



Association of Southeast Asian Nations Youth Disaster Risk Reduction Network (ASEAN Youth Network for DRR)

Concept Note (As of April 16, 2016)

Background

With increasing exposure and vulnerability to disaster risks, future generations will live with growing climate-related threats and more recurrent and intense shocks. The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster-prone area of the world and among it, the ASEAN countries are the most seriously affected. Young people continue to be at the forefront of these disasters. These hazards will continue to occur, and strengthened networks for disaster management is necessary, at the same time, more disasters can be prevented if we share responsibilities for disaster risk reduction.

ASEAN youth in DRR

Young people in the Asia-Pacific and at the forefront of disasters are converging to share their unique experiences and develop innovative, community-based projects. This is evident at a regional level with examples like the ASEAN Volunteers Program (AVP) founded in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, and has now evolved to the ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (AYVP) that will tackle the thematic area of DRR during the years 2016 and 2017. The [Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation](#) also manages a database of volunteer organisations, which it engages through one of the widest social media communities in ASEAN.

Beyond volunteerism efforts, ASEAN youth have been involved in many other research and professions related to disaster management. Students from the Philippines have used sports, recreation and technology to strengthen humanitarian action. [FoPo](#) is one social enterprise that turns nearly expired fruits and vegetables to food powder during disaster relief operations. In Malaysia, AIESEC-UTM works with [Sorooptimist Johor](#) and UNHCR on a recruitment system for volunteer teachers in refugee schools. [Humanity Heroes](#) has raised funds for Somali and Afghan refugee schools through online crowdfunding for more than RM 10,000 this year alone. In Indonesia, a group of Psychology students in Jakarta have been running Rumah Psikologi (Hose of Psychology) since 201, where they reach out to hundreds of orphans affected by natural disasters.

Given these existing collective capabilities, the establishment of an ASEAN Youth Network for DRR (AYN-DRR) between the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre¹ and the Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation² is proposed as a means to continue harnessing the strengths of young ASEAN researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, doctors, educators, policy advocates and other professionals towards natural and man-made disaster risk reduction.

¹ [AHA Centre](#) is an inter-governmental organisation established by 10 ASEAN Member States to facilitate the cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the UN and international organisations for disaster management and emergency response in ASEAN

² [CAYC](#) is the authorized coordinating body for national youth institutions in the ASEAN region, under the ASEAN Charter.



To ensure coherence with ASEAN's vision for disaster management towards 2025, AYN-DRR is intended to align within the framework of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), in particular ensuring the contribution of ASEAN youth in the three strategic elements designed to bring it forward namely, Institutionalisation and Communications, Finance and Resource Mobilisation, and Partnerships and Innovations.

The ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management emphasizes the importance of a people-centered and networked approach to implement the vision through ensuring partnerships with civil society organization, including the youth. In particular, the vision noted the importance of engaging the young people in the development of ASEAN as a Research and Development hub for humanitarian innovation. Furthermore, the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 indicated as part of its key activities opening up opportunities for youth to contribute for innovations in the area of disaster management.

Objectives:

The creation of a youth network on DRR has 3 main objectives, namely:

1. To maintain the perspectives of ASEAN youth within the Sendai Framework for DRR and ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response in the long term
2. To provide a sustainable platform for ASEAN youth to contribute towards resilience building and social protection in the region, in relation to natural and man-made disasters
3. To create a strong network of young people with different professions or expertise for research, innovation, policy, and other DRR-related activities, which can be tapped as effective partners for the region's disaster management as indicated in the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management and the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020, among other DRR-related documents and guidelines in the region.

Intended outcomes:

The following are some of the intended outcomes of the network:

- Promotion of "the ASEAN way" and its' principles
- Intercultural learning and sharing of experiences in natural and man-made disasters
- Enhanced awareness of DRR concepts among youth
- Development of youth capacities in relation to resilience building and social protection
- Online network of ASEAN youth actively engaged in DRR
- Collaboration between existing ASEAN youth organisations
- Innovative new mechanisms for youth engagement

Suggested entry points for youth:

As a starting point for the network, outlined below are some of the entry points for youth engagement in the natural and man-made disaster management, based on the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and consultations with the AHA Centre and CAYC:



1. Risk Assessment, Early Warning and Monitoring (RAEWM)

- **Early Warning** - AHA Centre to utilize CAYC's social media platforms on [Facebook](#) and Twitter with disaster-related updates and crowdsourcing of information
- **Monitoring** - CAYC through the national youth councils, student councils and other youth organizations to contribute real time updates to AHA Centre's [ADInet](#) (ASEAN Disaster Information network), with geo-marking of the affected areas, evacuation centres and other critical infrastructures/places.

