

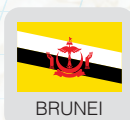


Celebrating 10th Anniversary of APTERR

Moving together towards
sustainable food security



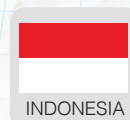




BRUNEI



CAMBODIA



INDONESIA



LAO PDR



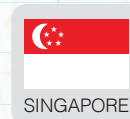
MALAYSIA



MYANMAR



PHILIPPINES



SINGAPORE



THAILAND



VIET NAM



CHINA



JAPAN



KOREA

Acknowledgement

All stages of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)'s achievements in decade would not have been possible to be revealed in this publication without tremendous supports in many aspects from the APTERR members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, the People's Republic of China, Japan and, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and relevant agencies along with hard-working staff members since the establishment of the APTERR, officials both national and international agencies, particularly the most relevant entities namely the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB) Secretariat, and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat.

Most importantly, eternal gratitude is extended to the Secretary General and officials of the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) of Thailand for providing in-kind contribution, in respect of office space and facilities, and offering generous assistance to the APTERR Secretariat.

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Foreword

The year 2021 marks a meaningful milestone for the APTERR as we celebrate the 10th anniversary since the establishment of the mechanism to strengthen food security in 2011. The APTERR, over these 10 years, has performed never-ending tasks following our objectives and purposes in the APTERR Agreement to meet emergency requirements and other humanitarian purposes without distorting the normal international trade of rice. Through the utilisation of our emergency rice reserves, the implementations of APTERR programmes have successfully mitigated the sufferings and supported millions of lives in the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries under different circumstances. Thanks to the solid collaboration from the APTERR members country that manifests the ambition to progress towards achieving food security as a united regional community.

The APTERR Secretariat, as an implementation agency of the APTERR, had struggled for years through numerous obstacles in carrying out its functions and responsibilities due to the lack of experience. Nevertheless, as time went by, the valuable and continuous support from the APTERR Council gradually enabled us to execute our operations to the full potential. In this regard, we are proud to have performed the roles for facilitating and supporting the implementation of APTERR programme in effectively fighting against food insecurity. Apparently, the accomplishment of the APTERR mechanism throughout the decade is a piece of factual evidence proving that we are now moving on the right path and in the right direction.

Looking forward to the future, the threats of emergencies are expected to become more and more acute and complicated, presenting a greater challenge for our region. Under this circumstance, the necessity of APTERR as a mechanism to provide timely rice assistance in response to the emergency requirements will be increasingly crucial and indispensable. On behalf of the APTERR Secretariat, we recognise the need for more integrated cooperation as well as further contributions from the APTERR members in order to keep up with the increasing requirement of rice under a complicated global context. In the meantime, we also would like to reiterate that the APTERR Secretariat will continue to undertake our functions and responsibilities to the best of our ability and never cease to serve APTERR objective in enhancing sustainable food security for the benefits of the people in the APT region as a whole.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'C. Shimpalee'.

