10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference
Manila, Philippines
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Mabuhay is a popular Filipino greeting, usually expressed as Mabuhay! This phrase carries various meanings including “live”, “come alive”, “may you live”, “cheers”, “welcome” and “hurrah”. Mabuhay is also used to welcome visitors arriving in the Philippines. Tourists frequently hear this word at the airport when a special Filipino welcome is prepared for them.
Welcome message from the Philippine Red Cross

There are many things that Filipinos should be proud of. First and foremost is that the Filipino people are well-known for their hospitality - welcoming everyone with their genuine smiles and warm hearts. Filipinos are highly adaptable. You may see a Filipino easily adjusting with different cultures, situations and even people. When unfortunate events happen, we do everything together and we act fast to be back on our feet, attesting to our Bayanihan spirit and that we are an epitome of resiliency.

This brings to mind our most popular mode of public transportation, the jeepney, as it portrays our diverse culture, adaptability, and ability to survive various threats, defining our own resilience. Originally made from military jeeps during the Second World War, modern jeepneys are now produced by independently owned factories within the Philippines. Jeepneys remain to be a symbol of Filipino ingenuity and innovation. That is why, for the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, which will be held in this country in November, the Philippine Red Cross has chosen the jeepney to be assimilated in the logo – the face of this very special occasion.

In line with the conference theme, Engaging Humanitarian Action in a Fast-Changing World, the jeepney acts as a canvas of expression to represent the colourful depictions from Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in the Asia Pacific region.

It is also used to express the ties between National Societies in the region and the world. It strengthens our direction in embracing change and reinvention; that we are fully capable of adapting to the ever-changing conditions.

The Asia Pacific Regional Conference takes place every four years, bringing representatives from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies to discuss solutions to the most pressing humanitarian and development issues in the region. But more than a gathering, this conference is a celebration of humanity and an opportunity for the societies to form partnerships and camaraderie to support each other. Ensuring that every National Society, every community, every individual is engaged in finding means to adapt and be prepared with our changing world.

Humanity is innate to Filipinos. We love to connect and interact with people (the fact that we are the texting capital of the world attests to this), to touch their lives in our very own little ways - volunteering to humanitarian organizations, providing assistance through donations, and giving blood.

The Philippine Red Cross represents the story of Filipino men and women from all walks of life, choosing to become humanitarians who dedicated themselves to the service of humanity – making Philippine Red Cross the premier humanitarian organization in the country. It is an honour for the Philippines and Philippine Red Cross to host the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference. We welcome you to the place of diverse cultures, breath-taking places, exquisite delicacies and heartfelt care. Welcome to the Philippines. Mabuhay tayong lahat (May we live long and prosper)!

Chairman Richard Gordon,
Philippine Red Cross
Dear Red Cross Red Crescent family of Asia Pacific,

I am pleased to share with all of you the first information bulletin of the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference that will take place in Manila, Philippines, from 11 to 14 November 2018.

In preparation for this conference, the previous and current members of the IFRC Governing Board from Asia Pacific have joined hands. Please allow me to extend my gratitude to the Philippine Red Cross for its generosity in hosting the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference and for the collaboration in organizing this event.

In a series of information bulletins, of which this is the first, we will keep you informed of progress in bringing together the leadership of Asia Pacific National Societies. Similarly, we will introduce the technical experts who will assist in delivering relevant and updated materials. This is all in accordance with our mandate to enhance the day-to-day resilience of individuals, communities, institutions and National Societies.

Moreover, in this information bulletin you will see the programme of the regional conference. Soon we will also start the review of the implementation of the ‘Beijing Call for Innovation’ which will allow us to observe how far we have reached in our collective ambition to embrace innovation.

At the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference, we are hoping to welcome the newly recognized Marshall Islands Red Cross Society, soon to become the 191st member of the IFRC. In addition, Bhutan Red Cross Society, already created by the government of Bhutan and is hopefully on track to be recognized as an official Federation member, will also be invited as an observer.

