

Preface

Chair of the Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD)

Prof. Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith



I congratulate the editorial board of this peer-reviewed ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management, the officials of the ASEAN Academic Network on Disaster Health Management and the ASEAN Institute for Disaster Health Management for their collaboration in coming up with this inaugural issue which contributes to the knowledge management objectives and priorities of the ASEAN Health Sector in disaster health management.

The ASEAN Health Sector has achieved a lot in strengthening disaster health management mechanisms to protect the people of ASEAN from the negative impacts of disasters, public health emergencies and related crises. Health is now part of the overall ASEAN mechanism for disaster response through the development of standard operating procedures, conduct of regional drills and exercises, development of training curricula and training for health coordinators and responders, and engagement and cooperation with disaster management and other ASEAN sectors and partners.

Guided by the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2016-2025) and ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management (2017), as well as the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region (2016), the ASEAN Health Sector persistently pursues to enhance preparedness and response mechanisms to ensure that these are responsive to the immediate needs of most vulnerable communities affected by disasters and public health emergencies.

As a region considered to be one of the most disaster-prone areas globally and as one of the hotspots for the emergence of new infectious diseases, it is vital that our knowledge and understanding of the public health hazards and risks are up-to-date to ensure that our collective efforts to manage risks and their impacts are effective and responsive, and continue to complement national efforts. We need to follow through on regional collaboration to share breakthroughs and innovations in disaster health management through the dissemination of

outcomes of research and studies, as well as to communicate experiences, good practices and lessons from recent disaster health response or recovery operations, including preparedness and operational readiness initiatives.

I strongly believe that this academic journal will serve as an important platform for the convergence of knowledge and innovations in disaster health management in ASEAN. Therefore, I enjoin you to take time to go through and digest the articles, to discuss the articles with your peers as well as to contribute to the journal by sharing your insights, ideas, experiences in our joint quest to enhance disaster health management, and to protect the health of the ASEAN peoples from disasters and other public health threats.

I look forward to the sustained and expanded collaboration of ASEAN Member States and their partners that result to future issues of the journal.

Preface

Editor in Chief of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM)

Prof. Yodi Mahendradhata, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D., FRSPH



Home to breathtaking landscapes and vibrant communities, the ASEAN region is one of the most disaster-vulnerable areas in the world. From typhoons and floods to earthquakes and pandemics, these events disrupt lives, economies, and critical systems, leaving long-term impacts on the physical, mental, and social well-being of communities. The diversity within ASEAN—in terms of socio-economic development, healthcare infrastructure, and disaster preparedness—underscores the need for region-specific approaches to disaster health management. As the frequency and complexity of disasters continue to grow, so too does the urgency for robust, coordinated responses that prioritize education, research, and capacity building.

AJDHM was established to address this critical need by fostering the academic exchange of knowledge and research on disaster health management, with a special focus on the ASEAN region. As a region that faces both high disaster risks and unique opportunities for collaborative solutions, ASEAN requires a platform to share evidence-based practices, innovative strategies, and cutting-edge research. AJDHM fills this gap by offering a dedicated space for dialogue, where practitioners, policymakers, and researchers can engage in meaningful discussions to enhance disaster health management efforts. Through this initiative, ASEAN can lead efforts to create resilient, well-prepared communities that not only manage disaster impacts effectively but also serve as a model for global resilience.

A key objective of AJDHM is to provide high-quality, actionable research to inform disaster health management strategies. With ASEAN's diverse levels of vulnerability, capacity, and infrastructure, tailored solutions are essential to address the region's unique challenges. AJDHM aims to foster collaboration not just within the ASEAN community but also with global experts in disaster health. By serving as a bridge between local, national, and international stakeholders, the journal ensures that the latest research and innovative solutions

are accessible, practical, and relevant to the needs of ASEAN countries. This collaborative approach strengthens both regional and global disaster preparedness and response systems.

This inaugural issue of AJDHM sets the tone for what we hope will be a dynamic and impactful academic and professional dialogue. By challenging conventional thinking and proposing bold, transformative solutions, contributors to AJDHM can advance the science and practice of disaster health management regionally and globally. AJDHM aims to become a leading voice in disaster health management, helping to shape a more resilient and healthier future for ASEAN and beyond.

We invite researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to embark on this journey, contributing their knowledge and insights to build stronger, more prepared communities worldwide. As we move forward, we are confident that, through our collective efforts, AJDHM will become a leading voice in disaster health management, helping to build a more resilient and healthier future for all.

Preface

Secretary Officer of the ASEAN Institute for Disaster Health Management (AIDHM)

Bella Donna, M.D., M.P.H



It is proud and enthusiastic to present the first (1st) issue of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM). The AJDHM is committed to continuing to evolve as a platform to promote knowledge exchange and research in disaster health management (DHM) across the ASEAN Region. At the heart of this effort is the AIDHM, whose contributions are crucial in shaping the journal's direction in line with AJDHM's vision and objective.

