



APTERR 2021–2026 FROM RESERVE TO RESILIENCE

15th Anniversary Commemorative Edition

Provided by :

APTERR Secretariat

www.apterr.org

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Acknowledgement

All stages of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)'s achievements in 15 years (2011–2026) 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, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, the People's Republic of China (P.R. 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, the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

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

It is a profound honour to contribute this Foreword to the 15th Anniversary Commemorative E-book, *APTERR 2021–2026: From Reserve to Resilience*. As Co-chair of the APTERR Council for the Financial Year 2026, I am privileged to celebrate 15 years of permanent operations dedicated to safeguarding regional food security.

15 years ago, the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) countries established a collaborative mechanism rooted in the shared vision that no nation should face food insecurity or disaster alone. Today, that vision has successfully matured into a highly trusted regional safety net. The theme *From Reserve to Resilience* perfectly captures APTERR's strategic evolution from post-disaster assistance toward enhanced emergency preparedness and rapid mobilisation. By releasing nearly 60,000 MT of emergency rice through its Tier 3 programme, APTERR has directly supported over seven million people across the region during climate-related disasters, humanitarian crises, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cambodia's active participation highlights the strength of this regional solidarity. We have witnessed firsthand the value of innovation through the deployment of Tier 3 pre-cooked rice, providing immediate nutritional lifelines to vulnerable communities when traditional cooking facilities are compromised.

As we look to the horizon, complex challenges like climate change and supply chain disruptions demand that APTERR continue to evolve. Strengthening operational capacities across all three Tiers, leveraging the Food Emergency Monitoring and Information (FEMI) system, and systematically integrating rice fortification will be vital to advancing from food security to comprehensive nutrition security. Furthermore, welcoming Timor-Leste into the APTERR family and broadening our cross-sectoral partnerships will ensure long-term institutional and financial sustainability.

On behalf of the APTERR Council, I express my deepest gratitude to my fellow Council members, our international partners, and the APTERR Secretariat for their transparent stewardship and unwavering dedication. This milestone is both a proud legacy and an inspiring launchpad to ensure that across the APT region, no nation stands unprotected and no one is left behind.



Mr. Che Savun

Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia
and the Co-chair of APTERR Council 2026

Foreword



Mr. Dong Hyun Kim

Director, Food Grain Policy Division,
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
of the Republic of Korea
and the Co-chair of APTERR Council 2026

It is a great honour and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations on the 15th anniversary of the APTERR and the publication of its commemorative e-book, which reflects APTERR's remarkable achievements and its vision for the future. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude and highest respect to Dr. Choomjet Karnjanakesorn, General Manager of the APTERR Secretariat, along with all the Secretariat staff, and the representatives of the 13 member countries, who have worked tirelessly to successfully establish and advance APTERR despite numerous challenges.

Honourable representatives of the APTERR member countries, officials from the Secretariat, and related organisations, since the entry into force of the Agreement in 2011, APTERR has faithfully fulfilled its responsibilities over the past 15 years, making dedicated efforts to enhance food security and eradicate poverty in the APT region. As a core contributor to the regional public reserve system, the Republic of Korea will continue to actively support APTERR's policies and strive to assist the member countries in reinforcing their food security strategies.

Honourable representatives of APTERR member countries, the future challenges ahead of us are expected to become more severe and complex. Unexpected natural disasters such as droughts and floods caused by climate change are intensifying uncertainties across the global food supply chain. To proactively respond to these climate crises, it is imperative that we strengthen the functions of FEMI and establish close communication channels between the Secretariat and member countries during emergencies.

Building upon APTERR's past 15 years of experience and achievements, I look forward to the active participation and cooperation of all member countries to further develop the regional public reserve system. The Republic of Korea remains fully committed to sharing its experiences and achievements in agricultural development with member countries to foster APTERR's sustainable future and strategic partnership.

In closing, I would like to once again congratulate APTERR on its 15th anniversary. I wish all member countries continued prosperity, as well as peace and well-being for all citizens across the region.

Preface

Ever-Evolving Legacy

Since the establishment of APTERR in 2011, a shared vision took root across the APT region: the belief that no nation should face the hardship of food insecurity during the time of disaster and crisis alone. Today, that joint vision has successfully thriven into a key collaborative operation to safeguard food security, alleviate poverty, and eradicate malnourishment for more resilient and sustainable future for the APT region.