Chanpithya Shimpalee

General Manager of the APTERR Secretariat



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CHAPTER





ABOUT **APTERR**



Introduction

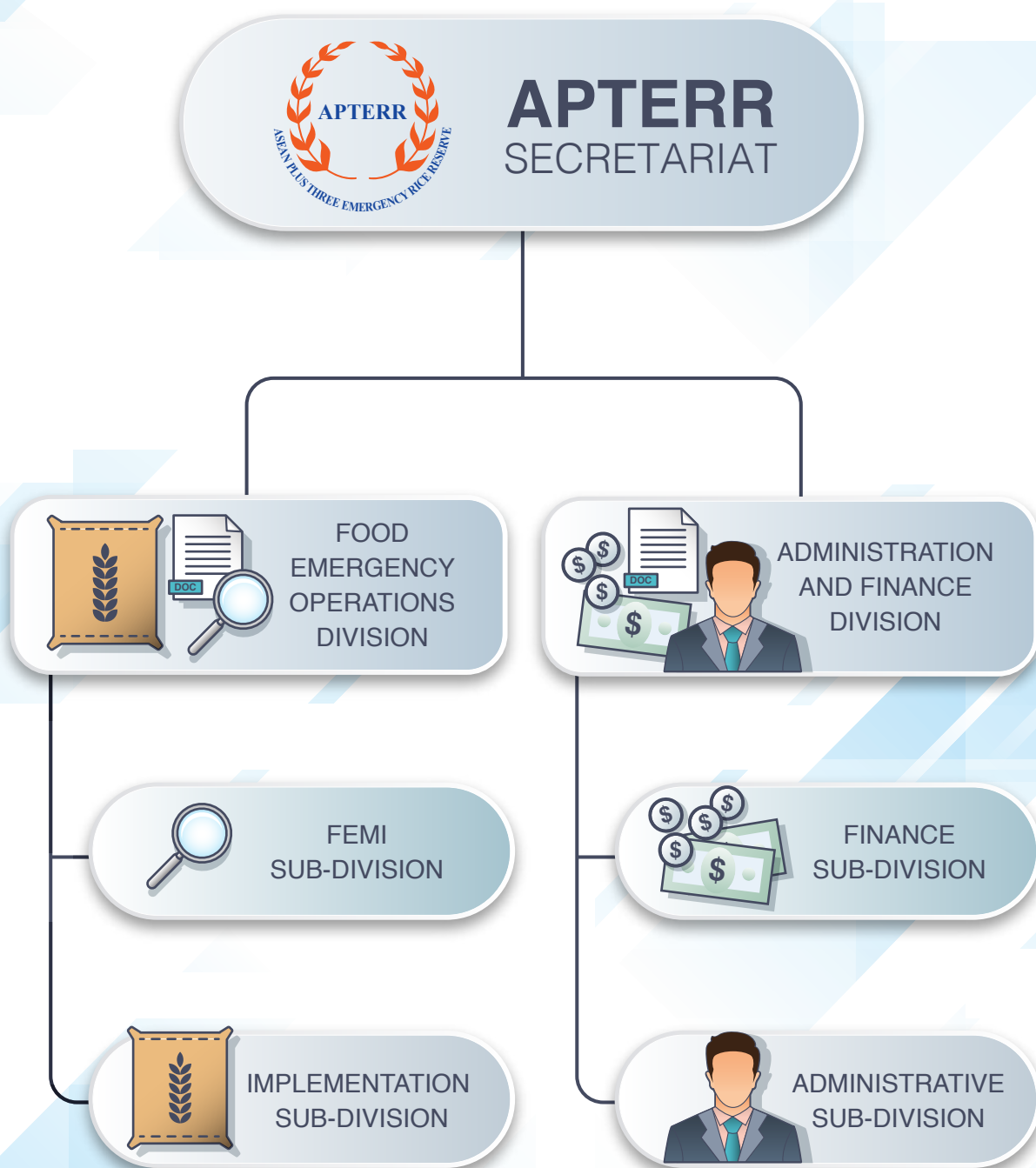
The **APTERR** or the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve was established on 7 October 2011 under the provisions of the APTERR Agreement. It is a regional cooperation scheme among the ASEAN Member States and China, Japan, and the ROK. Main objectives of the APTERR are to strengthen food security, poverty alleviation and/or malnourishment eradication without distorting normal international trade of rice.

The APTERR Council, consisting of one representative from each APTERR member, acts as an executive board or governing body of the APTERR. In the meantime, the APTERR Secretariat was formed to facilitate and coordinate the APTERR mechanism as well as activities concerned.

The APTERR Secretariat is overseen by the General Manager, appointed by the APTERR Council. The office space including utilities is an in-kind contribution from the Government of Thailand located at the OAE, Bangkok, Thailand. The organisation structure of the APTERR Secretariat is illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The organisation structure of the APTERR Secretariat



APTERR Fund

The operations and activities of the APTERR Secretariat have been financially supported by the APTERR Fund contributed by the APTERR members. The APTERR Fund comprises the Endowment Fund (EF), which is created for long-term financial support to the operations of the APTERR Secretariat, and the annual contribution to the Operational Cost (OC). After the termination of the first five-year period of financial contribution to the APTERR Fund in 2017, only the annual contribution to the OC with the same amount has been extended for a further five-year period. The breakdown of the EF and OC is illustrated in Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively.



Figure 2: Contribution to the EF

ASEAN Member States



BRUNEI
US \$ **107,500**



INDONESIA
US \$ **107,500**



MALAYSIA
US \$ **107,500**



PHILIPPINES
US \$ **107,500**



SINGAPORE
US \$ **107,500**



THAILAND
US \$ **107,500**



VIET NAM
US \$ **107,500**



CAMBODIA
US \$ **83,000**



LAO PDR
US \$ **83,000**



MYANMAR
US \$ **83,000**

Plus Three Countries



CHINA
US \$ **1,000,000**



JAPAN
US \$ **1,000,000**



KOREA
US \$ **1,000,000**

Total

US \$ **4,001,500**

Figure 3: Annual contribution to the OC

ASEAN Member States



BRUNEI
US \$ **8,000**



INDONESIA
US \$ **8,000**



MALAYSIA
US \$ **8,000**



PHILIPPINES
US \$ **8,000**



SINGAPORE
US \$ **8,000**



THAILAND
US \$ **8,000**



VIET NAM
US \$ **8,000**



CAMBODIA
US \$ **6,000**



LAO PDR
US \$ **6,000**



MYANMAR
US \$ **6,000**

Plus Three Countries



CHINA
US \$ **75,000**



JAPAN
US \$ **75,000**



KOREA
US \$ **75,000**

Total

US \$ **299,000** per annum

APTERR stocks

The APTERR has two types of emergency rice reserve in response to the emergency requirements, consisting of earmarked and stockpiled emergency rice reserves.

