



27 March 2019

**Launch of the first “ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR)”
~Sentinel Asia is highlighted as an essential and integral platform for the ASEAN region~**

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) launched the first edition of the “ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR)” on 20 March 2019. This ARMOR 1st edition has its subtitle “Bridging Science and Decision Making” and aims to provide science-based resources for policymakers and the disaster management community in the ASEAN region. The launch was celebrated at the inauguration ceremony attended by high-level officials of the community, including the Executive Director of the AHA Centre and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Community and Corporate Affairs.

ARMOR 1st edition is composed of ten chapters, each of which respectively provides specific insights on the science behind disaster management and its applicability to policy making. Among these ten chapters, Chapter 10 has particular foci on space-based information utilisation to support emergency response and recovery. In drafting this Chapter 10 of ARMOR, volunteers of Sentinel Asia were invited to contribute through their expertise. Upon the invitation, experts from the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) collaborated with the AHA Centre and provided inputs as well as relevant information, including emergency observations conducted by the Sentinel Asia community. In consequence of the collaboration, ARMOR underlines the benefit of Sentinel Asia for the ASEAN region by introducing several showcases in which Sentinel Asia was particularly useful, and notably recommends that all national disaster management organisations (NDMOs) of ASEAN Member States should be exposed to the Sentinel Asia platform.

The AHA Centre plays a pivotal role in the ASEAN region as the hub for disaster management, by assessing risks, monitoring the situation, and disseminating disaster information and making coordinated efforts for emergency response in collaboration with ASEAN Member States and stakeholders. This applies to the context of Sentinel Asia’s emergency observation as well. AHA Centre has promptly made emergency observation requests to Sentinel Asia on behalf of NDMOs in the ASEAN region, promptly issued “Situation Updates” incorporating the disaster information provided by Sentinel Asia, and appealed to the relevant community including international organizations responsible for humanitarian aids. Through the dedicated commitment by the AHA Centre, Sentinel Asia has been recognised and acknowledged in the community and Sentinel Asia has become more valuable and beneficial to the community. The highlight of Sentinel Asia in ARMOR is one of the best examples ever and marks a remarkable milestone in the Sentinel Asia’s history. Through collaboration between the AHA Centre and Sentinel Asia, such virtuous cycles are expected to continue.

**ARMOR is available on the webpage of the AHA Centre at www.ahacentre.org/armor.*