



(ASEAN, Government of Myanmar, United Nations)

TRIPARTITE
CORE
GROUP
(TCG)

Press Release

TCG Study Tour to Thailand Shares Experience and Lessons Learnt in Natural Disaster Management Yangon, Myanmar, 14 January 2009

Tripartite Core Group (TCG) members, including Bansarn Bunnag, Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar/Senior ASEAN member to the TCG and Bishow Parajuli, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, completed the first TCG Study Tour to Thailand on 12 January 2009. The visit, led by U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar/Chairman of the TCG, took place between 6 - 12 January 2009.

The first TCG's Study tour aimed at exchanging experiences and taking more lessons learned from Thailand on the natural disaster management and to visit the Tsunami-affected areas in Phuket Province and Phangnga Province. The TCG visited the Department of Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior of Thailand, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok and its centre in Prathumthani Province, and the National Warning Centre. The TCG also made a study tour to Phuket and Phangnga provinces, the Tsunami-affected areas in the South of Thailand, to share views and experiences with the provincial authorities and villagers in the affected area.

U Kyaw Thu expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and arrangements of the Royal Thai Government in receiving the TCG and for making this first study tour a success. The TCG chairman mentioned that, "Public awareness, lessons learned, networking cooperation, and close cooperation with other countries in the region particularly the neighbouring countries are vital."

"Natural disaster can happen anytime and anywhere, if there is no preparedness and prevention, it is not excusable," U Kyaw Thu stated.

"Exchanging experiences, lessons learned, and Human Resources Development is important and needs to be advocated. Thailand stands ready to support on this matter," Bansarn Bunnag said.

“Cooperation among agencies in Thailand, the international network, and the UN-based agencies in Bangkok and Myanmar has excellent advantages, creating regional cooperation to prevent and prepare for the next natural disaster,” Bishow Parajuli said.

On the last day of the visit, U Kyaw Thu also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Kasit Piromya, who confirmed that “Thailand will continue its humanitarian role and its support to the Union of Myanmar.”

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Notes: The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) was officially established on 31 May 2008. It comprises high-level representatives from ASEAN, the Government of the Union of Myanmar, and the United Nations.