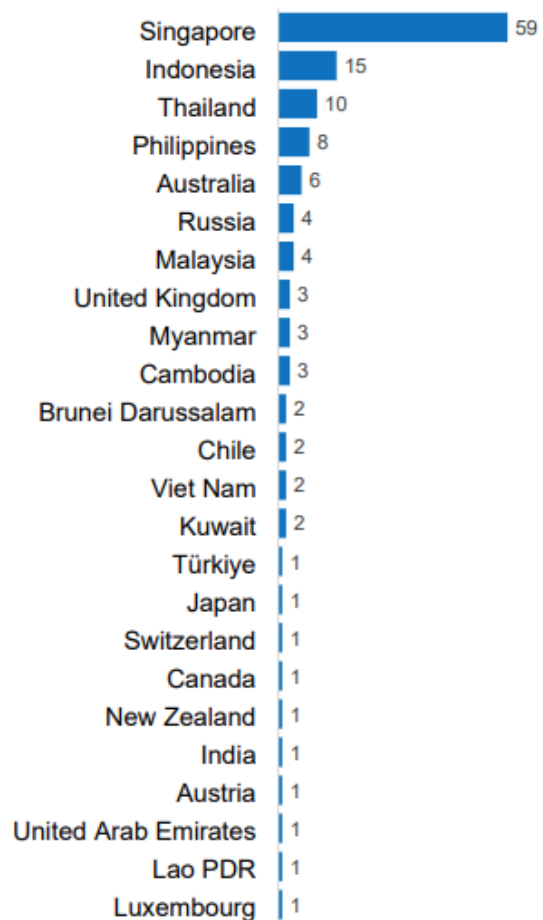
# 189

DAY 1 ATTENDEES

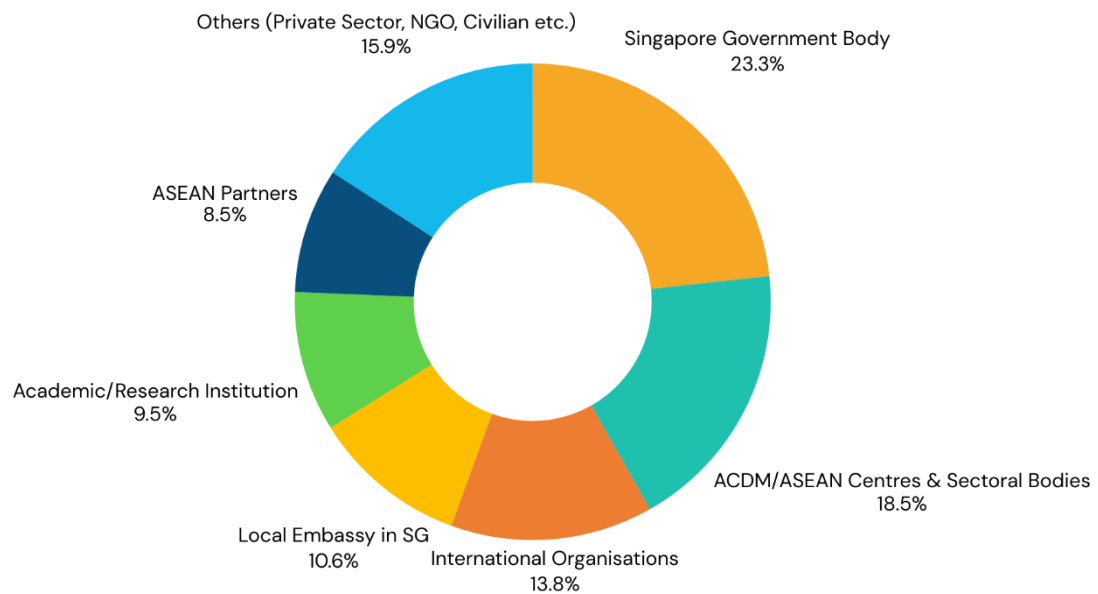


# 133

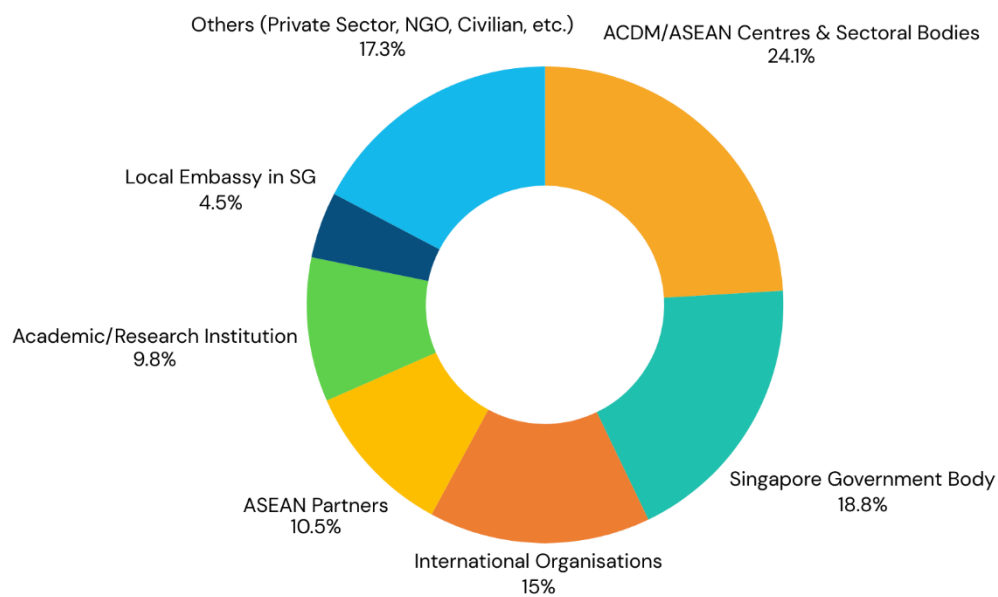
DAY 2 ATTENDEES



## Participants by Organisation Type (Day 1)



## Participants by Organisation Type (Day 2)



## Annex 2: Programme

20 August 2025

Time	Activity
<b>AM Session</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration and Networking Session
09:00 – 09:10	<p>Welcome speech by the Representative of the Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)</p> <p><b>H.E. Ma Norith</b> Deputy Secretary-General of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), Kingdom of Cambodia</p>
09:10 – 09:25	<p>Opening Remarks by Guest-of-Honour</p> <p><b>Mr. Edwin Tong</b> Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Republic of Singapore</p>
09:25 – 09:35	<p>Remarks by Secretary-General of ASEAN</p> <p><b>H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn</b></p>
09:35 – 09:45	<p>Remarks by Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN</p> <p><b>H.E. Sujiro Seam</b></p>
09:45 – 10:00	<p>Commemoration for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM)</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Group Photo followed by Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:15	<p><u>Keynote Address on Post 2025 Vision for ASEAN's Resilience: A Perspective</u></p> <p><b>H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn</b> Secretary-General of ASEAN</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	<p><u>High-Level Panel Discussion on Disaster Management Leadership: Driving Innovation and Capacity Sharing to Build a Resilient ASEAN</u></p> <p>The High-Level Panel aims to discuss the post-2025 disaster risk landscape and ASEAN's potential as a global leader in disaster management and emergency response through innovation and capacity sharing. The discussion shall draw from experiences, best</p>



	<p>practices, and lessons learned on strategies, innovative solutions, and collaboration frameworks required to shape a resilient disaster management system.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony</b>, Professor of International Relations; Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies; President's Chair in International Relations and Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</li> </ul> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Raditya Jati</b>, Deputy Minister for System and Strategy, National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), Republic of Indonesia</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Kiya Masahiko</b>, Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Joanna Jane Anderson</b>, Ambassador of New Zealand to ASEAN</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

Official Dinner	
18:30	Mr Goh Pei Ming, Minister of State for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development, Republic of Singapore
19:15	<b>Handover Ceremony from the Singapore Red Cross to the AHA Centre</b>

