

Report

The Second ASEAN Academic Conference on Disaster Health Management 2023

The Second ASEAN Academic Conference on Disaster Health Management (AAC on DHM) was convened from October 17 to October 19, 2023, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This is one of the key activities under the ASEAN Academic Network on Disaster Health Management (AANDHM) which has been established as a platform to implement the knowledge management by enhancing and accelerating to build the academic capabilities in the region. To conduct the regional academic conference is stipulated in the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN Leader's Declarations on Disaster Health Management 2019-2015 (POA) to organize once in two years to promote and foster the cooperation among the academic networks in ASEAN Member States (AMS) and beyond.

The First AAC on DHM was organized online on 1-2 December 2021 during the global pandemic of Covid-19 hosted by the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) in Thailand, in collaboration with Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) with 120 participants from 10 AMSs and Japan, ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Center, and the World Health Organization (WHO). With the successful conduct of the inaugural conference, the AANDHM through the First Meeting of NFPs in September 2022 agreed that the Second AAC on DHM be held in 2023 and be hosted by Indonesia as the host of the ASEAN Institute for Disaster Health Management (AIDHM) and 2023 Chair of ASEAN.

The Second AAC on DHM was proposed to be organized to be an unprecedented opportunity in the ASEAN to share knowledge on the DHM and to strengthen networking among policy/ decision makers, medical practitioners, and researchers/ academicians who are involved in the DHM in the region and beyond, and also to expect AMS to implicate the scientific knowledge to their policies, initiatives, and practices. As a first in-person conference, therefore, 150 participants were gathered representing the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), with invited delegates from Timor-Leste, the ASEAN Secretariat, the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), EMT Secretariat in WHO, Costa Rica and Fiji to represent of non-ASEAN countries, Japan, and Indonesia to make the opportunity for widen the collaboration and partnership within and beyond the region. In fact, especially the invites from non-ASEAN region showed their interest and amazed to the ASEAN power of unity and the concept of "One ASEAN, One Response" for accomplishing the regional resilient.

Concurrently, this Second AAC on DHM was vital opportunity to inaugurate officially the AIDHM as a centre of DHM development in the region which had been endorsed by the Senior Officials' Meetings on Health Development on 3 April 2023. The AIDHM supports the RCC-DHM by spearheading training, academic programs, and research initiatives in disaster health management across the ASEAN. Its establishment has gained recognition from [local press](#), highlighting its pivotal role and dedication to advancing disaster health management in the region.

The proceedings commenced on October 17, 2023, with a thematic Pre-Conference Seminar on “Safe and Resilient Health Facilities and Infrastructure.” Indonesia, as the lead country for the POA for the implementation under target 4.1.a [Encouragement of public and private investment in research an innovation to improve safe and resilient health facilities and health infrastructure], directed this seminar. The session aimed to disseminate knowledge, foster innovative scientific dialogue in DHM, and explore the integration of the Sendai Framework and the safe hospital concept to advance resilient health systems. This seminar featured two interactive sessions that facilitated active discussions, along with the exchange of country-specific initiatives and best practices from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.



From October 18 to October 19, the main conference sessions of the Second AAC on DHM were held with the main theme of “Knowledge Co-Creation for Resilient Disaster Health Management towards “One ASEAN One Response”. This conference comprised six sessions, each yielding insightful outcomes through dynamic exchanges of perspectives. The comprehensive objectives included the dissemination of advanced scientific insights, the promotion of knowledge sharing in DHM, and the strengthening of networks among policymakers, medical professionals, and researchers. We have 20 oral presentations for whole sessions and had lively discussion with proactive question and answer in each session.



