



ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF ASEAN ON THE RECENT DISASTER OF THE TROPICAL STORM WASHI IN THE PHILIPPINES

ASEAN Member States express their heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to their fellow ASEAN Member State, the Government, and people of the Republic of the Philippines for the loss of lives and damage caused by the tropical storm Washi that struck the southern Philippines on 17 December 2011. They hoped that the bereaved families of the victims would be given strength and comfort in facing this calamity.

ASEAN Member States also extend their readiness in providing the Republic of the Philippines support and assistance in the efforts to help bring about swift recovery, in accordance with the spirit of ASEAN solidarity. In this regard, ASEAN Member States request the ASEAN Secretariat to work together with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to lend the necessary support and assistance.

ASEAN Member States further emphasize the learning from past natural disasters that occurred in the region, it is important to continue to enhance ASEAN's capacity on disaster mitigation, emergency response, recovery, and rehabilitation in moving closer towards achieving the goal of building disaster-resilient societies.

ASEAN Member States are confident that the people of the Republic of the Philippines will recover and rise from these unfortunate disasters with strong spirit and resilience.

Jakarta, 19 December 2011