Earmarked emergency rice reserve is specific quantities of milled rice owned by the government of earmarking countries. The purpose of earmarked emergency rice reserve is to act as an emergency response in time of crisis. The total of earmarked emergency rice reserve is 787,000 MT of rice. The breakdown of earmarked emergency rice reserve of each country is illustrated in Figure 4.



Figure 4: The breakdown of earmarked emergency rice reserve of each country

ASEAN Member States



BRUNEI
3,000 MT



CAMBODIA
3,000 MT



INDONESIA
12,000 MT



LAO PDR
3,000 MT



MALAYSIA
6,000 MT



MYANMAR
14,000 MT



PHILIPPINES
12,000 MT



SINGAPORE
5,000 MT



THAILAND
15,000 MT



VIET NAM
14,000 MT

Plus Three Countries



CHINA
300,000 MT



JAPAN
250,000 MT



KOREA
150,000 MT

Total

787,000 MT

Stockpiled emergency rice reserve is the rice voluntarily donated to the recipient country in form of cash and/or physical rice. The quantity of the contribution will be determined by the authority of the donor country for the purpose of providing preparedness for unanticipated emergencies in the recipient country. The stockpiled emergency rice reserve can be released to other humanitarian purposes in addition to the emergency, such as poverty alleviation or malnourishment eradication.



APTERR mechanism

Conforming to specific distinction of emergencies, the APTERR emergency rice reserves are performed under a 3-Tier programme implementation.

Tier 1 programme

is a mechanism for the release of earmarked emergency rice reserve, using a forward contract by pre-arranging terms and conditions of the release in accordance with the preference of the supplying and demanding countries. The term of payment will be done as the cash payment similar to the commercial practice.

Tier 2 programme

shares the same purview of the Tier 1 in responding to acute emergency via earmarked emergency rice reserve. However, it utilises other arrangements apart from the forward contract. The term of payment can be designed for cash payment, long term loan or etc., depending on the mutual consent among the relevant parties.