One of the key directions that the planning committee of the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference is striving to set is greater inclusion of all Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies across Asia Pacific. Therefore, we used a survey to seek input on the content of the regional conference. The next step is the creation of working groups that from April towards November will start preparing for the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference. I would like to encourage your National Societies to explore options to join the working groups that will soon be announced.

In this regard, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Regional Offices in Kuala Lumpur and Lebanon, the Governance Support Department in Geneva for the constant assistance and collaboration.

Last but not the least, the support and engagement of National Societies from other regions of the world that are supporting different initiatives in Asia Pacific is of great interest. Hence, we hope to see these Partner National Societies join us in the Philippines.

With best regards

Dr Chen Zhu
Vice President of the IFRC and President of the Red Cross Society of China
Dear Red Cross Red Crescent family,

A few months from now our big Asia Pacific family will meet and celebrate the opportunity that our humanitarian mandate offers to us every four years in the region. That opportunity is the joy of uniting the spirit of humanity, bringing together rich and diverse cultures, languages and most importantly the experiences that National Societies generously offer, all of which, combined with a space for learning, sharing, and reflection, will allow us to put forward a vision for better humanity.

Humanitarian challenges in the Asia Pacific Region are acute in those countries where conflict leads to painful consequences. Our region lives with the constant threat that climate change poses. Recurring cyclones, typhoons and extreme weather events destroy lives, livelihoods and aspirations for a better life. This is a region with the highest number of population movement, either through forced migration, displacements or labour migrants. It is also a region where violence is threatening families, communities, cities and the economic growth of many countries. The aging population and challenges faced by the Youth are features of great interest to work on. People living in Asia Pacific have the highest risk and prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Epidemics and pandemics form a large part of our regular concern.

With support from their local branches and through the volunteers working hand in hand with the most vulnerable communities, Red Cross Red Crescent Societies have a vast experience dealing with the challenges above, providing support to the most acute needs and enhancing community resilience. There is a vast level of learning to share and celebrate every day. We can only be proud and humbled by the work of National Societies. The 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Manila is a chance for us to celebrate the opportunity for learning and sharing.

Let me sincerely thank the Philippine Red Cross for their leadership in organizing the conference. We are really impressed by the work done so far and I am sure that we will be even more amazed as we approach November 11, 2018.

Xavier Castellanos
Regional Director, IFRC Asia Pacific
Welcome message from MENA Regional Director

Dear Red Cross and Red Crescent family in the Middle East and Asia Pacific,

I am writing these words soon after we have concluded the 10th Middle East and North Africa (MENA) National Societies conference that took place in Iraq on 18 and 19 April 2018.

To inspire you and get you into the mood, I take the opportunity of this bulletin to share with you the main outcome of the MENA regional conference, because at the end of the day, our concerns and goals are the same.

In “Baghdad Declaration,” we have committed ourselves to promote a culture of non-violence and peace in conflict situations. This collective objective has been urgently needed in a region where acute emergencies affect millions of people in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian territories.

The humanitarian space in which we operate is shrinking by the day. Over the past years, deliberate attacks against humanitarian personnel have become commonplace. Dozens of our volunteers and humanitarian workers have lost their lives in line of duty. During the Asia Pacific conference, I invite you to join our efforts of promoting the culture of non-violence, committing to improve measures that ensure safety and protection of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers wherever they are.

I am sure we have so much to share and learn from each other during the upcoming Asia Pacific Regional conference, particularly with regards to how we can work together to alleviate the suffering of people on the move.

As you know, the MENA region is characterized by a large scale of voluntary and involuntary movement of people. These include internally displaced people, asylum seekers and refugees who constitute much of the humanitarian caseload. There are an estimated 35 million migrants and refugees in MENA. The scale and complexity of displacement result in unprecedented levels of humanitarian need.

To alleviate the suffering of people on the move, we have committed ourselves to increasing advocacy for national legislation that protects migrants throughout the migratory cycle, without forgetting the support needed for the host communities who are affected by the migratory trends. Concretely, by the next MENA Conference planned for 2020 in Syria, we are committed to achieving at least 75% of the National Societies in MENA that have included “People on the Move” as one of the priorities in their Strategic Plan.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Philippine Red Cross for organizing the conference. We look forward to collaborating with you all to achieve our ultimate goals: Saving lives and changing minds.

