**ASEAN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Risk Assessment**

New World Manila Bay Hotel, Manila, Philippines

15 September 2017

1) The ASEAN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Risk Assessment was convened on 15 September 2017 in Manila, Philippines. It is an activity under the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2016-2020, AADMER Priority Programme 1: AWARE for which ESCAP as a Co-Chair of the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination TWG-D3R is in the lead. (Annex 1: Concept note and programme).

2) The Dialogue was co-organized by the Office of Civil Defense of the Government of the Philippines in its capacity as Co-chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Working Group on Risk Assessment and Awareness (ACDM-WG RAA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) under the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (TWG-DR3), and the ASEAN Secretariat.

3) Representing the host country, Mr. Ricardo B. Jalad, Undersecretary, Department of National Defense, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense and Executive Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, delivered the welcome address. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communication Technology Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) delivered an opening statement. H.E Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General for Socio-Cultural Community delivered a keynote speech on "Bridging the gap between disaster risk assessment and risk-informed development planning."

4) Around 50 decisionmakers, senior officials and experts from national disaster management agencies, national and local planning institutions, early warning agencies, sectoral agencies and academic institutions participated in the Dialogue. Three ASEAN countries, namely Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam are represented. (Annex 2: List of participants)

5) The Dialogue recognized the existing work being undertaken by the ACDM-WG RAA, with its partners, such as the Pacific Disaster Center and the Asian Development Bank, and the various initiatives by UN agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, and UNICEF both at the national and ASEAN level. As a starting point, it agreed that the work moving forward should focus on supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) Guidelines.

6) The Dialogue formulated a set of recommendations that will serve as the basis for the ACDM-WG RAA for developing ASEAN policy guidelines to more effectively use the results of disaster risk assessment and awareness.
Annex 1. Concept note and programme

ASEAN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Risk Assessment
New World Manila Bay Hotel, Manila, Philippines
15 September 2017

Background

As part of the commemoration of the ASEAN@50, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) under the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (TWG-DR3), and the Office of Civil Defense of the Government of the Philippines in its capacity as Co-chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Working Group on Risk Assessment and Awareness (ACDM-WG RAA), together with the ASEAN Secretariat are organizing a series of events to showcase ASEAN’s accomplishments in disaster risk reduction and management over the last five decades. The events will also provide opportunities for sharing experiences and building capacities to more effectively utilize lessons learned from disaster risk assessment.

ASEAN has set itself the goal of building a resilient community by 2025. Under the Socio-Cultural Community pillar, ASEAN strives to adapt and respond to challenges including those from natural disasters, with a “Culture of Prevention” serving as a cross-cutting issue affecting all sectoral frameworks of the ASEAN Community. This resonates with the UN Secretary-General’s Prevention Agenda that calls for a "risk-informed development strategy" to confront disasters and impacts of climate change in the broader context of sustaining peace and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ASEAN Declaration on Institutionalizing the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in April 2015, underlines the need for improved information sharing and understanding of risk and its costs, and thus calls for building national and regional capacities to assess, monitor and reduce risks through education and exchange of practices and innovations.

The ASEAN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Risk Assessment

Towards this end, the High-Level Policy Dialogue is a deliverable under the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2016-2020, AADMER Priority Programme 1: AWARE for which ESCAP as a Co-Chair of the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination TWG-D3R is in the lead.
Rationale

In recognition to the progress made over 50 years, ASEAN under AADMER 2010 – 2015 conducted a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) which identified several gaps related to legal basis, assessment methodologies, and coordination platforms among others. Substance-wise there is a gap between hazard assessments on the one hand and assessments of vulnerability and capacity on the other. Typically, inputs are dispersed among various agencies, and may be too sector focused or too concentrated on a limited geography or narrowly defined hazard.

For example, drought - characterized by common agro-climatic zones and river basin systems – typically has transboundary implications in the ASEAN region. The complexity of the phenomena requires a deeper understanding of drought risk and associated socio-economic vulnerabilities; and the shared risks and vulnerabilities necessitate regional cooperation and coordinated joint actions to develop resilient policies, programmes and interventions.

