



NEWS RELEASE

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ASEAN Militaries Conclude Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise

14 Jul 2011



Participants of the AHX in a group photo.

The ASEAN Militaries' Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Table-Top Exercise (AHX) co-hosted by Singapore and Indonesia came to a close in West Java, Indonesia, this afternoon. The closing ceremony was officiated by Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Lieutenant-General (LG) Neo Kian Hong and Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian National Defence Forces (TNI) Admiral (ADM) Agus Suhartono.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, LG Neo highlighted that the AHX validated the standard operating procedure for the Utilisation of Military Capabilities for HADR under the

framework of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Responses. He said that the validation "is a significant step in practical co-operations, as it will further enhance ASEAN's capacity and capability to quickly and decisively respond to natural disasters within the region". LG Neo added that: "The AHX has certainly helped to strengthen the professional ties amongst ASEAN militaries, promote common understanding and enhanced ASEAN's capacity for HADR operations." ADM Agus attributed the successful conduct of the exercise to the close ties shared between the SAF and the TNI and that the exercise can be made as a model for other countries outside the ASEAN region to follow.

More than 100 participants from the ASEAN militaries participated in workshops and a scenario based Table-Top exercise at the Changi Command and Control (C2) Centre in Singapore from 12 to 13 Jul 2011. Earlier today, the participants witnessed a simulation of a heli-evacuation mission involving SAF and TNI assets in Cilodong, West Java, where relief packages were distributed to the local community. A joint SAF-TNI medical team also conducted a medical civic-action programme in West Java throughout the 3-day exercise.

The AHX is a significant milestone for ASEAN as it is the first exercise amongst the ASEAN militaries. Initiated by the top military chiefs of ASEAN, the AHX aimed to promote practical and tangible cooperation among ASEAN militaries in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. The exercise also tested and validated a set of standard operating procedures and guidelines to enhance ASEAN militaries' inter-operability and preparedness for HADR operations under the Framework of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).



TNI medical personnel evacuating simulated casualties into an RSAF CH-47 Chinook helicopter.



SAF and TNI medical personnel attending to a patient at a field hospital.



Members of the SAF surgical team performing a minor surgery.



Lieutenant-General Neo Kian Hong and Admiral Agus Suhartono (left) inspecting the parade at the closing ceremony of the AHX.

National Archives of Singapore