

CHAIRPERSON' SUMMARY

11th Asian Crisis Management Conference in Manila

1 This year, Metro Manila proudly hosts the 11th Asian Crisis Management Conference from July 10 to 11, 2013, which coincides with the Philippines' National Disaster Consciousness Month. Recognizing the urgency in forging stronger partnerships with neighboring cities, seven (7) ANMC member-cities participated in this momentous conference, to wit: **Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Metropolitan Manila, Seoul, Singapore, and Tokyo.**

2 Confronted with, and in response to the grave hazards, exposure to and impacts of climate change, natural calamities and other disasters to the populace of mega cities, the Network continues to strengthen the partnership between and among major member-cities. This year, the Network further seeks to identify strategies on how to better protect its peoples by identifying and sharing disaster-related management initiatives that cut across prevention, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

3 The highlight of this historic annual conference was the presentation of each member-city on issues related to common-but differentiated crisis management issues. This year's main theme is ***Recovering from a Devastating Disaster and Moving Forward: A Major Asian City's Rehabilitation and Recovery Efforts***. Globally, the disaster management trend focuses on mitigation, preparedness and emergency response. This year however, the Network recognized that it is equally important to place effort and attention on recovery and rehabilitation efforts because what is important is to teach our people how to move forward after devastation. And that is what recovery and rehabilitation is all about—it is about rebuilding a society from a disaster, hence, the main theme of the conference.

This year, the participating cities presented their strategies on various disasters such as flood, earthquake, fire and other disasters. Common to all the presentations of the cities is the recognition that disaster management requires a “whole-of government response”, and private sector and community involvement. Member-cities also highlighted the important role of technology in communicating risks to the public, and the need to seriously enforce existing disaster-related laws and regulations to ensure public safety. The need to have business continuity plans and sound financial recovery mechanisms were likewise identified.

4 The overall outcome of this year's event especially on the agreement to further develop each city's capacity to prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from devastation through mutual assistance is noteworthy. We have agreed that it is only through our willingness and openness to share each other's knowledge, resources, and strengths that we can move forward. We further acknowledge that we can start by continuing our disaster training exchanges and programs, and enhancement of our human resource capabilities.

Recognizing that disasters are boundary-less, we now renew our commitment to strengthen the existing partnership among and between the Network's member-cities, through the improvement of our communications link. We vow to realize our dream of making disaster resilient Asian cities.

5 We are proud to present the City of Kuala Lumpur as the next host of this momentous and vital conference.