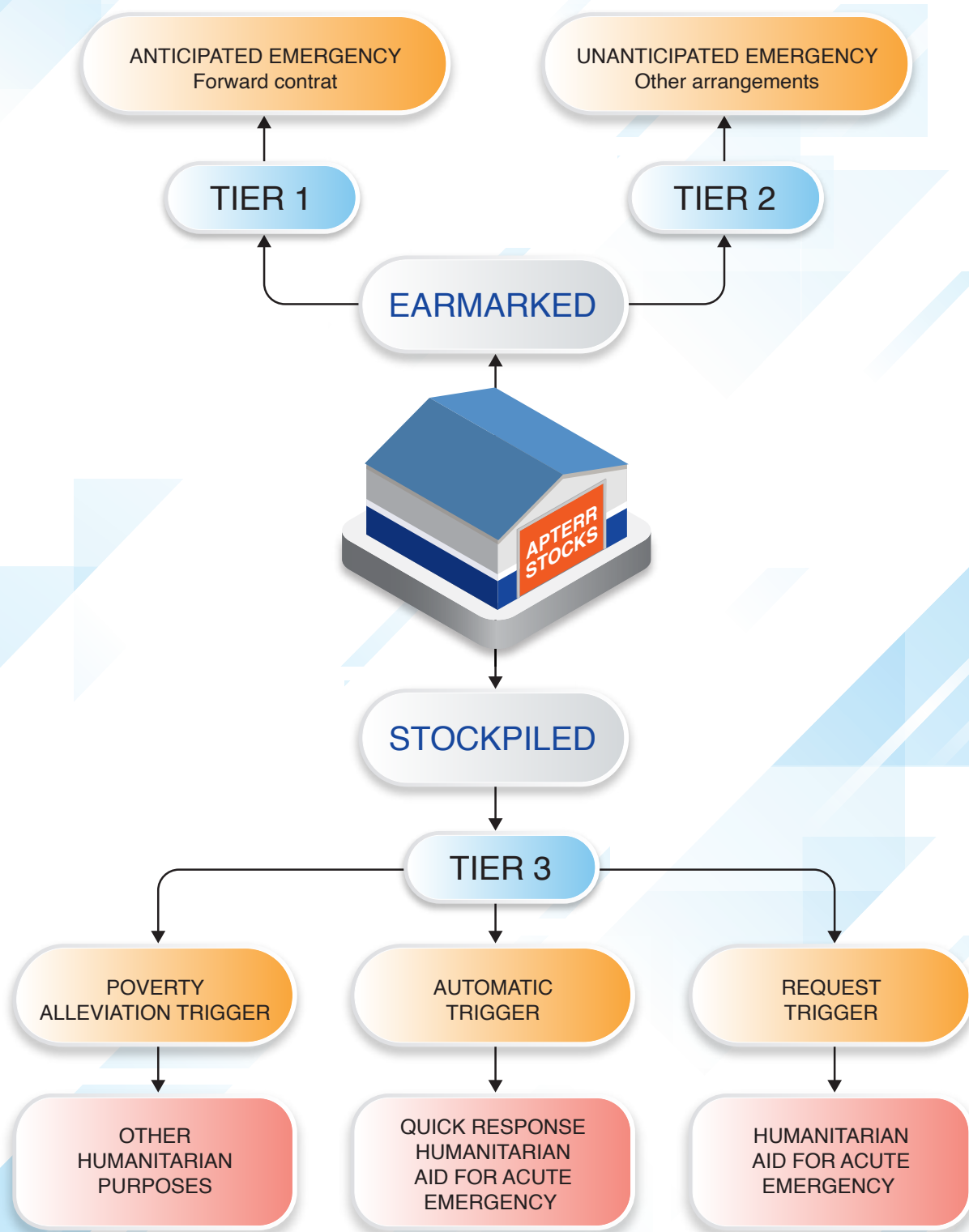




Tier 3 programme

is a release of stockpiled emergency rice reserve on a voluntary basis in supporting the acute and urgent emergency demand. The release can be done through **a pre-positioned stockpiled rice system**, which intends to store the rice in a prospective recipient country in advance to prepare for the emergency or **the urgent request**, which is a request for Tier 3 rice in response to an emergency due to unavailability and insufficiency of pre-positioned stocks. However, in terms of pre-positioned rice, if the rice is not released for emergencies during the storage period, it can be released for poverty alleviation or malnourishment eradication. Diagram of the release of APTERR stocks is illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Diagram of the release of APTERR stocks





CHAPTER

2



Ministry Of Agriculture
China



The 9th Meeting of Project Steering Committee of East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve

24-25 January 2008





LOOKING **BACK**





Through the conceptual framework of regional rice reserve cooperation, the first five ASEAN Member States including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand established the ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve (AERR) under the ASEAN Food Security Reserve (AFSR) Agreement signed in 1979. A regional emergency rice reserve of 50,000 MT was initially set to address food emergency in the region.

As a precursor to the expansion of ASEAN membership from five to 10 ASEAN Member States, the size of earmarked rice was increased from original of 50,000 MT to 87,000 MT. However, no releases were made under the AERR until the birth of the APT cooperation.

The APT countries consisting of the ASEAN Member States, China, Japan, and the ROK were institutionalised in 1999 through the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation. The APT countries emphasised the need of enhancement full cooperation as a means to strengthen food security and eliminate poverty in the region.

A pilot project named **East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR)** later was expeditiously created in 2002, which was restructured form of the AERR. Under the EAERR, the APT countries agreed in principle to increase the amount of earmarked rice to 787,000 MT by combining 87,000 MT from the existing AERR and 700,000 MT from Plus Three countries.

During the initial stage of the pilot project, the Government of Thailand provided an in-kind contribution in terms of office spaces and personnel to the project while the operational fund was supported by the Government of Japan. With the efforts of exploring, the total of nearly 13,000 MT of rice was implemented in response to calamities in the ASEAN region.

Based on the experience of EAERR together with the concerns over instability of food price in 2007 - 2008, the APT countries decided to transform the EAERR pilot project into a permanent scheme in 2010. The APTERR thus was established in order to be developed into a permanent mechanism and entered its preparatory stage.



CHAPTER





PROGRESS
AND MILESTONES OF
APTERR





2011

7 October ▲

Signing of the APTERR Agreement at the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

12 July

Execution of the APTERR Agreement after ratification by the APTERR Parties.

2012

28 October

Consensus of the 12th Meeting of AMAF+3 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to host the APTERR Secretariat office in Thailand.