Disasters, both natural and human induced, have far reaching impacts on health systems, communities, and regional stability. The ASEAN Region, with its diverse challenges and vulnerabilities, is recommended for a coordinated and evidence-based approach to address these issues. The establishment of AJDHM reflects our collective recognition of the need for a specialized journal to foster knowledge sharing, promote innovative practices, and facilitate collaboration in DHM.

AIDHM serves as the central coordinating body and knowledge hub for DHM through the ASEAN Academic Network on Disaster Health Management (AANDHM), considering that AIDHM also serves as the AANDHM secretariat. AIDHM has consistently demonstrated leadership in disaster health research, capacity building, and policy advocacy. Through these efforts, the journal aspires to bridge the gap between research and practice, enabling policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to address the health challenges caused by disasters.

As stipulated in the TOR, AIDHM enhances national and regional capacity development of DHM by strengthening the training, academic, research, and educational initiatives that are instrumental in supporting AJDHM's growth. The institute's collaborative initiatives have not only enhanced the skills of contributors but also strengthened the editorial processes. AIDHM has played a vital role in fostering the AJDHM inclusivity and regional representation. Through the networks, the AIDHM has encouraged contributions from diverse contributions across ASEAN Member States (AMS) that bring perspectives from researchers, practitioners, and

policymakers. This inclusive approach has enriched the journal's content and made it a reflection of the diverse contexts and challenges faced by ASEAN countries. Looking ahead, AIDHM's role will become even more vital in addressing emerging challenges and opportunities for AJDHM.

This first issue features a diverse collection of articles, reflecting the dynamic and multidisciplinary nature of DHM. Readers will find the case studies, DHM domains of original research, and policy analyses that address key topics such as Disaster and Public Health, Human Development and Education for DHM, EMT Development, and Regional Collaboration Mechanisms on DHM. These contributions showcase ASEAN's teamwork by sharing knowledge and experiences from authors across the Region and beyond.

As we embark on this chapter, we invite readers to actively engage with the journal by submitting their research, sharing their insights, and joining the growing community of professionals dedicated to DHM. Together, we can build a resilient and well-prepared ASEAN region, using knowledge and teamwork to tackle the challenges ahead.

Preface

Secretary General of the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM)

Flt.Lt. Atchariya Pangma, M.D.



The ASEAN region, home to diverse cultures and environments, is increasingly vulnerable to a wide range of natural disasters triggered by climate change. Meanwhile, man-made disasters have also been increasingly reported. From typhoons and earthquakes to pandemics and technological hazards, the need for effective disaster health management is more critical than ever. In this context, the ASEAN

Academic Network on Disaster Health Management (AANDHM) was established to serve as an essential platform to promote academic activities among relevant institutions across ASEAN aiming to enhance the region's capacity to respond to disasters in ways that protect health and save lives.

In order to promote sustainable growth of this network, it requires a strategic and multifaceted approach to raise awareness; build credibility; and engage various stakeholders, including governments, academic institutions, NGOs, and the general public. In order to do so, more institutions, within ASEAN and beyond, should be encouraged to apply for membership of AANDHM while also working closely with the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Red Cross Society, and disaster relief organizations to ensure the practical relevance of AANDHM's work and its integration into regional disaster response efforts. With digital age, we have leverage to develop an interactive platform where academics, health professionals, and other stakeholders can discuss disaster health management topics, share resources, and collaborate on projects while also create a strong online presence to showcase the network's activities, publications, webinars, and partnerships.

ASEAN Journal on Disaster Health Management (AJDHM) is one of the activities under the framework of the AANDHM where members can transfer and exchange their expertise. As we move forward in our mission to foster greater collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM), a focal point of Thailand to the AANDHM and implementing agency of the Project to Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on

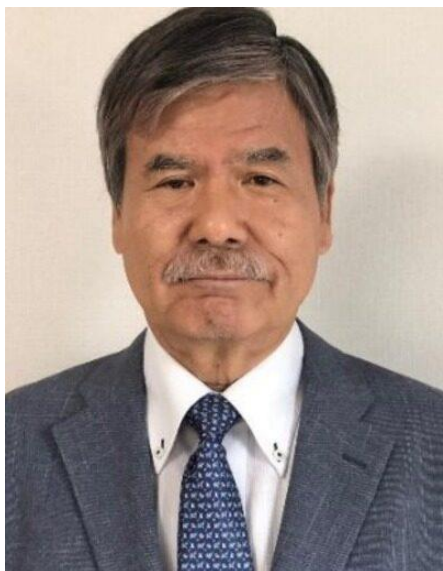
Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) recognizes and supports the vital role of the AJDHM in advancing the field of disaster health management across the region. By providing a platform for high-quality, peer-reviewed research, the journal fosters collaboration and innovation, contributing to more effective disaster preparedness, response, and recovery strategies. I believe that the work published in AJDHM will significantly enhance the region's collective ability to mitigate health risks during disasters, and I am committed to supporting its continued growth and impact.

