

Malaysia Calls For More Effective System In Management Of Regional Disasters
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VLADIVOSTOK, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has called for the establishment of a more effective early warning system to coordinate the prevention and management of disasters in the Asia Pacific Region.

Making this call at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC 2012) Ministers Meeting (AMM) plenary session here today, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said, with the pooling of technical know-how and expertise from member economies, such an early warning system would collectively strengthen the emergency preparedness and disaster resilience in the region.

"Member economies could use existing mechanisms like the Asean Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) that would include information on specific expertise possessed by each member economy to build a disaster resilient community.

"These mechanisms could also contribute to timely adoption of best practices, as well as draw on expertise that each member economy possesses and avoid economies from having to re-invent the wheel," he said when presenting Malaysia's views on strengthening emergency preparedness and resilience in the APEC region.

He said focus should be on people who suffered due to disasters and therefore, the grouping would have to look at how to alleviate their sufferings, speedily and effectively.

Anifah said Malaysia had contributed towards emergency preparedness and resilience by being host to the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) at the Subang Military Airbase in Kuala Lumpur.

Given the unique experiences faced as a result of disasters and the different approaches adopted by member economies in facing these emergencies, there was a lot that could be shared and gained from each other, he added.

"We should also leverage on each other's expertise and available resources to ensure timely and effective delivery of required assistance to the affected people," a statement released by the foreign ministry quoted him as saying at the meeting.

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