Sayed Hashem,
Regional Director, IFRC MENA
Engaging local humanitarian action in a fast-changing world

1. **Engaging** links with how we work to enable conditions for resilience through the work of volunteers, communities and partners.

2. **Local humanitarian action** links one of our commitments from the World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain for greater localization in resilience building, readiness, response and recovery.

3. **Fast changing environment** links the Beijing Call for Innovation and our collective capacity to adjust to the rapidly transforming environment.
Jeepneys are the most common form of public transportation in the Philippines. They were originally made from US military jeeps left over from the Second World War and are well known for their flamboyant decoration and crowded seating. Although the original jeepneys were simply refurbished military jeeps, modern jeepneys are now produced by independently-owned factories within the Philippines.

Design Inspiration
Jeepneys are the most recognized symbols representing the Philippines. They have survived the threat of obsolescence since the Second World War and environmental alerts. They remain to be a symbol of Filipino ingenuity and innovation.

Design Elements
The shadow and silhouettes behind the jeepney show popular destinations in the Philippines including Intramuros or the Walled City and the Rizal Memorial Statue.

Colour Scheme
The logo’s main palette of red, blue and white reflects the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement emblem.
How we are planning this conference

The following structure provides information of the mechanism created for preparing the upcoming Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

1. The planning committee

The planning committee is made up of the Vice President of the Federation, the focal point for the Federation secretariat in Geneva, members of the Governing Board from the following National Societies: China, Fiji, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Asia Pacific and MENA regional directors. Their main purpose is to set the conference agenda, coordinate the tasks of the committees, define the three leading working groups and provide guidance on the outcome document.

2. The organising committee

Reporting to the planning committee is the organising committee, which is the committee responsible for organising the logistics, budgeting, marketing and other financial aspects of the conference. Together with the thematic committee, the organising committee is also responsible for preparing a draft agenda and the conference’s overall programme. This committee consists of the host of the regional conference (Philippine Red Cross) and the host of the previous conference (Red Cross Society of China), with support from the regional focal point of the Federation Secretariat in Geneva and Asia Pacific and MENA regional deputy directors.
3. Thematic committee and working groups

The thematic committee and working groups ensure the dynamic participation of all National Societies in the region including the analysis of current challenges and trends, capturing key elements of global agendas and supporting the setting of future Red Cross Red Crescent goals and objectives for the outcome document. Spearheaded by the Philippine Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of China, the IFRC Asia Pacific and MENA regional deputy directors, these groups will review the progress made on the Beijing Call for Innovation, create thematic working group and identify content for discussion during the conference. These groups will also present the draft regional conference’s new resolution to the planning committee.

Review of the Beijing Call for Innovation and the draft of the new resolution

Comprised of one National Society from East Asia, South Asia, one from South-East Asia, one from the Pacific and one from the Middle East, a youth member, PMER heads from IFRC regional offices of MENA and Asia Pacific. This group will report to the IFRC deputy regional directors from MENA and Asia Pacific.

Working groups content discussion

One National Society from East Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, Pacific, the Middle East, and a youth member will make up the working groups. Thematic focal persons from IFRC will be based on the work that is decided by the planning committee. These groups report to the deputy directors who will provide guidance, oversee their progress and provide a written report for the planning committee meetings.

4. Drafting committee

Preparing the final outcome document for National Societies to approve:

Before the conference, thematic groups will identify, based on feedback received from National Societies, three or four action points for National Societies to work on over the next four years. These action points will be given to the thematic commission, which will present them to the planning committee for discussion and approval.

During the conference, the drafting committee, which will be made up of representatives from five or six Asia Pacific National Societies supported by IFRC secretariat staff and deputy directors, will fine-tune the action points to reflect discussions. The drafting committee will present the final outcome document to National Societies for approval.
Working modality of working groups

Each of the three thematic working groups will have a thematic lead facilitator from the IFRC secretariat. This person will provide guidance and support to the conformation of sub-working groups.