I would like to encourage scholars from across ASEAN and beyond to contribute their findings, experiences, and perspectives to AJDHM. Whether through original research, case studies, policy analyses, or reviews, your contributions are invaluable to the ongoing development of disaster health management in ASEAN. Your work has the potential to shape disaster response strategies, improve health systems in times of crisis, and ultimately strengthen the resilience of communities in the face of disaster. Together, let us build a network of knowledge that will empower the ASEAN region to better prepare for and respond to the challenges posed by disasters, ensuring a safer and healthier future for all. We look forward to your contributions to the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management.

Preface

Chair of the Japanese Advisory Committee (JAC) of ARCH Project

Tatsuro Kai, M.D.



Congratulations on the Inaugural Issue of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM). As the Chair of the Japan Advisory Committee for the ARCH Project (JICA Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations.

Launched in 2016 for a duration of ten years, the ARCH Project has been implementing three main pillars to contribute to the development of Disaster Health Management (DHM) in ASEAN:

1. **System Building:** We have supported the establishment of the Regional Coordination Committee for Disaster Health Management (RCCDHM) within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Additionally, a system has been created to enable the submission of disaster health management status reports and recommendations to the Senior Officer Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD). In parallel, we have collaborated with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to enhance the “One ASEAN, One Response” concept during disasters. A new Chapter 7 regarding the reception and support systems for Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) response operations was added to the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP). To ensure the continuity of these systems and to implement the secretariat functions, the ASEAN Institute for DHM (AIDHM) has been established at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.
2. **Education and Capacity Building:** We have developed standardized DHM education tools, such as the Basic Disaster Health Management Course (B-course), Coordination Course for EMT (C-course), and the Health Need Assessment Tool. Among the training initiatives held in Japan, the Knowledge Co-creation on DHM Course (KCCP) has been organized three times with participation from all ten ASEAN Member States (AMS).

Additionally, three JICA courses for Emergency and Disaster Medicine were held for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. We also conducted five ASEAN Regional Collaboration Drills (RCD), with participation from all ten AMS.

3. **Academic Approach:** Under RCCDHM, we have established the ASEAN Academic Network on DHM (AANDHM), which includes National Focal Points (NFPs) from each AMS and research institutions from both inside and outside of ASEAN. As part of this network, the Steering Committee, which is consisting of one representative from each AMS NFPs has been formed. The Joint Research project among multiple AMS is initiated to conduct, and the ASEAN Academic Conference on Disaster Health Management (AAC on DHM) has been held every two years to share academic achievements from AMS countries, as well as to invite the speakers from non-ASEAN countries.

As a result of these collective efforts, the publication of AJDHM has come to fruition. As the first specialized journal on DHM in ASEAN, it is my sincere hope that this journal will be widely read, not only within ASEAN and Asia but also by disaster health researchers across the globe.

Preface

President of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM)

Prof. Donald A. Donahue, DHEd., MBA., MSJ., FACHE., FRSPH., FICDM



On behalf of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), it gives me great pleasure to welcome the launch of the ASEAN Journal of Disaster Health Management (AJDHM).

The ASEAN nations are among those most prone to disaster. This historical reality is exacerbated by growing populations, urbanization, deforestation, violence, dislocation, and rapid global travel and commerce that can facilitate disease spread. These intensifying factors are made even more threatening by the growing impact of climate change. At the recent global meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Medical Teams, climate change was described as “a sleeping dragon.” When asleep, benign; but when awakened, the whole earth trembles.

Beyond rising seas, more frequent and intense storms, and altered weather patterns, climate change is impacting air quality, fueling wildfires, supporting vector spread and novel disease emergence, and adversely impacting agriculture and nutrition. These threats know no geopolitical boundaries. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic strikingly demonstrated the universality of vulnerability, even as it altered the definition of disaster.

Nature is relentless, and the intersection with humanity is dynamic. As the environment evolves, so too must we. This imperative points to the need for robust and ongoing research in Disaster Risk Reduction, Health Emergency Disaster Risk Management (Health EDRM), emergency and disaster response and recovery, and the facilitating and supportive functions of government, industry, and society.

The establishment of the ASEAN Academic Network on Disaster Health Management (AANDHM) is an historic advancement in this regard. Knowledge dissemination via AJDHM is a powerful tool. So, too, is the remarkable collaboration and focus of the participating nations, the adept consultation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the pursuit of “One ASEAN, One Response.”

WADEM is proud to have been included as a strategic partner with AANDHM for building capacity, enhancing disaster medicine, and advancing disaster health management. This engagement is fully consistent with WADEM goals of advancing emergency and disaster health and promoting disaster risk reduction by fostering strong partnerships, leveraging scientific and technical expertise, and maximizing organizational capacity via partnership, science and technical expertise, and organizational capacity. It further reflects WADEM's ongoing and expanding efforts with WHO, UNITAR, academia, and other entities advancing global health security.

Disaster Medicine is an emerging and evolving realm. How exciting it is to be not only on the forefront of this process, but to be contributing to its definition. An adage advises "if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." WADEM is honoured to partner with AANDHM as we jointly go farther in our pursuit of a safer, healthier, equitable, and more resilient world.