

**Disasters, Conflicts and
Mines in Southeast Asia:
*Towards a Regional and
Inter-sectoral Approach
to Complex Humanitarian
Crises***

Julius Cesar Trajano
***Research Fellow, RSIS Centre for
Non-Traditional Security Studies***

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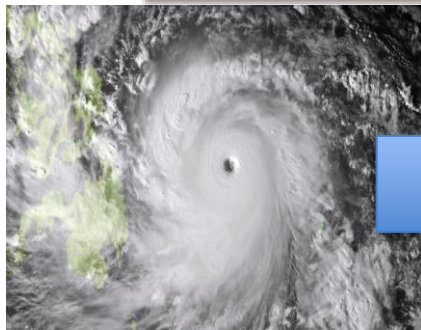
Outline

- Evolving Humanitarian Emergencies in Southeast Asia
- Regional Frameworks and Mechanisms
- Enhancing Inter-sectoral Approach in ASEAN

Evolving Humanitarian Emergencies in Southeast Asia

- Southeast Asia- among the most disaster-prone regions in the world
- 50 percent of global disaster mortalities occurred in the region (2009-2014)
- Total economic loss was US\$91 billion during this period.
- About 191 million people were displaced temporarily.

COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES IN RECENT YEARS



Climate Change



Disasters



Internal Conflicts



Mass
Displacement of
People

Evolving Humanitarian Emergencies in Southeast Asia

- It is also important to horizon scan new scenarios that may generate humanitarian emergencies.
- Overlapping scenarios of disasters, armed conflicts and mine/ERW

- Presence of landmines in disaster-hit areas and in active conflict zones
- Continuing use of landmines by non-state armed groups: rebels, separatists, terrorists, extremist groups
- **Recent cases:**
 - Thousands displaced by Laos floods (2018) at risk from 'moving' landmines
 - Landmines planted by extremist groups during the Battle of Marawi (southern Philippines) in 2017 posed threats to humanitarian workers and returning civilians

Evolving Humanitarian Emergencies in Southeast Asia

ASEAN members that are frequently hit by disasters/armed conflicts and with mine/ERW casualties			
Country	No. of Disasters in 2017	Presence of Armed Conflicts	No. of Mine/ERW Casualties
<i>The Philippines</i>	24	Communist insurgency, Mindanao conflicts, Terrorism	Periodic reports of casualties in 2017 (unconsolidated)
<i>Myanmar</i>	5	Ethnic armed conflicts	298 (in 2016)
<i>Laos</i>	3		41 (in 2017)
<i>Cambodia</i>	1		58 (in 2017)
<i>Thailand</i>	12	southern Thailand conflict	19 (in 2016)
<i>Vietnam</i>	22		14 (in 2017)

Sources: AHA Centre Annual Report 2017; Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor Country Profiles

- Six out of 10 ASEAN Member States have to face these overlapping humanitarian challenges
- **Key Human Security Threats:**
 1. Multiple threats to civilians affected by disasters/conflicts living in mine-infested areas
 2. Humanitarian relief workers and responders to disasters may become victims of mine/ERW
 3. Military personnel conducting much needed humanitarian relief operations may be subject to landmine attacks by non-state armed groups

Regional Frameworks and Mechanisms

DISASTER MANAGEMENT COOPERATION

- ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)
 - ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)
 - Emergency Rapid Assessment Team
 - AADMER Partnership Group
 - AADMER Work Programme 2016-20
- ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management
- ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR
- Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC)
- ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise
- ADMM-Plus Military Medicine/HADR Exercise
- ARF Disaster Response Exercise



HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION COOPERATION

- ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC)
- ARMAC Term of Reference (ToR)

Enhancing Inter-sectoral Approach in ASEAN

Key gaps:

- A comprehensive civilian protection-victim assistance regional framework for populations of concern in the context of disasters/conflicts and humanitarian effects of mine/ERW.
- Enhanced skills and capacities for humanitarian actors to effectively respond to this new complex humanitarian scenario

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthen collaboration between relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies: e.g., AHA Centre and ARMAC**
 1. To design emergency preparedness activities covering more complex humanitarian crises
 2. To share lessons learnt and best practices on protecting vulnerable populations and risk assessment
 3. To facilitate learning for humanitarian actors being deployed in disaster/conflict-hit communities to be better equipped for this new scenario

Enhancing Inter-sectoral Approach in ASEAN

Comprehensive Regional Disaster Response Exercises

- Incorporate humanitarian mine action into the region's disaster response exercises such as the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise, ADMM-Plus Military Medicine/HADR Exercise, and ARF Disaster Response Exercise
- Develop interoperability between relevant and diverse stakeholders to effectively respond to different types of humanitarian crises

BE BETTER PREPARED FOR 'BLACK SWANS': UNEXPECTED HUMANITARIAN SCENARIOS INVOLVING LANDMINES

- E.g. radiological security crisis/emergency involving landmine blast
- Will non-state armed groups/extremist groups in the region use landmines with radioactive materials?
- Need to build relationship between ARMAC and the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy [*an ASEAN sectoral body on nuclear/radiological security and emergency preparedness/response*]

Enhancing Inter-sectoral Approach in ASEAN

Role of Policy-oriented Social Science Research

1. To examine key human security gaps in complex emergencies
(I. a comprehensive civilian protection-victim assistance regional framework in ASEAN;
II. the needed skills and capacities for the region's humanitarian actors)
2. To explore how to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among humanitarian actors in ASEAN
3. To contribute to national/regional initiatives on bridging the gap between disaster management and humanitarian mine action regional frameworks
4. To explore a common baseline approach to understanding new complexities: e.g., All-Hazards Approach; Bottom-Up Approach

Tools and mechanisms to inform policy in the context of humanitarian assistance in new scenarios

E.g., RSIS' contributions

1. Involvement in policy discussions through active participation in Track 2 Networks (e.g., CSCAP)
2. Engagement with actors at the local, national, regional and global levels. E.g., RSIS' contribution to ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management
3. Knowledge partner of the annual ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management
4. Public seminars and policy roundtables with key humanitarian actors
5. Policy reports, op-eds and policy-relevant commentaries