2. Prevention and Mitigation

- **Public Education, Awareness and Advocacy** - CAYC to promote DRR advocacy materials and campaigns especially during the annual observance of ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM)
- **Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction** - AHA Centre to provide speakers to talk about ASEAN Regional DM mechanism in relevant regional, national and local youth sector events

3. Disaster Preparedness and Response

- **Photo and video documentation** - Recruitment of youth with multi-media skills to document through photos and videos the impact and extent of the disaster as well as the government's and the ASEAN's response effort.
- **Emergency telecommunications** - Recruitment of youth with IT skills to support the operation of coordination base on the ground such as setting-up internet connection, IT troubleshooting, support assessment team with mobile emergency telecom connectivity.
- **ACE programme** - Invitation for young innovators to share their latest inventions, enterprises and other best practices to the participants of the ACE programme
- **ASEAN-ERAT system** - CAYC volunteers from host country to observe the induction course and support the conduct of ASEAN-ERAT Induction course simulation exercises
- **Interpreter** - CAYC volunteers from the affected country to support assessment and coordination activities as interpreter for ASEAN-ERAT/ASEAN responders when they are deployed. Assessment and coordination activities will cover interview with the affected communities and local government units, as well as coordination with local counterparts
- **Logistics** - CAYC volunteers from the affected country to support in the identification of local vendor and supplier, packaging of relief items, relief items tracking, production of visibility materials, transportation arrangement.

4. Recovery

- **Tool box and other guidelines** - Contribution of research work related to this field from students across the region



5. Others

- **Internship** - Internships can enhance AHA Centre' systems in all areas from risk assessment, early warning and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness and response, as well as recovery, through skill-specific areas such as information communication and technology, public relations, etc.

Governance:

Institutionally, it is proposed that the ASEAN Youth Network for DRR (AYN-DRR) be hosted by the the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA) to ensure coherence and direct alignment with AADMER, in collaboration with other relevant partners such as the Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation (CAYC) to ensure long-term collaboration among national youth councils from respective ASEAN countries.

Other key agencies in the field including UN MGCY-World Humanitarian Summit Working Group, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNESCO and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

Foundation members which have come together to support the development of AYN-DRR and serve as key youth-led implementing partners:

- Youth Beyond Disasters
- ASEAN Youth Leaders Association
- International Youth Council

About AHA Centre

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) is an inter-governmental organisation which aims to facilitate cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the United Nations and international organisations for disaster management and emergency response in ASEAN Region. The Centre was established by 10 ASEAN Member States on 17 November 2011, through the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management in Bali, Indonesia. The Agreement was signed by ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed by the ASEAN Heads of States.

AHA Centre is governed by the members of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), which consists of the Heads of the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs [linked to NDMOs page]) of ASEAN Member States. Hosted by the Government of Indonesia, the AHA Centre serves the Member States from its Office in Jakarta.

Brunei Darussalam - National Disaster Management Centre
Cambodia - National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
Indonesia - National Disaster Management Authority
Lao PDR - National Disaster Management Office, Department of Social Welfare
Malaysia - National Disaster Management Agency
Myanmar - Relief and Resettlement Department
Philippines - National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and Administrator, Office of Civil Defense
Singapore - Singapore Civil Defense Force
Thailand - Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
Vietnam - Department of National Disaster Prevention and Control (DNDPC)



About CAYC

The Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation is the authorized coordinating body for national youth institutions in the ASEAN region, under the ASEAN Charter. CAYC's database includes 8 national youth institutions, as well as student governments and other volunteer organizations.

The General Secretariat of CAYC is based in the International Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is headed by the Secretary General to coordinate the implementation of CAYC policies, its programs and activities of its member organizations. CAYC members are the national youth council/organization that represent each ASEAN country. A National Secretariat is set up by each respective member, headed by the National Secretary, and shall keep the General Secretariat of CAYC regularly informed of their programs and activities.

Brunei - Majlis Belia Brunei

Cambodia - Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia

Indonesia - Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia

*Lao PDR - Lao Youth Union

Malaysia - Majlis Belia Malaysia

*Myanmar - Department of Social Welfare

Philippines - National Youth Commission

Singapore - People's Association Youth Movement

Thailand - National Council for Child and Youth Development

Vietnam - Youth International Cooperation Development Center, National Committee on Youth of Vietnam

**As of to date, Lao PDR and Myanmar do not have national youth councils; hence information is disseminated through their respective ministries*

Key contributors:

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