To celebrate the 15-year milestone of APTERR's journey on the path to food security, the APTERR retraces its fruitful achievement and determined effort in building reliable regional mechanism to reinforce emergency preparedness and timely response to people in need through precise APTERR stocks distribution arranged by data-based situation monitoring and assessment along with prudent operational financial management of the APTERR Secretariat.



Dr. Choomjet Karnjanakesorn

General Manager of the APTERR Secretariat

This commemorative publication highlights the recent notable accomplishments and progresses of APTERR activity as well as strategic partnerships with both regional and global organisations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of APTERR while also exploring the potential plans and innovative approaches for the APTERR to further evolve into greater regional collaborative organisation to reach food security, nutrition, and resilience.

As APTERR looks to the horizon, this milestone serves as both a lasting legacy and an inspiring launchpad for the APTERR to leap to its next chapter with more capability and dedication to its founding promise: to ensure that across the APT region, no nation stands unprotected, and no one is left behind.

Chapter 1

The Anchor of Cooperation

APTERR: From Regional Commitment to a Permanent Mechanism

Through the conceptual framework of regional rice reserve cooperation, the first five ASEAN Member States (AMS) 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.

In anticipation of the expansion of ASEAN membership from five to 10 Member States, the earmarked rice reserve was increased from 50,000 MT to 87,000 MT. However, no releases were made under the AERR until the establishment of the APT cooperation.

The APT countries, comprising the AMS, P.R. China, Japan, and the ROK were institutionalised in 1999 through the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation. The APT countries emphasised the need to enhance cooperation as a means of strengthening food security and alleviating 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.

Drawing on the experience of the EAERR and in response to concerns over food price instability during 2007–2008, the APT countries decided in 2010 to transform the EAERR pilot project into a permanent scheme. Accordingly, APTERR has served as a permanent mechanism since 2011 to strengthen food security, alleviate poverty, and eradicate malnutrition among its members.

Timeline of Establishment of APTERR

The APTERR Agreement was successfully signed at the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Minister on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three (AMAF+3) in Indonesia

2011

7 OCTOBER

12 JULY

2012

Execution of the APTERR Agreement with ratification by the APTERR Parties

The 1st Meeting of APTERR Council in Thailand

2013

28–29 MARCH

29 MARCH

2013

Official launch of the APTERR Secretariat office in Bangkok, Thailand

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

2016

6 AUGUST

APRIL

2018

Commencement of the 2nd five-year (2018–2022) annual contribution to the APTERR Fund following approval of the 6th Meeting of APTERR Council in Lao PDR

The Protocol to Amend APTERR Agreement was successfully signed

2018

12 OCTOBER

JANUARY

2023

Commencement of the 3rd five-year (2023–2027) annual contribution to the APTERR Fund

Under the supervision and guidance of the APTERR Council, the APTERR Secretariat undertakes the day-to-day management and operations of APTERR activities.