21 August 2025

Time	Activity
<b>AM Session</b>	
08:45 – 09:15	Registration and Networking Session
09:15 – 10:00	<p><u>Keynote Address on <i>Strengthening Resilience and Global Partnerships: Charting the Path for Disaster Management and Emergency Response between ASEAN and the World</i></u></p> <p><b>Mr. David McLachlan-Karr</b> Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific United Nations Development Coordination Office</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Refreshments and Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:00	<p><u>Thematic Panel Discussion on <i>Mitigating Spillover Effects: Overcoming Intersecting Risks and Transboundary Hazards through Innovative Partnerships</i></u></p> <p>This thematic discussion will discuss mitigating spillover effects by addressing intersecting risks and transboundary hazards—how these complex interactions can introduce new risks and hazards or amplify impacts—through innovative partnerships.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Daniel Seet</b>, Deputy Commissioner (Future Technology and Public Safety), Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)</li> </ul> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Koh Li-Na</b>, Director-General of the Meteorological Service Singapore (MSS) and Director of the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Bhagyashri Dingle</b>, Regional Director for Plan International Asia-Pacific</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Joshua Belayan</b>, Meaningful Youth Engagement Consultant, Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Benedikt Signer</b>, Executive Director, SEADRIF Insurance Company</li> <li>• <b>Ms. June Kunugi</b>, Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:45	<p><u>ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook: Preparing for a Future Beyond 2025</u></p> <p>This outlook session will follow a <u>townhall-style</u> to engage participants in identifying the priorities and dynamics for a post-</p>

	<p>2025 ASEAN vision on disaster management.</p> <p>The moderators will wrap up the session with a summary of the panels and discussions of the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management.</p> <p><u>Moderator(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Alistair D.B. Cook</b>, Senior Fellow; Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Riyanti Djalante</b>, Head of the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, ASEAN Secretariat</li> </ul>
12:45 – 13:00	<p>Closing remarks by the Representative of the Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM)</p> <p><b>H.E. Ma Norith</b> Deputy Secretary-General of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), Kingdom of Cambodia</p>

## About the ASEAN Secretariat

The ASEAN Secretariat was set up in February 1976 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. It was then housed at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia in Jakarta. The existing ASEAN Secretariat at 70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja, Jakarta was established and officiated in 1981 by the then President of Indonesia, H.E. Soeharto.

The ASEAN Secretariat's basic function is to provide for greater efficiency in coordination of ASEAN organs and for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities. The ASEAN Secretariat's vision is that it will be the nerve centre of a strong and confident ASEAN Community that is globally respected for acting in full compliance with its Charter and in the best interest of its people.

The ASEAN Secretariat's mission is to initiate, facilitate and coordinate ASEAN stakeholder collaboration in realising the purposes and principles of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter ([more information](#)).

## About 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, in line with the mandate under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). The AHA Centre primary role is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States, as well as with international organisations such as the United Nations, in disaster management and emergency response. Headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Centre facilitates emergency preparedness and response efforts and operationalises ASEAN's regional coordination mechanisms. For more information: <https://ahacentre.org/>

## About the 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 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) contingent, Operation Lionheart, is classified Heavy by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) since 2008. SCDF is also the national focal point for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM).



## About the European Union

The European Union (EU) has been an ASEAN Dialogue Partner since 1977. Providing diverse support, including on disaster management, the EU funded the Integrated Programmes in Enhancing the Capacity of the AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (EU Support to AHA Centre) through a financing agreement with ASEAN signed in October 2018. Under this agreement, the EU provides a grant to AHA centre to build capacity to respond to disaster emergencies. The cooperation was further strengthened through the signing of the Administrative Arrangement between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission (DG ECHO) and the AHA Centre in 2024 as basis for further cooperation in disaster management and emergency response.

## **About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies**

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a global graduate school and think tank focusing on strategic studies and security affairs. Its five Research Centres and three Research Programmes, led by the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, and assisted by the Dean on the academic side, drive the School's research, education and networking activities.

The graduate school offers Master of Science Programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, International Political Economy and Asian Studies. As a school, RSIS fosters a nurturing environment to develop students into first-class scholars and practitioners.

As a think tank, RSIS conducts policy-relevant and forward-looking research in both national and international security, science and technology, society and economic and environmental sustainability. RSIS also produces academic research on security and international affairs. It publishes scholarly research in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and distributes policy research in a timely manner to a wide range of readers.

## **About the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)**

**Vision:** To be the one of the world's top reputable think tanks on Asia-Pacific defence and security affairs, whose views are highly sought after.

**Mission:** To conduct analytically rigorous, cutting-edge research on defence and security-related issues and developments affecting the Asia-Pacific region in the service of the country and the global research community.