



**Press Release**

**Launched: Two books capturing ASEAN's Response to Cyclone Nargis  
Phuket, Thailand, 20 July 2009**

---

Two books - "A Bridge to Recovery: ASEAN's Response to Cyclone Nargis" and "Myanmar: Life after Nargis" - launched at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Phuket today, provide full account of ASEAN's steadfast response to relieve the sufferings of the Cyclone Nargis-affected population of Myanmar. The books also capture how the regional grouping has developed a leading role in post-Nargis humanitarian and recovery assistance, in line with its agenda of caring and sharing ASEAN.

"A Bridge to Recovery: ASEAN's Response to Cyclone Nargis" documents ASEAN's involvement in humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery in Myanmar. It details ASEAN's role in humanitarian assessment, planning, and monitoring to ensure an effective coordination of international assistance. The book also highlights how ASEAN has strengthened the coordination between local authorities, NGOs and stakeholders to meet the needs of Cyclone-affected people, built safer and disaster-resilient communities, and developed local capacity through training. ASEAN's first ever Volunteers Programme was also featured. It tells stories of ASEAN volunteers living in and working with the affected communities to improve their livelihoods. The book also underlines the way forward to build back better for Cyclone-affected people, moving towards longer-term development goal for Myanmar.

"Myanmar: Life after Nargis", a joint publication of ASEAN Secretariat with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, is a real-time documentation on ASEAN's experience in the conduct of Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA)<sup>i</sup>. It looks at life in Myanmar after Nargis, capturing human stories of those involved in the PONJA process and ASEAN's approach of collaborative partnership to make a difference for the Nargis-affected population.

Launching the books at the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan said, "Through the two books, ASEAN hopes to share our first ever ASEAN-wide regional engagement on humanitarian mission, our high and lows in 'building back better' for both Myanmar and ASEAN. At the same time, the lessons documented in these publications will also serve as a reminder on what has been done, what should have been done better, and how we can do better in our responses to any future humanitarian challenges."

Both "A Bridge to Recovery: ASEAN's Response to Cyclone Nargis" and "Life after Nargis", are available at [www.asean.org/CN.htm](http://www.asean.org/CN.htm)

Contact details:

**Public Outreach and Civil Society Division**  
**The ASEAN Secretariat**  
70A Jalan Sisinggamangaraja  
Jakarta 12110, Indonesia

---

<sup>i</sup> Completed six weeks after Cyclone Nargis, PONJA is a comprehensive assessment that provides baseline data for the formulation of humanitarian and recovery programmes during early recovery.

Tel: (62-21) 724-3372, 726-2991  
[public.div@asean.org](mailto:public.div@asean.org)

**ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force  
Coordinating Office in Yangon**

Mai Phuong Tang  
Communication Officer  
Tel: +951 544500 Ext. 428  
[mai.aseanhtf@gmail.com](mailto:mai.aseanhtf@gmail.com)