



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 7.1.4

## **Viet Nam Search and Rescue to Present Natural Disaster Search and Rescue Activities in Viet Nam**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Viet Nam



**11<sup>th</sup> Emergency Preparedness Working Group  
Meeting  
Nha Trang, Viet Nam  
18-19 February 2017**

  **THE 11st EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP MEETING**

# Disaster Search & Rescue activities in Vietnam

**Vietnam Search and Rescue**

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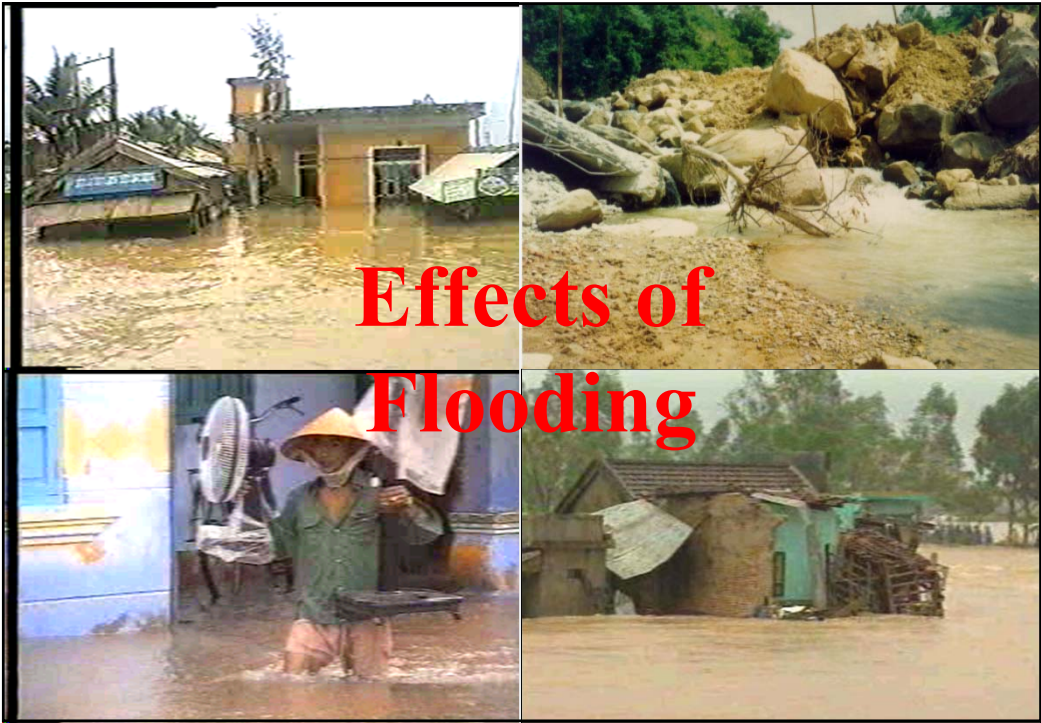
## I. Natural Disaster in Vietnam

### **Vietnam's geography:**

- Vietnam is located in the northwest of Pacific region within the tropical monsoon area, so annually it suffers heavily from the storm and tropical low pressure with high rainfall and humidity.
- Topography: Three quarters of Vietnam's territory is made up of mountainous and hilly regions; diversified terrain; complex river system. The slope and the current of the river has a strong speech .

## Disaster and accident

- Therefore Vietnam annually suffers from many kinds of natural disasters such as droughts, typhoons, flash-floods, landslides and earthquakes...
- There are an average of around 7 to 8 storms and 5 to 7 tropical low pressures hitting Vietnam per year.



## Other accidents

- Together with the process of the economical integration and development, commercial activities on the land and the South China Sea have been increasingly busy. That leads to a remarkable increase in number of accidents, oil spill incidents.



## Classification of Disasters in Vietnam

1. Natural disasters:
  - + Storm and tropical low pressure, whirlwind
  - + Earthquake
  - + Landslide
  - + Flooding, flashflood
  - + Drought
2. **Man-made Disasters**
  - + firing disasters: urban fire, industrial zone fire and forest fire.
  - + oil spill incident; bio-chemical incidents
  - + river waterway, maritime accidents and other incidents.

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## II. SAR System in Vietnam

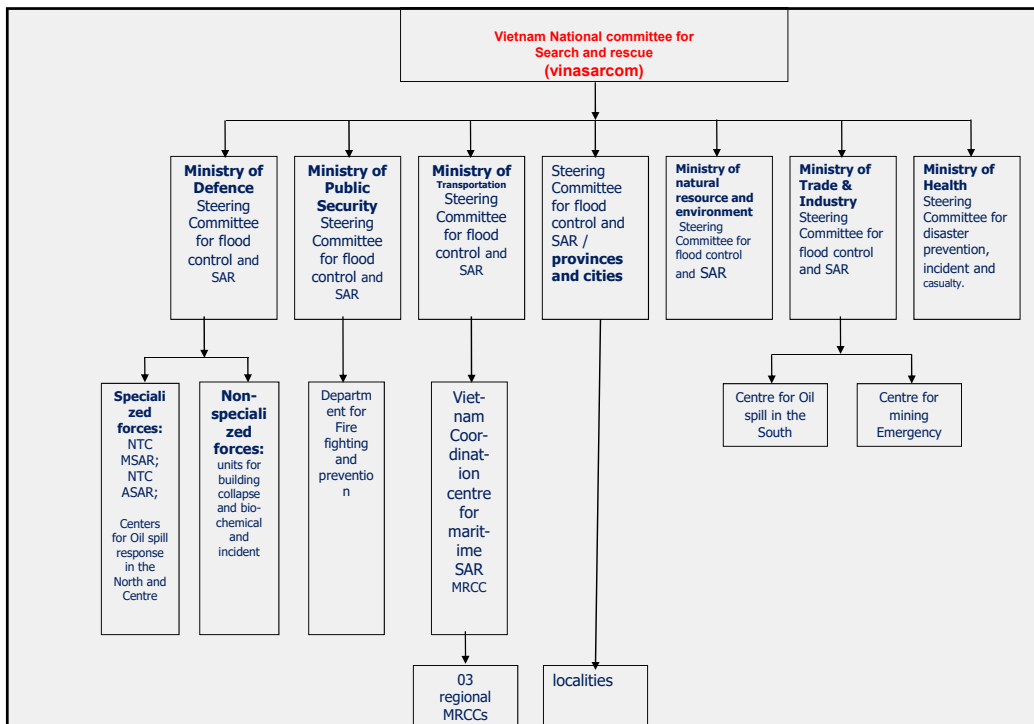
### National Committee for Search and Rescue of Vietnam (Vinasarcom)



