

ASEAN Hub Coordinator Delivers Training on Humanitarian Accountability to Humanitarian Actors in Myanmar

Three training courses on Humanitarian Accountability were delivered by an ASEAN Hub Coordinator, Sok Phoeuk, to various humanitarian actors in the Ayeyarwady Delta and Yangon Division between January and April, 2009.

Originally from Cambodia, Sok's responsibilities as an ASEAN Hub Coordinator based in Labutta Township include strengthening coordination at the township level and to facilitate humanitarian community monitoring. With over 25 years of experience in humanitarian work and disaster management for Oxfam Great Britain, Sok was in a good position to help build capacity for local authorities and humanitarian actors at the township level through the Accountability training.

Sok (standing, left) at the Accountability Training in Labutta, 16 January 2009



The fifty participants who attended the two Humanitarian Accountability trainings in Labutta Township on 16 January and 23 March respectively came from various United Nations agencies and NGOs including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Action Aid, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Handicap International, Merlin, Save the Children and World Concern. Staff of the Yangon-based ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force also took part in the trainings. The two trainings in Labutta mainly provided for the Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster staff.

The third training was held on 1 April 2009 and was mainly for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force and UNOCHA staff in Yangon. The training was organised by the Coordinating Office for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force with technical support and inputs from several other NGOs working on the ground in Myanmar.

The trainings were all very well received by the participants. One of the participants from Merlin said, "This is a very useful training. It should be provided to all staff in my organisation, especially my managers."

Serving as a Humanitarian Accountability and Partnership Advisor in Aceh after the Indian Ocean Tsunami, Sok found it a challenge to convince humanitarian managers to attend the Accountability training. "Accountability is of the main principles in humanitarian action. However, humanitarian managers, who carry a heavy workload, often neglect to recognise the importance of humanitarian accountability training in order to help their staff to become more accountable not only to donors but also to beneficiaries," said Sok.

Sok's contribution also received the thumbs-up from Ms. Adelina Kamal, Head of the Coordinating Office for ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force. "With his role and responsibilities, I am proud that Sok never hesitates to share his skills and experiences with other humanitarian staff on behalf of ASEAN in order to help humanitarian actors achieve more quality work and to be more accountable to beneficiaries," she said.