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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Inauguration of EU-funded Crisis Management Center in Myanmar

The new EU-funded Myanmar National Crisis Management Center was inaugurated on 11 June in Nay Pyi Taw in the presence of Union Minister for Home Affairs, U Ko Ko, several other Union Ministers, Head of the EU Delegation in Myanmar, Ambassador Roland Kobia, and Agostino Miozzo, Managing Director for Crisis Response in the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Under the authority of the President of Myanmar, the National Crisis Management Center will support the capacity development of the national authorities to perform effective crisis-related early warning thereby better responding to crisis situations in Myanmar.

The EU is currently working closely with the Myanmar authorities to enhance the national crisis response system of the country through capacity building and knowledge sharing. The establishment of the National Crisis Management Center is an important milestone for achieving this goal.

The staff of the National Crisis Management Center has already participated in two training programmes organised by the EU in close cooperation with the Myanmar authorities. Further training programmes will follow.

The EU is committed to contributing to strengthening regional and international cooperation in the field of situation awareness and early warning systems for emergency situations.

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The National Crisis Management Center will also operate within the framework of a regional EU-funded project aiming to foster the capacities of ASEAN and its Member States in the area of early warning and responses to emergency situations by promoting inter-connectivity of ASEAN Member State crisis centers. Based in Jakarta, this regional project will also strengthen the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for humanitarian assistance and disaster management (AHA Centre) and enhance the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

Background

Since 2007, the EU has contributed to the development of cooperation with regional partners on crisis response and early warning as part of EU external action. In 2007, cooperation began with the African Union (AU) on enhancing the Continental Early-Warning System based in Addis Ababa followed in 2010 by cooperation with the League of the Arab States (LAS) on developing a Regional Crisis Response Centre in Cairo inaugurated by HRVP Ashton in November 2012. Support has also been provided to the Organisation of American States (OAS) in the field of media monitoring and will soon be extended to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the area of emergency response and early-warning/situational awareness. Together with the High-level Conference entitled “Towards a global network of crisis rooms”, these activities were financed up to a total of EUR 7.8 million under the EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.