There is thus a need for policy guidelines for conducting disaster risk assessment and utilizing results as a common reference point. Such guidelines will enable effective decision-making, address transboundary issues, and can be used as basis for directing investments.

The ACDM-WG RAA, with its partners such as the Pacific Disaster Center and the Asian Development Bank, is carrying out technical work that includes a regional training workshop on implementation of ASEAN Regional Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) Guidelines, promotion and outreach of RVA Guidelines to line ministries, and translation of the RVA Guidelines into seven languages. In its latest meeting in Manila in mid-July 2017, the WG recognized the importance of an enabling policy environment for the implementation of the regional guidelines.

Aim

Building on what has been already accomplished, and as outlined in the section above, the High-Level Policy Dialogue will serve as a platform for elevating to ASEAN level the policy issues pertinent to the conduct of disaster risk assessment and awareness, and the optimal utilization of results to support development planning and disaster risk management. Some of the key topics that the participants will discuss are:

(i) Stocktaking of ASEAN’s accomplishments on disaster risk and vulnerability assessments;
(ii) Identifying the critical features of the general and sectoral policy framework to support the conduct and utilization of findings of disaster risk assessments;
(iii) Framing the policy environment that is needed to help implement the risk assessment guidelines; and
(iv) Listing the recommendations for ASEAN sectoral bodies to consider results of assessments of disaster risk, particularly those with transboundary nature and where disaster risk management plays key role to conflict prevention.
The High-Level Policy Dialogue will also contribute to the ASEAN@50 commemoration by promoting the visibility of progress and achievements of disaster management in ASEAN. Participants of this Dialogue will also be invited to participate in the “ASEAN 50-year Achievements in Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management”, a special event being organized on the 2017 International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction during the Fifth Session of ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting, to be held in Bangkok on 12 October 2017.

**Expected deliverable**
A set of recommendations that will serve as the basis for the ACDM-WG RAA to develop ASEAN Policy Guidelines to more effectively use the results of disaster risk assessment and awareness.

**Venue and date**
New World Manila Bay Hotel, Manila, 15 September 2017

**Expected participants**
Around 30 decision makers and senior officials of national disaster management agencies, national planning institutions and specialized agencies as well as disaster risk management experts.