The key programmes are:

Table 1. 2nd ASEAN Academic Conference's Program

Agenda	Title	Speaker
Opening session and Keynote lecture	Keynote lecture on Defining the Discipline: Advancing Disaster Health Management in a Changing World	Donald A. Donahue (President of WADEM)
Session 1: Disaster and Public Health.	1-1. The EMT response to the natural disaster during the COVID-19 pandemic	- Suhaida Binti Mohd Sidek (Malaysia)
	1-2. Infection control/prevention practice during the natural disaster response	- Alfonso C. Danac (Philippines) - Nguyen Tien Dung (Vietnam)
	2. The case study of EMT's contributions to the COVID-19	- Norazlina Rahman (Brunei Darussalam) - Nguyen Duc Chinh (Vietnam)
	3. The case study/situation report on Public Health Preparedness; e.g., Community preparedness, Emergency public information and warning, Responder safety, and health	- Lak Muy Seang (Cambodia) - Abraham Chin Zefong (Malaysia) - Nyan Win Myint (Myanmar) - Dangfun Promkhum (Thailand)
Session 2: Human Development and Education for DHM	1. Basic course for DHM (B-course) development and its challenges for the application to each AMS	Phummarin Saelim (Thailand)
	2. Coordination course for DHM (C-course) development and its challenges for the application to each ASEAN Member State (AMS)	Shuichi Ikeda (ARCH Project)
	3. The human resource development strategy on DHM in the country; e.g., the development of the education/training structure based on the DHM workforce demand analysis	- Lak Muy Seang (Cambodia) - Oulaivanh Phonesanh (Lao PDR) - Radin Noradriana Hariati bt Radin Tahir (Malaysia)
	4. Training development for EMTs and human recourse	- Mohammad Ali Shahbana Mohd Yassin (Brunei Darussalam) - Rapeeporn Rojsaengroeng (Thailand)
	2. The introduction of the DHM curriculum in pre-service education, and challenges and strategies for the future	Yodi Mahendradhata (Indonesia)

	6-1. Community-based responders/volunteers programme and training in the country including the collaboration with EMTs on disaster response	- Phubet Ploysawat (Thailand) - Ina Agustina Isturini (Indonesia) - Nyan Win Myint (Myanmar)
	6-2. Health reserve workforce system (Surge capacity system including EMT Regional)	
Session 3: EMT Development	1. The strategies for EMT development in ASEAN	- Yahdiana Harahap (Indonesia) - Sommana Lattana (Lao PDR) - Narumol Sawanpanyalert (Thailand)
	2. The synergy between Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team (JDR) and Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT) “The JDR and DMAT mutual growth and reinforcement”	Yuichi Koido (Japan)
	3. The strategies for EMT development in the non-ASEAN region	- Mario Vilchez Madrigal (Costa Rica) - Luke Nasedra (Republic of Fiji)
Session 4: Case study reports on DHM practice and experience	1. EMT or medical response practices in the AMS	- Rashdan bin Rahmat (Malaysia) - Darius Beh (Singapore) - Panjasilpa Somboon (Thailand)
	2. Turkey session	- Hadijah Pandita (Indonesia) - Janice F. Calixtro (Philippines) - Jiro Oba (Japan)
Session 5: Regional collaboration mechanism on DHM (sharing the situation of other regions).	1. ASEAN DHM framework and ASEAN Collective Measures (ACM)	Taro Kita (ARCH Project)
	2. Matrix of detailed activities for the Plan of Action (POA) to implement the ASEAN Leader’s declaration on DHM (ALD on DHM)	- Janice F. Calixtro (Philippines) - Kriangsak Pintatham (Thailand)
	3. Collaboration mechanism in other regions	- Souheil Reaiche (WHO) - Mario Vilchez Madrigal (Costa Rica)
Session 6: Further promotion for the AAN activities, including publication of the ASEAN journal, and Joint research on DHM.	1. AAN framework, operation policy/strategy, and plan for the ASEAN Journal publication and Joint research	Shuichi Ikeda (ARCH Project)
	2. Proponent of the selected Joint research proposal: The research proposal for the Joint Research 2024	- Nguyen Tien Dung (Vietnam) - Maryami Yuliana Kosim (Indonesia)
	Closing sessions and remarks	- Tatsuro Kai (Chair of JAC) - Ina Agustina Isturini (Center for Health Crisis Unit, Ministry of Health, CHC MOH)



The full report of the Second AAC on DHM is available [here](#).

In preparation for future endeavours, the Third AAC on DHM is scheduled to take place in Thailand in November 2025. This upcoming conference will be the last conference during the ARCH Project to serve as an opportunity to reflect on the decade-long journey of the ARCH project and to assess the region’s current achievements in DHM. The program will feature plenary sessions, parallel discussions, poster presentations, and exhibitions, aiming to foster collaboration and innovation in the field of disaster health management.



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