

**Statement of the Secretary-General of ASEAN  
For the Launching of Typhoon Yolanda Book “Y (It Happened) and ASEAN  
Book “Weathering the Perfect Storm”**

10 November 2014  
Pasig City, Philippines

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It was one year ago when Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines and left profound impact to the people of the Philippines. Today’s launching reminds us not only of the devastation and tragic losses caused by Typhoon Haiyan, but also the wealth of experiences of the Philippines and the humanitarian community in responding to Typhoon Haiyan, or Typhoon Yolanda as it is locally known. Today, we also reaffirm our commitment to incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into our daily lives and sustain our state of preparedness to prevent and minimize losses of lives and property caused by disasters.

Typhoon Haiyan invigorated existing regional mechanisms embodied in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response or AADMER. As the operational engine of AADMER, the ASEAN Co-ordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management or AHA Centre coordinated the massive support coming from other ASEAN Member States, the region’s national disaster management organisations, and other stakeholders. The role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator was activated to ensure effective delivery of support from ASEAN, showing ASEAN solidarity amidst such large-scale disasters.

The two publications, the Typhoon Yolanda Book “Y”(It Happened)” and the ASEAN Book “Weathering the Perfect Storm”, could provide useful learning platforms for disaster management practitioners and the humanitarian community. These publications underscore the reality that in responding to a large-scale disaster, new modalities of work processes to cope with the situation are required.

We would like to thank the Government of the Philippines as well as all stakeholders in the region for sharing their views and experiences and documenting them in these two publications to further improve ASEAN’s efforts in responding to disasters and building a disaster-resilient and safer community.

**LE LUONG MINH**  
Secretary-General of ASEAN