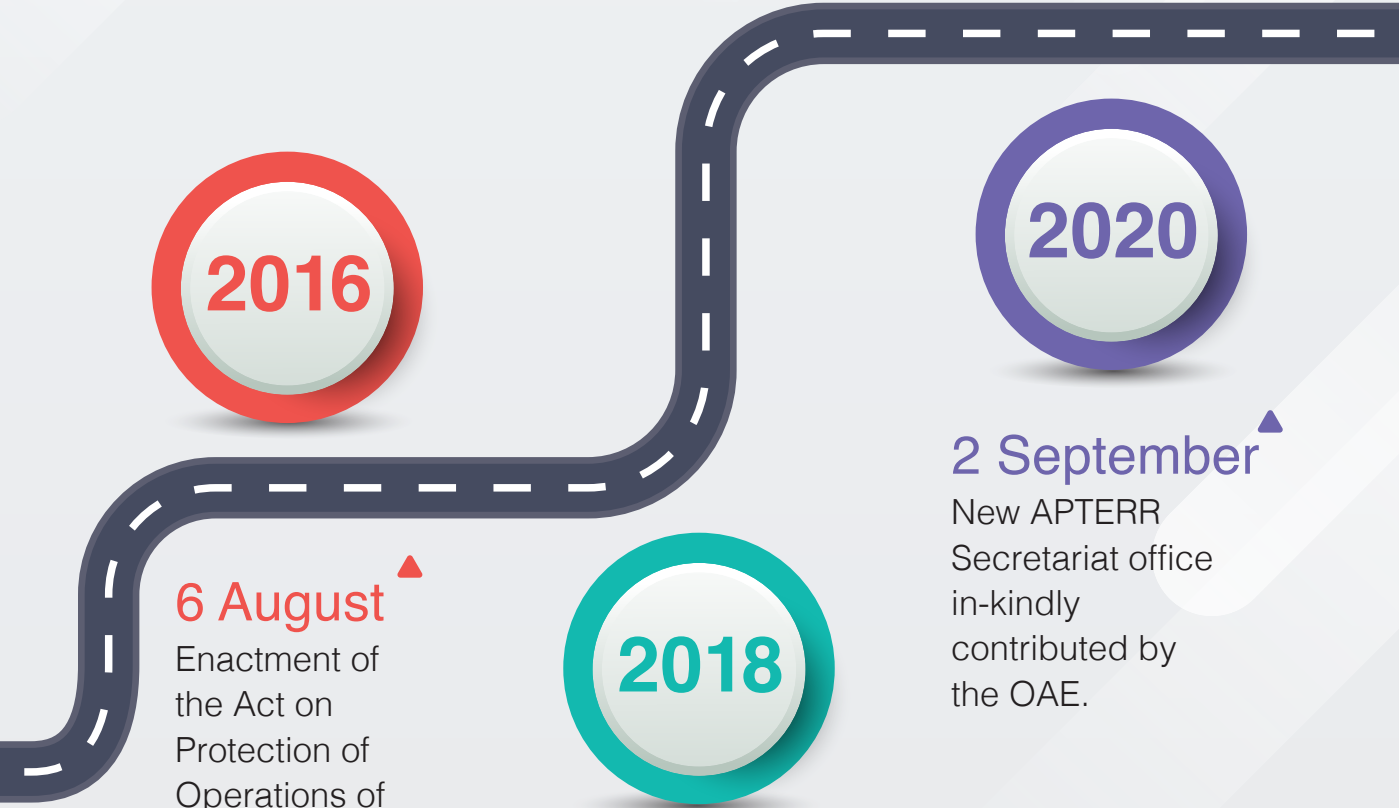
28-29 March

The 1st Meeting of APTERR Council in Bangkok, Thailand.

29 March

Official launch of the APTERR Secretariat office.

2013



2016

6 August ▲

Enactment of the Act on Protection of Operations of the APTERR Secretariat by the National Legislation Assembly of Thailand.



2018

12 October ▲

Signing of the Protocol to Amend the Attachment 2 of the APTERR Agreement at the 16th Meeting of AMAF+3 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

Commencement of the second five-year (2018-2022) annual contribution to the APTERR Fund.



2020

2 September ▲

New APTERR Secretariat office in-kindly contributed by the OAE.



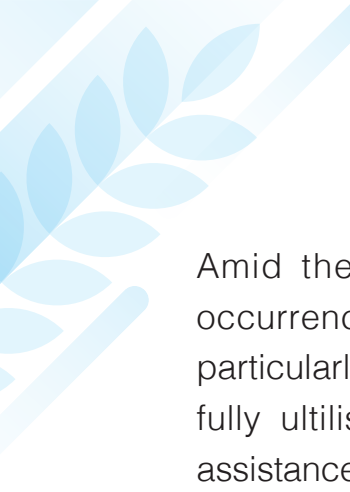
CHAPTER





REMARKABLE **ACHIEVEMENTS**





Amid the increase in intensity and frequency of disaster occurrence together with the uncertainty of food production, particularly rice, the APTERR Secretariat accelerated its efforts in fully utilising the APTERR's existing mechanism to provide assistance to fulfil the emergency requirements in the APT region. In the meantime, the work management related the APTERR Secretariat's operation was carried out properly to support the implementation of the APTERR mechanism and lay the foundation for future growth of the APTERR.

Timely rice assistance to safeguard food security

Throughout the decade since the establishment of the APTERR, the Tier 3 programme has now been recognised by the APTERR members together with the public as one of the most remarkable and successful food relief activities.

More than five million people in various APTERR members benefited from over 30,000 MT of APTERR rice assistance contributed by Malaysia, Thailand, China, Japan and the ROK. Under Tier 3 programme, not only a physical rice, but the contribution is also made in the form of cash to procure local rice for the urgent rice request in response to emergencies in some affected member countries.

In addition to this, the APTERR Secretariat in collaboration with Japan introduced a new initiative by providing precooked rice through the pre-positioned stockpiled rice system under the Tier 3 programme in 2020 for more rapid and appropriate response to the emergencies.

