



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ASEAN AGREEMENT ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), held on 30 May 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, was officially opened by H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and chaired by H.E. Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as Chair of COP in 2013. The Meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of disaster management or their representatives from all ASEAN Member States and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
2. The COP was the second meeting held after the AADMER entered into force on 24 December 2009. The COP, which is the policy governing body to the AADMER, meets at least once every year.
3. At the outset, Mr. Vu Van Tu, Director-General of Department of Dyke Management, Flood and Storm Control (DDMFSC) and Chief of Standing Office of Central Committee of Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC) of Viet Nam as the new elected Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) presented the AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 Accomplishment Report, which was subsequently adopted by the COP. The Report outlines the progress of implementation of AADMER Work Programme Phase 1 (2010-2012), and identifies some gaps and challenges as well as strategies to address them.
4. The COP noted several major milestones that have been achieved under Phase 1. The COP also took note of 17 flagship projects as priorities for Phase 2 implementation (2013-2015), as contained in Chapter 5 of the Accomplishment Report. The Accomplishment Report will be made disseminated to the partners and be made available online at the ASEAN website (www.asean.org) and the AHA Centre's website (www.ahacentre.org).
5. The COP was encouraged with the progress on the operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), and the effective role the AHA Centre played in the recent disasters that

occurred in the region. The Meeting noted the report of the ACDM that the current operation of the AHA Centre has been supported through the AHA Centre Fund, which consists of annual and equal contributions from the Member States, as well as generous contributions from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, in particular Australia, European Union, Japan, New Zealand and United States of America.

6. The COP noted several response mechanisms that have been put in place to facilitate ASEAN's collective response to disasters, including the fully functioning ASEAN-Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT) and the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistic System. To promote synergy among various ASEAN-related mechanisms and to further strengthen civil-military coordination on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, the COP encouraged for the use of ASEAN's response mechanisms under AADMER, in particular the AHA Centre, the ASEAN-ERAT and the ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (ASEAN-SASOP), in the upcoming exercises that will be held in the region.
7. The COP recognised the importance of time and speed in the mobilisation of ASEAN's response mechanisms in disaster emergencies, and concurred with the recommendation of the ACDM to set up an AHA Centre's Revolving Fund to be managed by the AHA Centre. The Revolving Fund will consist of among others balance from the ADMER Fund that has been used for emergency relief purposes.
8. The COP took note of the some major events that will take place in the current year in relation to the launch and implementation of the AADMER Work Programme Phase 2, particularly:
 - a) Second AADMER Partnership Conference to launch the AADMER Work Programme Phase 2 and to mobilise resources and support for its implementation, to be held in November 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;
 - b) ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) as an opportunity to test ASEAN's response mechanisms under the AADMER and readiness of the AHA Centre, to be held on 24-29 October 2013 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam;
 - c) ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM), which has been held annually to raise awareness of ASEAN people about disaster resilience and risk reduction, to be held in the second week of October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.
9. During the First Meeting in March 2012, the COP committed to realise ASEAN Leaders' decision to ensure that AADMER should remain as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN. Further to this, at this Second Meeting, the COP resolved to promote synergy and coordination

among various ASEAN-related mechanisms on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

10. In view of the above, the COP supported ACDM's proposal to form a Joint Task Force composed of ACDM and senior officials from other relevant ASEAN bodies. For this purpose, the ACDM Chair will coordinate with other chairs of relevant ASEAN bodies to form the Joint Task Force, which main purpose is to promote synergy and coordination among the relevant internal ASEAN mechanisms related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, using AADMER as the regional policy backbone and common platform.
11. To ensure continued discussion on the linkages between the EAS paper on A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response (EAS Disaster Management Initiative) and the AADMER Work Programme, the COP supported ACDM's decision to have a regular forum, such as through the open sessions of ACDM meetings.
12. The COP welcomed the convening of ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), to enable ASEAN Ministers in charge of Disaster Management to promote synergy and coordination using AADMER as the common platform for disaster management in the region.
13. The COP welcomed the proposal by the ACDM to issue the "ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management", at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam, to gain further political support to the region's disaster management efforts under AADMER, and to promote ASEAN's Centrality as well as project ASEAN's leadership in the area of disaster management.
14. The COP expressed appreciation for the capable leadership of Indonesia as Chair of the COP and the impressive leadership of Thailand as Chair of the ACDM in 2012. The Chair expressed thanks for the confidence to the leadership of Viet Nam as Chair of COP and ACDM in 2013 and requested the full support of everyone for the success of endeavors under Viet Nam's chairmanship.
15. The COP expressed appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam for hosting the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER and the excellent arrangements made and hospitality provided.

Hanoi, 30 May 2013