



**Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20036**

**Tel : (202) 775-5200
Fax : (202) 775-5365**

PRESS RELEASE

**ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE ASEAN COORDINATING CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ON
DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN BALI, 17 NOVEMBER 2011**

1 DESEMBER 2011

On 17th November 2011, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) at the series of the 19th ASEAN Summit in Bali. The signing ceremony, witnessed by the ASEAN Leaders, also marked the official launch of the Centre.

As stated in the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Joint Communique on July 2007 in Manila, Indonesia is designated to be the host of AHA Centre. For the time being, the AHA Centre is located at the seventeenth floor of the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (*Badan Pengkajian dan Penerapan Teknologi - BPPT*) in MH. Thamrin Street, Jakarta.

The purpose of AHA Centre is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the Parties, and with relevant United Nations and international organizations, in promoting regional collaboration in disaster management and emergency response. AHA Centre will be the center point for ASEAN cooperation in disaster management, the coordination engine to ensure ASEAN's fast and collective response to disasters within the ASEAN region. It will also bridge ASEAN with myriad of forums and respective international organizations.

The signing of this agreement demonstrates ASEAN members' commitment of enhancing disaster management and reaffirms their willingness to respond to disaster emergencies through concerted national efforts and intensified regional and international co-operation.

Washington, D.C., 1 Desember 2011
