

**Joint Statement by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management for the Second Session of
the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, 16-19 June 2009**

The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) is cognisant of its pioneering ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which is a regional legal framework for promoting cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response in the ASEAN region. AADMER is ASEAN's manifestation to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). When entered into force, AADMER will be the first HFA-related binding instrument in the world and ASEAN's contribution to the global's disaster risk reduction aims.

In pursuing ASEAN's vision of disaster resilient nations and a safer region by the year 2015, the ACDM intends to further strengthen the DRR implementation for the next six years through an effective strategic implementation of DRR initiatives within the context of AADMER and the HFA. This will be done, among others, through addressing gaps in DRR strategies, programmes and activities at the regional and national levels; facilitating linkages between regional and national programmes and other activities supporting the achievement of the HFA; promoting multi-stakeholder participation; mobilising support to national disaster management organisations for the development and implementation of Strategic National Action Plans for DRR; strengthening regional technical training and capacity development programme in the areas of priority concern of the Member States; and improving access to knowledge and information on DRR issues.

For the above purpose, ACDM is currently developing a regional work programme covering the period of 2010-2015 to operationalise various elements under the AADMER, including the DRR components. These include risk assessment, monitoring and early warning; prevention and mitigation; preparedness and response; rehabilitation and reconstruction; knowledge management and training; partnership and resource mobilisation; and cross-cutting issues especially in the context of a changing climate regime.

In keeping with the people-centred approach of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, the ACDM intends to promote the participation of the civil society and the private sector through dialogues and fora at regional and national levels, joint activities to promote public participation in regional DRR programmes and community resilience to disasters, and implementation of the ASEAN volunteers' programme to further enhance people-to-people approach. ACDM will also continue to jointly observe the annual ASEAN Day for Disaster Management and the International Day for Disaster Reduction and other awareness-raising activities to promote a disaster-resilient community in ASEAN.

The ACDM is committed to enhancing partnerships and cooperation with other members of the ISDR Asia partnership and relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international and regional organisations. In this regard, ACDM invites partners to work together in the implementation of DRR components of AADMER in line with the HFA. This includes further promoting South-South cooperation among the ASEAN Member States and with other regional organisations, particularly those in Asia and the Pacific.

Recognising the important role assigned in AADMER to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), the ACDM is committed to accelerating the operationalisation of the Centre, and welcomes support of donors and partners to enhance the capacity of the Centre to serve as a centre point that facilitates cooperation and provides technical leadership in the implementation of regional DRR initiatives and emergency response in ASEAN. This will also be linked to the new role assigned to the Secretary-General of ASEAN to serve as the ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator which can be activated any time at the request of the affected ASEAN Member State in the event of a major disaster, whether it be a natural disaster or a pandemic.

ASEAN's experience in mounting its first collective response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar has created an unprecedented opportunity for ASEAN to strengthen its regional mechanism utilising the

tools and mechanisms under the AADMER. ASEAN will continue to use the experience from the recent response and ongoing recovery programme to guide future regional response and DRR initiatives within ASEAN. ASEAN also intends to share the experience with other regions as a potential model for good neighbourliness and cooperation in humanitarian response and DRR.