



ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force for Victims of Cyclone Nargis

Coordinating Office

One-year Cyclone Nargis Commemoration

On behalf of Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General, Dr. SOEUNG Rathchavy, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, visited the Ayeyarwady Delta today to commemorate Cyclone Nargis. During the trip, Dr. Rathchavy met the survivors of cyclone-affected people in the Delta and donated school bags and T-shirts to school children and villagers in Bogale, Pyapone, and Kungyngon Townships. Together with the TCG members, she also donated 70 fishing boats to villagers of Tha Htay Gone Village, Bogale Township and inaugurated a newly reconstructed bridge which had collapsed in Tha Leik Gyi Village, Pyapone Township as a result of the Cyclone.



ASEAN Secretary-General, Dr. SOEUNG Rathchavy, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (middle), together with TCG Members, cut the ribbon to inaugurate a reconstructed bridge in Bogale Township, 1 May 2009.

Dr. Rathchavy urged for continued support from the international community and stressed the importance of a close and effective partnership within the Tripartite Core Group, particularly as the recovery phase has started. She said, "As we pay tribute to those who passed away during the cyclone, we must not forget the lives of those who survived the cyclone. Relief and recovery efforts must be intensified, especially when the monsoon is approaching."

Welcome aboard, Dr. William Sabandar!

Dr. William Sabandar has been appointed by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General, to serve as the Head of Operations for the Coordinating Office for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force (AHTF) based in Yangon and ASEAN Chief Technical Advisor for the Tripartite Core Group. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan has also designated Dr. Willim Sabandar as his Special Envoy of the post-Nargis recovery in Myanmar.

With extensive experience as the Chief of Nias Recovery Program for the Indonesian Bureau for Recovery and Reconstruction Agency (BRR) where he promoted coordination mechanism in the Nias recovery process, facilitated communication with various stakeholders, and addressed on-the-ground challenges in the implementation of the recovery program in Nias, Dr. Sabandar will provide strategic and technical direction for the Coordinating Office for the AHTF and contribute to the implementation of the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan.



Dr. William Sabandar, Head of Coordinating Office for AHTF, Special Envoy of ASEAN Secretary-General to Myanmar with school children in Kwin Kyar Taw Village, Kungyangon Township, 1 May 2009.

Community Needs Monitoring

In preparation for the data collection process of the 2nd Periodic Review, the Periodic Review team is currently providing training to enumerators. The two-week training aims to prepare enumerators with all the skills necessary for the survey ranging from interviewing techniques, completing the questionnaire to logistics preparation. The team, comprising 95 people from 15 organisations including ASEAN, government ministries and agencies of the UN, international and local NGOs, were deployed to 102 communities in 30 townships in the Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. The second Periodic Review is expected to be finished and distributed in the last week of July 2009.

Local Capacity Building

Disaster Risk Management/Reduction Workshop

ASEAN Hub Coordinator, Philipp Danao, together with UNOCHA and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) hosted a Consultation Workshop on Disaster Risk Management/Reduction (DRM/R) in Pyapon on 6 April 2009. The workshop brought together 54 participants from different NGOs, UN agencies and Government departments from Pyapon and Kyaiklat. The workshop focused on reaching a common understanding on DRM/R among the humanitarian agencies and government officials; understanding the ASEAN regional context on DRM/R and initiatives in relation to Myanmar; existing and planned DRM/R activities by different humanitarian and UN agencies in Pyapon District; measures to prepare for the upcoming monsoon season by the Assistant Township Education Officer (ATEO) and a decision on some initial steps to form a DRR/M Consultative Working Group or Forum to further promote DRM collaboration and knowledge-sharing.



Philipp Danao (far right) at the DRR/M Workshop, Pyapone, 6 April 2009

Humanitarian Accountability Training

Three training courses on Humanitarian Accountability were delivered by Sok Phoeuk, an ASEAN Hub Coordinator, to various humanitarian actors in the Ayeyarwady Delta and Yangon Division between January and April, 2009. The majority of the fifty participants came from various UN agencies and NGOs including UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNHCR, Action Aid, ADRA, Handicap International, Save the Children, World Concern and AHTF.



Sok (standing, left) at the Accountability Training, Labutta, 16 January 2009.

Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan

A transition team, comprised of representatives from the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN, was established in early April 2009 in order to put the coordination mechanism of the PONREPP into place. The team is currently developing a work plan with a view to ensuring a smooth transition from relief to recovery phase. The team is also planning a national workshop to achieve a shared understanding about the POREPPP implementation mechanism as well as an identification of means for promoting cooperation between PONREP and the recovery plan of the government, and how to build greater transparency and accountability in the implementation.