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## VINASARCOM

To conduct SAR operations effectively, the Government established National Committee for Search and Rescue of Vietnam (VINASARCOM) including 20 members:

- President of VINASARCOM (by the Deputy Prime Minister)
- Standing Deputy president (by Vice Minister of Defense) (now mandated to Deputy Chief of General Staff of MOD).
- Standing member and Chief of VINASARCOM office (by Director General of Department for SAR/ Ministry of Defense)
- Other members (by Vice Ministers of relevant ministries and branches).
- Government assigns MOD as a standing agency of VINASARCOM





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## Functions and tasks (cont.)

- To help the Government in guiding and directing ministries and branches to elaborate and implement the strategy, long-term and annual plans for Disaster management and SAR.
- To direct and coordinate forces and assorted means of the ministries, branches and localities for prompt search and rescue activities nation-wide.

## Functions and tasks (cont...)

- To direct ministries and branches to organize training courses, exercises for search and rescue, disaster response.
- To preside, coordinate with relevant agencies in the implementation of regional and international agreements and commitments on SAR.



**The army forces is entrusted by the Government to be the key force for disaster prevention and response and SAR activities nation-wide**

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- Military has strict discipline and high command.
- Nation-wide forces
- Military means can be used for disaster response and SAR activities.



## Experience

**Guideline:** *Proactive prevention, timely response, effectively recovery, in which prevention is better than cure.*

### 4 on-scene principles

- on-scene forces
- on-scene material
- on-scene facilities
- on-scene command

## III. International Cooperation

- Commitments
  - Bilateral
  - Multilateral
- Specific cooperation activities
  - Technical cooperation:
    - + Training
    - + Technology Transfer

## Bilateral Cooperation

- Russia: MOU with Russia on natural disaster management and SAR (March 2001)
- Philippines: Agreement on SAR and Oil spill Response.
- Laos and Cambodia: the Protocol on natural disaster prevention and response between the two Ministries of Defence

## Multilateral Cooperation

*Vietnamese Government has policy for gradually joining multilateral cooperation for enhance its capacity of disaster response.*

- ASEAN Disaster Management Agreement (26 July 2005)
- Jan. 2006 Joint Statement on Partnership in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand (1/2006)
- June 2007: Be an official member of 79 SAR convention.
- to actively take part in international and regional fora on SAR and Disaster Relief such as ASEAN, ARF, APEC, ADMM+, MCIP, UNOCHA.

## Specific cooperation

- Bilateral Cooperation:
  - Russia: to advise for building National Training center for Air SAR.
  - The US: to help install SAROPS software and providing training on how to use this software.
  - France: to advise the project of modernization of SAR facilities, techniques, and civil safety in Vietnam

## Specific cooperation (cont...)

- the Netherlands and Poland: to help VN build 7 SAR vessels transfer the technology of vessel building as well as to provide SAR training courses for management staff and workers of Vietnam.
- German: purchase equipment and facilities for fire fighting, building collapse.
- Spain: purchase equipment for oil spill response
- Australia: to provide training courses on emergency management.

## Specific cooperation (cont..)

- Singapore: training courses for Administrators' SAR; urban SAR, maritime SAR.
- Japan: annual training courses and workshops on maritime pollution prevention and oil spill response.
- Israel: a training course for disaster management and SAR.

## Specific cooperation (cont...)

- To advise Laos and Cambodia How to make plan for flood control and support SAR equipment such as tents, life jacket...
- To send a medical team to Myanmar to help make rapid assessment on Nargis 2008.

## IV. Orientation (cont...)

- To perfect disaster management and SAR system from the centre to the localities.
- To Enhance the capacity for management staff and SAR workers directly in SAR activities.
- strengthen the legislation including legal documents on SAR
- To increasingly invest in equipment and facilities for SAR activities.

## Orientation (cont...)

- To strengthen cooperation with all countries, global and regional organizations in the field of disaster management and SAR.
- to strengthen bilateral and multilateral agreements on SAR.
- To search for the fund and investment for projects of training, raising the quality of the human resource and equipment, facilities for SAR in Vietnam.

## Orientation (cont...)

- To establish humanitarian assistance Team in order to more actively and effectively join in international cooperation activities related to disaster management and SAR operations

## Conclusion

Natural disaster prevention, response and search and rescue (SAR) is not only a great humanitarian work but also spiritual obligation for every nations, organizations, all forces and everyone.



**Thank you for your attention!**