Recently, the world has been seriously suffering from an unprecedented widespread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) since early 2020 and this tragedy seems not to end soon in the near future. The APTERR Secretariat has consequently taken a swift action to prevent food insecurity caused by the adverse impacts of this outbreak.

To begin with, the APTERR Secretariat issued the statement on 19 June 2020 to strongly support the recommendation from the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on COVID-19 by fully utilising the APTERR programmes, especially Tier 3 programme, to strengthen food security and mitigate impacts of COVID-19 in the member countries.

The APTERR has already provided 2,130 MT of rice contributed by Japan and the ROK to Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines for ensuring adequate food during this unprecedented crisis. Timeline of the implementation under Tier 3 programme is illustrated in Figure 6.

Besides, the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for the Release and Utilisation of Earmarked Stocks under the Tier 1 Programme between the Philippines and Japan was successfully signed and commenced on 11 October 2018 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on the sideline of the 18th Meeting of AMAF+3. The total of 10,000 MT of earmarked emergency rice reserve will be implemented through this programme. Meanwhile, the Tier 2 programme remains an option for supporting the APTERR activities in extensively providing a rapid response to assist calamity-affected people in accessing the food supply.

Figure 6: Timeline of the implementation under Tier 3 programme



2014

 China
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **800 MT**

 Thailand
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **5,000 MT**

 Malaysia
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **350 MT**

2015

 Japan
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **580 MT**

2016

 Japan
 Cambodia
 Drought,
Poverty
 **210 MT**

 Japan
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **240 MT**



2018-2019

 ROK
 Myanmar
 Flood
 **1,300 MT**

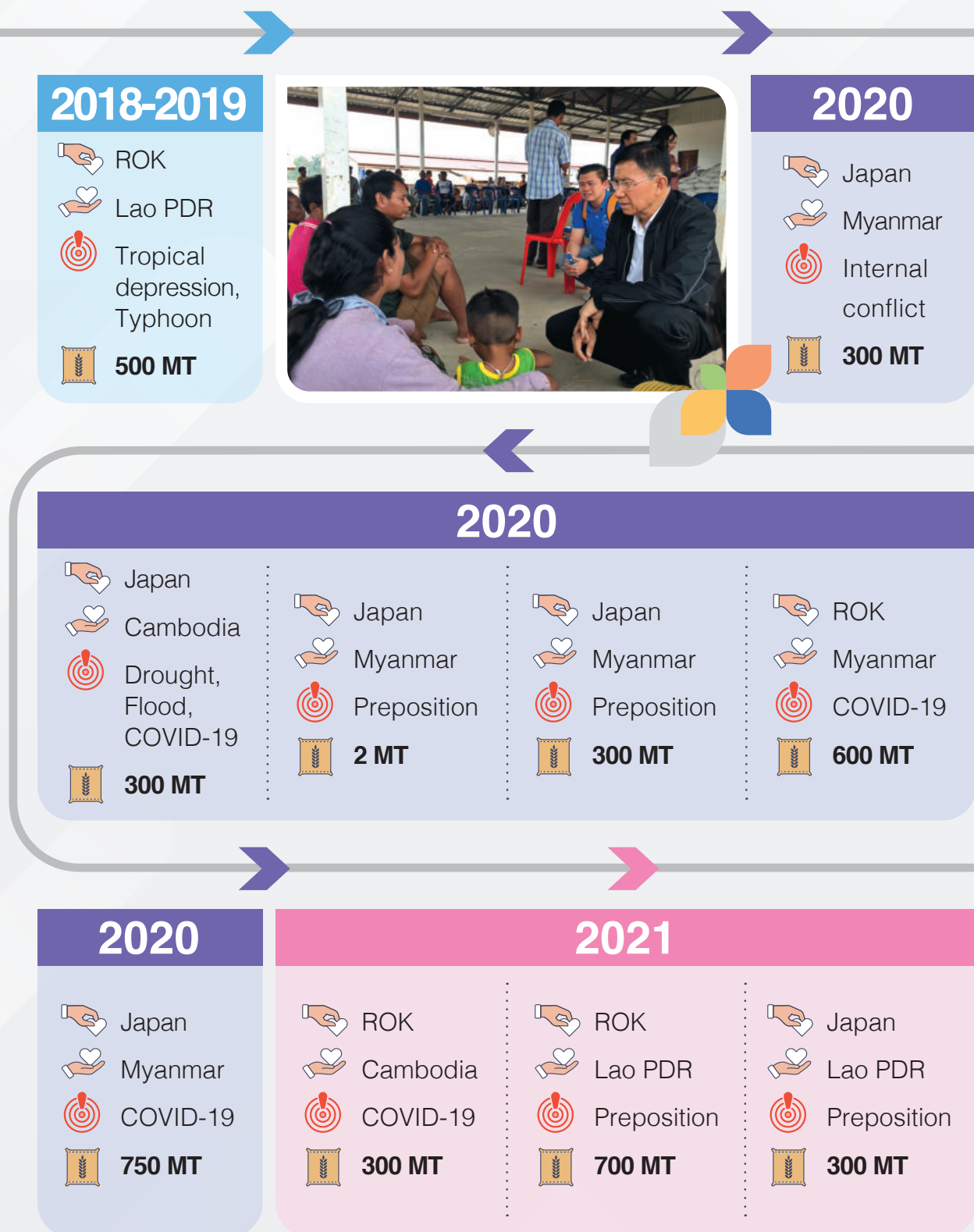
 ROK
 Lao PDR
 Tropical
storm
 **1,000 MT**