**Programme**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker/Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Opening statement and welcome remarks</td>
<td>Mr. Ricardo B. Jalad, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense and Executive Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Philippines</td>
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<td>Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communication Technology Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP)</td>
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| 09:30  | Keynote speech                                                           | H.E Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General for Socio-Cultural Community  
**Bridging the gap between disaster risk assessment and risk-informed development planning** |
| 10:00-10.30 | Problem statement and key issues | **Policy-Related Issues on Disaster Risk Assessment and Awareness**  
Recommendations from the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Thematic Working Group’s meeting in July 2017  
Ms. Josefina T. Porcil, Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and Co-Chair of ACDM Thematic Working Group on Risk Assessment and Awareness  
**Policy framework on disaster risk assessment towards resilience for sustainable development** |
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<tr>
<td>10:30-10.45</td>
<td>Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communication Technology Disaster Risk Reduction, ESCAP</td>
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<td>10.45-11.00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>10.00-11.00</td>
<td>Problem statement and key issues (continued)</td>
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<td>National perspectives - Vietnam</td>
<td>Mr. Bui Quang Huy, Deputy Director, Disaster Management Policy and Technology Center in Vietnam</td>
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<td>National perspectives - Indonesia</td>
<td>Dr. Mulyono R. Prabowo, Indonesian Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency</td>
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<td>11.00-12.30</td>
<td>National-level coordination of disaster risk assessment</td>
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<td>Panel presentations:</td>
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<td>From ASEAN Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Guidelines to policy planning and implementation – Solutions and approaches</td>
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<td>National-level coordination of disaster risk assessment</td>
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<td>12.30-13.30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>13.30-14.00</td>
<td>UN support to risk-sensitive development in ASEAN</td>
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<td>Briefing from members of the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (TWG-DR3) and other development partners</td>
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<td>• Mr. Jose Luís Fernandez Filgueiras, FAO Representative to the Philippines, Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, Philippines</td>
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<td>• Mr. Klaus Beck, Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Philippines</td>
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<td>• Ma. Clarissa B. Tuazon, Consultant, Inclusive and Sustainable Development Unit, UNDP Philippines</td>
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<td>• Ms. Maria Sophie Sandberg Pettersson, Humanitarian/ Disaster Risk Reduction and Coordination Analyst, UN Woman Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand</td>
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<td>• Mr. Antonis Malagardis, Program Director, GIZ-RFPI Asia Program, Philippines</td>
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<td>14:00-15.00</td>
<td>Roundtable Deliberations</td>
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<td>Co-chairs of ACM–WG RAA/ESCAP: Deliberations on policy components of ASEAN RVA Guidelines</td>
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<td>o Capacity strengthening</td>
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<td>o Multi-sectoral accessing and sharing of data and information</td>
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<td>o Framing the transboundary aspects of risks assessment</td>
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<td>o Integration of disaster risk assessment into development planning</td>
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<td>15.00-15.30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>15:30-16.00</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
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<td>ASEAN Secretariat/Office of Civil Defense/ESCAP: Inputs to ASEAN policy guidelines on disaster risk assessment and awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ms. Josefina T. Porcil, Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and Co-Chair of ACM Thematic Working Group on Risk Assessment and Awareness</td>
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<td>• Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, ESCAP</td>
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<td>• Ms. Intani Nur Kusuma, Technical Officer, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division, The ASEAN Secretariat</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Wrap up and closing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communication Technology Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP)</td>
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Facilitated by Mr. Edwin Salonga, Chief, Disaster Risk Governance Division, Policy Development and Planning Service, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines
Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GOVERNMENTS

Indonesia

Mr. R. Mulyono Rahadi Prabowo, Deputy Director General for Climatology Agency of Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG)

Philippines

Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management

Mr. Cedric D. Daep, Department Head, Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Region 5)

City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

Mr. Ildebrando Cordero Bernadas, Department Head, CDRRM Officer (CDRRMO)

Department of Agriculture

Mr. Perla L. Gines
Mr. Arron Lucius B. Herban
Mr. Waldo Carpio, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Dexter S. Circa

Department of Budget and Management

Dir. Mary Anne Z. Dela Vega, Director, Department of Budget and Management, Philippines
Mr. Jimmy T. Benavente, Department of Budget and Management, Philippines

Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ed Yulo, Special Assistant, Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns

Department of Health

Ms. Maria Lovelle M. Rago
Ms. Rosalie P. Pase, MD

Department of Science and Technology

Mr. Bartolome P. Bautista, Deputy Director, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Department of Science and Technology
Mr. Marcelino Villafuerte, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Ms. Maria L. Bautista, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Department of Science and Technology

**Department of Social Welfare and Development**
Mr. Felino Castro, Director, Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau

**Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council**
Mr. Angelito Aguila, Attorney at Law, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council

**National Economic and Development Authority**
Ms. Cynthia A. Villena, OIC Assistant Director, National Economic and Development Authority
Ms. Edna Cynthia S. Berces, Assistant Regional Director, National Economic and Development Authority, Region 5

Rosa de Leon

**National Mapping and Resource Information Authority**
Mr. John SF Fabic, Director, Geospatial Information System Management Branch
Mr. Efren Carandang, Deputy Administrator, Geospatial Information System Management Branch