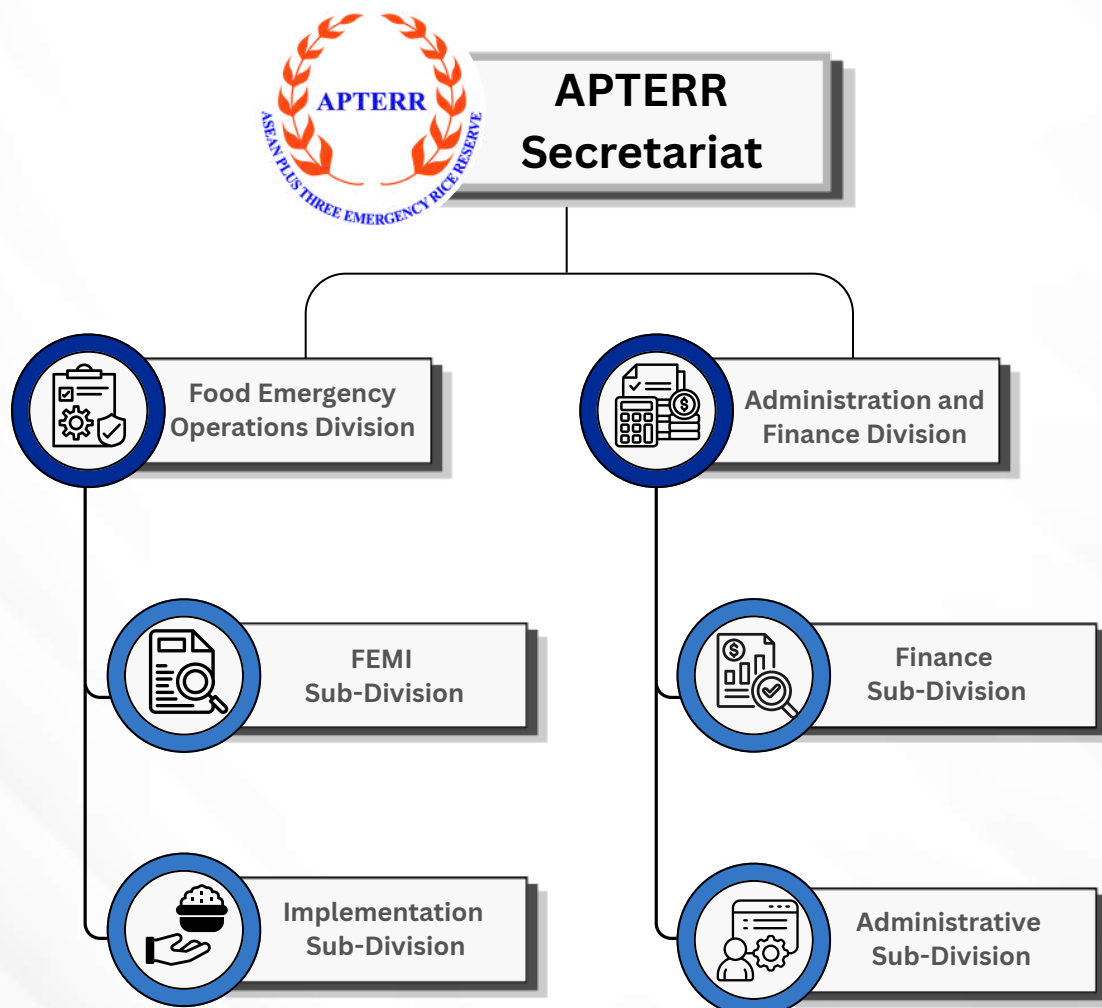
The APTERR Council

The APTERR Council is the executive board comprising one representative from each member country and acts as the governing body of the APTERR. In the meantime, the APTERR Secretariat was established to play a crucial role in facilitating and coordinating the APTERR mechanism and its activities.

The APTERR Secretariat

The APTERR Secretariat is based in Thailand, which was selected by the APTERR Council to host the Secretariat, and is headed by the General Manager (GM) appointed by the APTERR Council. In 2016, Thailand's National Legislative Assembly enacted the Act on Protection of Operations of the APTERR Secretariat. The activities and implementation of the APTERR Secretariat are reported to the APTERR Council. The office space of the APTERR Secretariat is provided as an in-kind contribution by the Government of Thailand and is located at the OAE in Bangkok, Thailand. The organisation structure of the APTERR Secretariat is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: The organisation structure of the APTERR Secretariat