 Japan
 Philippines
 Tropical
storm
 **560 MT**

 ROK
 Myanmar
 Flood
 **500 MT**

 Donor  Recipient  Purposes of distribution  Amount of rice distribution

Figure 6: Timeline of the implementation under Tier 3 programme



2020

 ROK
 Philippines
 Earthquake
 **600 MT**

 ROK
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **350 MT**

 Japan
 Philippines
 Volcano eruption
 **425 MT**

 ROK
 Philippines
 Typhoon
 **1,000 MT**

2020

 Japan
 Philippines
 COVID-19
 **2 MT**

 ROK
 Philippines
 COVID-19
 **400 MT**



2021

 Japan
 Philippines
 Preposition
 **300 MT**



 Donor
  Recipient
  Purposes of distribution
  Amount of rice distribution

To support the implementation of the APTERR programmes, close monitoring and assessment of potential food emergency are required. The APTERR, therefore, established the Food Emergency Monitoring and Information (FEMI) as a decision-support tool for the release of the emergency rice reserves in line with providing comprehensive and intensive information on food security and multiple aspects of food supply and demand situations, particularly rice, to the APTERR members and the public. Since 2016, the APTERR Secretariat has continually increased regional awareness on food security toward APTERR's publications under FEMI via its website and social media.

Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Related Information

The weekly update provides information on the cause and extent of the disasters occurring across the APT region to the public. It highlights food accessibility problems - when the food distribution system is disrupted or households face displacement or destruction of their assets and lives, the problem of food accessibility will become humanitarian emergency.

Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations

This update is developed to provide the public with the overview of rice supply and demand, varieties of rice, rice technologies and other aspects of rice-sector trends, based on information gathered from a variety of sources including news, media outlets, and national and international agencies.

APTERR articles

The articles provide in-depth information on a variety of topics related to the APTERR's activities in strengthening food security and disaster preparedness. These publications include a forum or comment

section for those who would like to share their knowledge and experiences with others similar to an online learning community.

The Quarterly Report on the Food Emergency Monitoring and Information

Since 2017, this report has been circulated to the APTERR members on a quarterly basis to ensure rapid response to emergencies. The report regularly provides monitoring and assessment results of rice supply and demand together with rice price in the member countries in order to reflect food availability situations in national and regional level.

The APTERR Annual Report on Food Security and Outlook

This report is APTERR's new initiative and officially launched to the APTERR members in June 2021 under the concept of sharing better food security monitoring and assessment information. It contains a concise and factual appraisal in terms of food availability in the current year, and short-term forecast for future trends in rice supply and demand by using historical data. The report aims to support the APTERR members' efforts in dealing with unanticipated food emergencies.





Capacity enhancement and sustainable collaborative networks

Whether realising it or not, every APTERR programme implementation equips skills, experience as well as knowledge to the local staff and agencies in functioning the rice assistance to those affected in a more timely manner.

Recalling the first commencement of the APTERR programmes, the APTERR Secretariat together with the partner agencies in the member countries faced challenges and difficulties in implementing the APTERR programmes. Lessons learned from those hardships gradually help the local staff and agencies to improve their competences and problem-solving capacities as well as to establish concrete structures and procedures for implementing the APTERR programmes in their countries.

With the generous support, and hardworking of the local staff and partner agencies who now have more expertise and experience on the APTERR programme, the rice assistance can be faster and effectively provided to alleviate people's sufferings and support member country's efforts in safeguarding food security during the unforeseen catastrophic calamity.

No one-man show, only effective teamwork can truly accomplish the goals. The APTERR activities are also strongly required a well-integrated collaboration among numerous agencies to succeed the programme implementation like a jigsaw puzzle. Our partner agencies in the member country are required to closely coordinate with other relevant agencies to ensure that those necessary tasks are effectively undertaken.





Bringing those agencies to work together later creates a sustainable network with clear roles and responsibilities for coordination on rice assistance. When an emergency occurs, this embedded network will automatically work as the fundamental system to support the government in providing the timely rice assistance to disaster-affected people effectively.

Effective financial management with prudent utilisation

As the APTERR Fund is generously contributed by the APTERR members, the APTERR Secretariat does its utmost to ensure that the APTERR Fund will be utilised with the most effective and efficient means to support the accomplishment of APTERR's objectives in strengthening food security and/or achieving humanitarian purposes in the region.

