

Press Release
ASEAN Stresses Importance of Wider Involvement from Line Ministries
in Implementing Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar
ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, 2 July 2009



The Post-Nargis recovery work in Myanmar requires the involvement of a wider range of line ministries and also more funds in order to be more effective and sustainable. This was one of the messages conveyed during the meeting of the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force for the Victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (AHTF). The AHTF convened its 6th meeting today to review ASEAN's ongoing efforts and future involvement in the implementation of the three-year Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP).

Secretary-General of ASEAN and Chairman of the AHTF, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan said, "As we implement the PONREPP which complements the government's reconstruction plan, it is necessary to engage more line ministries in the recovery process in addition to strengthening the partnership within the Tripartite Core Group (TCG). I trust that a wider engagement from the government of Myanmar will benefit all of us in our road to recovery, which ultimately benefits the people of the Delta."

The Task Force also called for a more synergy and coordination between the PONREPP and the government's reconstruction plan. "This would ensure that there is continuity when the recovery work completes. As part of ASEAN's agenda for longer-term development and community building, ASEAN will replicate our experience in Myanmar to other parts of the region. Our engagement in Myanmar can continue through other existing ASEAN's mechanism and programmes, such as narrowing the development gap and Integration for ASEAN Initiative," added Dr Surin.

Appealing to ASEAN Member States and the international community for increased funding to cover activities outlined in the PONREPP which costs US\$ 691 million, Dr Surin said, "Additional funding from ASEAN Member States and the international community is much needed to improve the lives of 2.4 million people affected by Cylone Nargis, helping ASEAN demonstrate our principle of placing the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples at the centre of the ASEAN community building process."

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 14th ASEAN Summit in February 2009 in Thailand agreed to extend the mandate of the AHTF and the TCG until July 2010. Given the remaining one year, the Task Force suggested that the recovery work should be prioritised on livelihoods, shelters, health, education and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

ASEAN together with other components of the TCG established a Recovery Coordination Centre in early June to facilitate the implementation of the PONREP. The RCC is based in Yangon and managed by the TCG. At the same time, the TCG is completing the second round of the Periodic Review and Social Impacts Monitoring. The Periodic Review identifies people's needs at the

household level and facilitate strategic decision making regarding further support while the Social Impacts Monitoring examines how much and what types of aid people are getting and aid effectiveness. These two reports are expected to be released in the last week of July 2009.

The ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force for the Victims of Cyclone Nargis was established by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers of ASEAN on 19 May 2008. The Task Force consists of senior-level representatives from the ten ASEAN countries. Under this ASEAN-led mechanism, a Yangon-based Tripartite Core Group comprising representatives from the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations was set up on 31 May 2008. The Task Force also has an Advisory Group consisting of representatives from neighbouring countries to Myanmar, the United Nations, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the INGOs, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

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

Contact details:

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

Mai Phuong Tang

Communications Officer

Tel: +951 544500 Ext. 417

mai.aseanhtf@gmail.com