**Office of Civil Defense**
Mr. Ricardo B. Jalad, Undersecretary, Department of National Defense and Administrator, Office of Civil Defense/Executive Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
Mr. Edgar L. Posadas, Director, Office of Civil Defense Region 8
Dir. Josefina T. Timoteo, Director, Rehabilitation and Recovery Management Service
Dir. Rosario T. Cabrera, Regional Director, Office of Civil Defense Region 6,
Mr. Edwin M. Salonga, Chief, Disaster Risk Governance Division, Policy Development and Planning Service
Mr. Fred A. Abuda, Jr., Public Affairs Office
Mr. Kenneth C. Menor, Planning Officer, Policy Development and Planning Service
Ms. Josefina T. Porcil, Officer-In-Charge, DRRM Development and Standards Division
Ms. Ma. Teresa J. Galang, Officer-In-Charge, Information, Training and Advocacy Division, Capacity Building and Training Service
Mr. Manuel R. Nivera, Jr., Capacity Building and Training Service
Vietnam

Mr. Bui Quang Huy, Deputy Director, Disaster Management Policy and Technical Center, Vietnam, Email: buiquanghuy.pctt@gmail.com

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ACADEMIC, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND OTHER ENTITIES

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
Mr. Melgabal Capistrano, Country Manager, Philippines

Central Mindanao University
Mr. Byron B Recina, Instructor, Central Mindanao University

De La Salle University, Philippines
Prof. Dr. Grace Roldan, Political Science Department
Mr. Edgar Vallar
Ms. Ezra Nicole Basto, International Studies
Mr. Eugenio F. Santiago III, PhD student
Mr. Jhon Rosales, International Studies
Mr. Kevin Tan
Ms. Venus Francisco, International Studies

DRRNet-Philippines and ACCORD
Ms. Ansherina Guare Talavera
Ms. Pauline de Buzman

Eastern Visayas State University
Dr. Dominador O. Aguirre, Jr., President, Eastern Visayas State University, Tacloban City

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Mr. Antonis Malagardis, Program Director, GIZ-RFPI Asia Program, Philippines

University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (NOAH) Center
Mr. Francisco Alfredo Mahar Amante Lagmay, Executive Director, University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (NOAH) Center and UP Resilience Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Quezon City

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UN AGENCIES

Mr. Aristeo Portugal, Agriculture Development and Strategic Consultant, Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO)

Ms. Carmen D.M. Van Heese, Regional Emergency Advisor, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), Thailand

Mr. Jose Luis Fernandez Filgueiras, FAO Representative to the Philippines, Food and Agriculture of the United Nations, Philippines

Mr. Klaus Beck, Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Philippines

Ms. Ma. Clarissa Bandonillo Tuazon, Consultant, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Philippines

Ms. Maria Sophie Sandberg Pettersson, Humanitarian/Disaster Risk Reduction and Coordination Analyst, UN Woman Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand

ASEAN SECRETARIAT

H.E. Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, ASEAN Secretariat

Ms. Intani Kusuma, Technical Officer - Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, ASEAN Secretariat

ESCAP SECRETARIAT

Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communications Technology Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, Information and Communications Technology Disaster Risk Reduction

Ms. Kareff Rafisura, Economics Affairs Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, Information and Communications Technology Disaster Risk Reduction
7) The Dialogue agreed to bring the following recommendations to the attention of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management at its next meeting:

a. Promote the institutionalization of science-based risk assessment and risk scenarios as a component of broader disaster risk assessment strategy and aligned actions at various levels to reduce the impacts of disaster risks. This effort can build on some of the experiences and existing good practices from countries in the ASEAN region.

b. ESCAP and other development partners can play a role in building capacity for implementing the ASEAN Regional RVA Guidelines. For example, action could be taken towards developing capacities and tools to customize flood analyzer of World Resources Institute (WRI), average annual loss from Global Assessment Report, and downscaled climate projections from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project for the ASEAN region, including through the ASEAN Dynamic Risk Assessment Guidelines and Experiences (ADAGE) platform.

c. Risk assessment should be carried out with a view to leaving no one behind. The differential needs and vulnerabilities of social groups that are traditionally excluded, such as women and people with disabilities should be highlighted.

d. Promote the zero casualty policy in Albay, Philippines, as an example of risk assessment and impact-based forecast application, as a regional norm for protecting people and investments.

e. Institutionalizing risk assessment needs the support of planning and finance ministries. Highlighting the value of risk assessments in the design and implementation of disaster risk transfer mechanisms would be a valuable entry point.