Not only does the APTERR Secretariat help to monitor and keep track of budget expenses, but also to minimise the operational expenditures under the numerous saving measures, such as reducing the office running costs and reusing and recycling resources. In particular, a successful negotiation with the local banks to exempt some APTERR activity-related transaction fees is one of the outstanding endeavours in seeking a greater means of expense reduction.

With a transparent and trustworthy financial management carried out by the APTERR Secretariat for a decade, it has been indeed recognised by the APTERR members and led to a continuity of financial supports to the APTERR activities accordingly.

Recognition as a regional mechanism to boost food security

“Actions speak louder than words.” Over a decade, the APTERR has kept continuously making its best endeavours to distribute timely rice assistance for alleviating people’s suffering amid an emergency. When it was first launched, only a few knew about how the APTERR mechanism worked. Thanks to a greater cooperation among the APTERR members, the APTERR’s achievements have later gained a widely increasing recognition as the well-functioning and effective regional mechanism in strengthening food security and disaster preparedness.

When the emergencies occur, the APTERR rice becomes one of the very first options realised by the APTERR members in supporting the governments to safeguard food security during those unforeseen circumstances. Obviously, since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the APTERR mechanism has been unanimously acknowledged by the heads of the APT governments as a crucial regional mechanism to help the region in fighting against food insecurity.

With the notable successes, the APTERR Secretariat constantly joins numerous global, regional and national stages to share its experiences with the aim of promoting sustainable food security. It further becomes a practical and role model for creating other emergency reserve mechanisms in the future.

CHAPTER





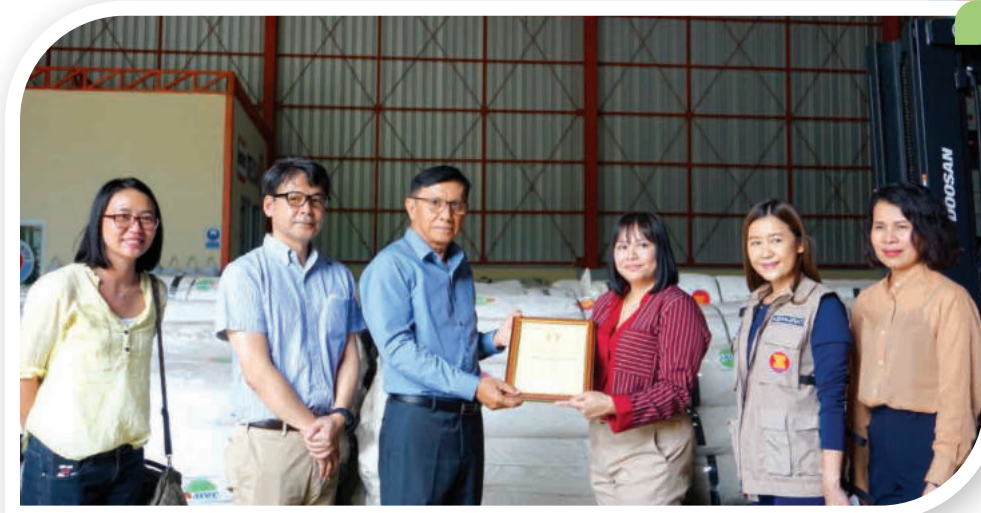
MOVING **FORWARD**





As unpredictable natural and man-made calamities have high tendency to grow and cause enormous losses and damages to the APT region yet aggravated by the deadly COVID-19 pandemics, the APTERR Secretariat – acting as facilitating and operating unit for the APTERR activities – gives precedence to the smooth and uninterrupted operation in alleviating food crisis resulted from the adversities and enhancing its operational competence by:

- Improving the implementing means and process under the APTERR mechanism to become more effective and efficient in providing a timely rice assistance in response to the needs of affected people especially those vulnerable groups in the member countries amid the emergencies;
- Strengthening cooperation among the APTERR members as well as relevant agencies to expand more intensive collaboration and share existing resources and facilities, such as logistic system, to support the APTERR operation and to achieve mutual humanitarian purposes;
- Promoting and building the public recognition of the APTERR as a reliable and trustworthy organisation in safeguarding food security as well as alleviating poverty and/or malnourishment in the APT region;



- Encouraging the APTERR members to become more active to participate in the APTERR mechanism, particularly the utilisation of the earmarked emergency rice reserve in order to prevent food insecurity during unanticipated emergencies;
- Studying on the possibilities of raising the amount of earmarked emergency rice reserve in response to higher demand for rice when compared to an increase of intensity and frequency of anticipated disasters and creating new initiatives to support the APTERR members in strengthening food security;

Apart from the aforementioned undertakings, the APTERR Secretariat continually enhances staff's capacity in order to propel the organisation forward, and prepare for regional food security challenges in the future.



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