Each of the sub-working groups that will be created prior to the approval of the planning committee will be led by a National Society and supported by the IFRC. It will be composed of at least five National Societies representatives from Asia Pacific and the Middle East regions, in addition to a member of the youth and a Federation staff member. Sub-working groups can include, if it is decided, donor National Societies from other geographical regions, ICRC and external actors.

Sub-working groups will avoid talk shows at the conference and will put emphasis on practical and tangible products that will benefit National Societies in their future use.

Prior to and during the regional conference, sub-working groups will ensure that presenters will provide solid examples on HOW to implement, and HOW to measure results and contributions. This can be done by using, for example, campaigns, products, educational games or initiatives that can be easily multiplied, and videos or stories that can be utilised.

The sub-working groups will meet via virtual technology in the majority of cases. They are responsible for the development of substance documents that will be one of the outcomes of the regional conference. The substance information will be of maximum four pages written in Arial 12-point size.

Sub-working groups are also responsible for organizing the logistics of the events. This includes the drafting of a concept note for the regional conference.

Workshops: In addition to the sub-working groups, the regional conference will have four workshops that will be organised by National Societies and the Federation. Each workshop will serve as an opportunity to acquire new learning and is expected to be educational in nature. The workshops will serve to enhance knowledge and skills on strategic areas of the Federation.

In summary, the substance information produced by the sub-working groups prior to the regional conference will serve as technical documents for the conference. The actual presentations within the sub-working groups and during the regional conference will help National Societies to adapt them in their own context. The workshops will serve as a learning opportunity. All of the above efforts will contribute to the final outcome of the conference.

"Usher in the digital and innovation age! As of 2017, there are over 1.4 billion active mobile social users in Asia Pacific and over 233 million users in the Middle East and North Africa region."
Conference location

The 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference will take place in Makati Shangri-La, located within the vibrant and bustling metropolis of Metro Manila. The event venue combines a wealth of Filipino culture and modern facilities and amenities to maximise the conference experience for its attendees. With Philippine Red Cross' expertise in managing the logistics, convenience and security of conference guests, the participants can look forward to experiencing the best of what the Philippines has to offer.

Venue offerings

Located just 20 minutes away from both domestic and international airports, and within walking distance from some of the most prominent business centres, Makati Shangri-La is an ideal venue for the 10th Asia Pacific Regional Conference. The hotel has hosted many events through the years and has top-notch and extensive facilities to ensure the conference runs smoothly.
Most countries do not require a visa to enter and stay in the Philippines for the duration of the conference. To see if you require a visa, and for more information about visa applications, click here.
# Conference Agenda

## AGENDA: 10TH ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE | MANILA, 11 - 14, NOVEMBER, 2018

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### Opening Ceremony
Approx. end: 21:00

### Plenary
- **Opening:**
  - Introduction
  - Session of Proceedings
- **Review of the achievements of the Beijing Call for Innovation:**
  - Report on the main findings of the Beijing Call for Innovation
- **Youth on the Move:**
  - Main conclusions of the Youth Forum
- **Movement Matters: Follow up Statutory Meeting**

### Youth Forum

### The world we are giving to future generations

### Lunch Break

### Engaging
- **Sub Group 1:** Resilience
- **Sub Group 2:** Volunteering in modern society
- **Sub Group 3:** Effective Partnerships

### Local Hum Action
- **Sub Group 1:** CASH Programming
- **Sub Group 2:** PGI & CEA
- **Sub Group 3:** Long term needs Protracted crisis

### Fast Changing World
- **Sub Group 1:** Emergency health and pandemics
- **Sub Group 2:** Urban DRR
- **Sub Group 3:** Humanitarian Education

### IFRC Strategy 2030:
- Progress Report on IFRC S2030 and main learning's

### IFRC 2030

### Drafting Committee

### Report of the Drafting Committee
- Adoption of the Manila Call for Action
- Proposals for Place of the next Regional Conference
- Closing of the X Asia Pacific Regional Conference