Food Emergency Operations

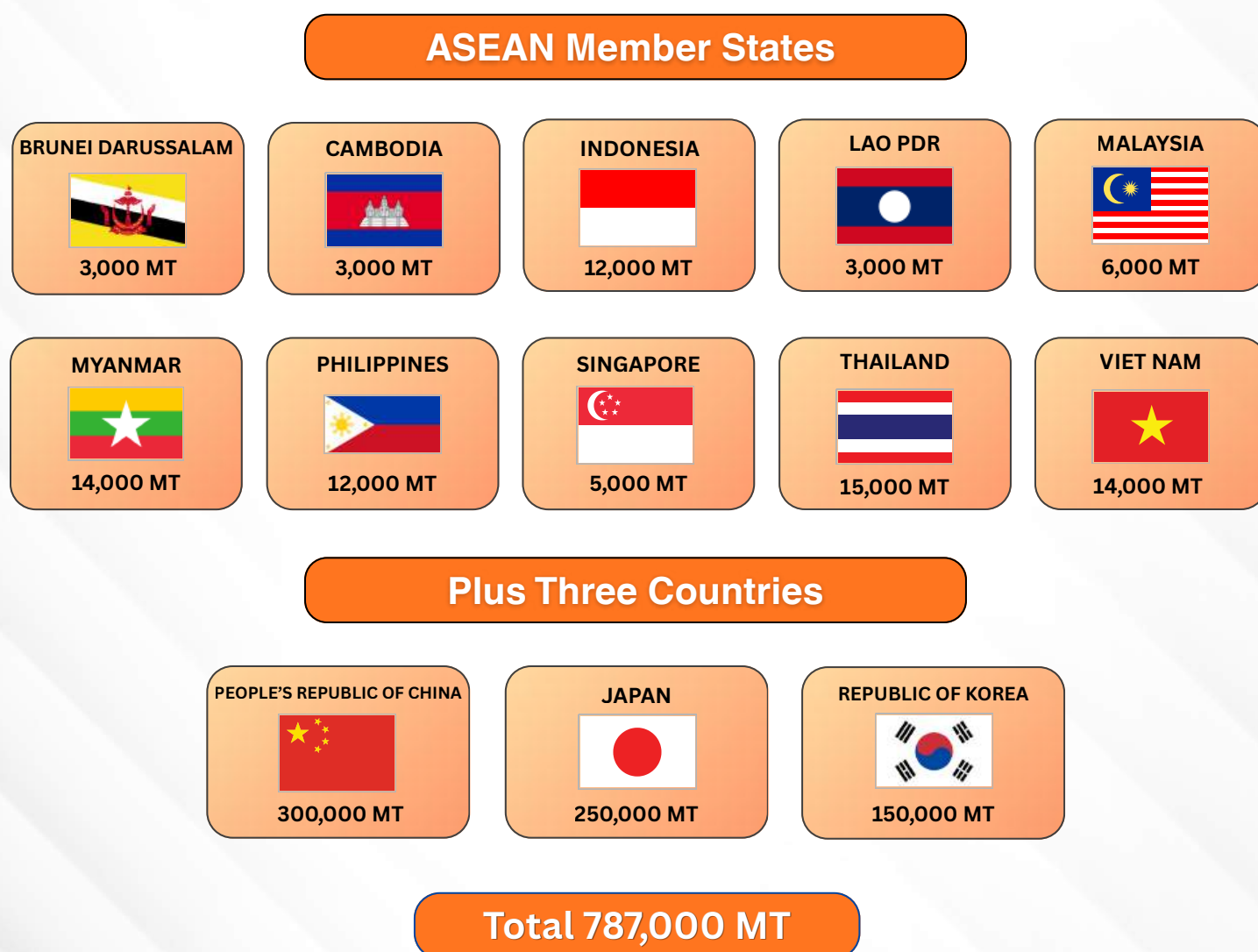
APTERR Stocks

The APTERR has two types of emergency rice reserve contributed by each member country in response to the emergency requirements, consisting of **Earmarked Emergency Rice Reserve** and **Stockpiled Emergency Rice Reserve**.

Earmarked Emergency Rice Reserve

Earmarked Emergency Rice Reserve is specific quantities of milled rice owned by the governments of earmarking countries. The purpose of the Earmarked Emergency Rice Reserve is to serve as an emergency response mechanism in times of crisis. The total Earmarked Emergency Rice Reserve amounts to 787,000 MT of rice, comprising 87,000 MT from the ASEAN member countries and 700,000 MT from the Plus Three countries. The breakdown of earmarked emergency rice reserves of each country is illustrated in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: The breakdown of earmarked emergency rice reserves of each country



Stockpiled Emergency Rice Reserve

Stockpiled Emergency Rice Reserve is the rice voluntarily donated to the recipient country in form of cash and/or physical rice, which is owned collectively by the member countries and managed by the APTERR Secretariat under the supervision of the APTERR Council. 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 for other humanitarian purposes in addition to the emergency, such as poverty alleviation or malnourishment eradication.



Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation System

To support the implementation of the APTERR programmes, close monitoring and assessment of potential food emergencies 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 member countries and the public.

Programmes for the Release of APTERR Stocks

To address the specific nature and severity of emergencies, the APTERR emergency rice reserves are implemented through a three-tier programme.

Tier 1 Programme

Tier 1 Programme is a mechanism for the release of earmarked emergency rice reserves under pre-arranged terms and conditions through forward contracts, in accordance with the preferences of supplying and demanding countries, to address anticipated emergencies. The amount of rice under the forward contracts is based on an estimate of shortfall in the event of an emergency over the medium term. Payment is made in cash, in accordance with standard commercial practices.

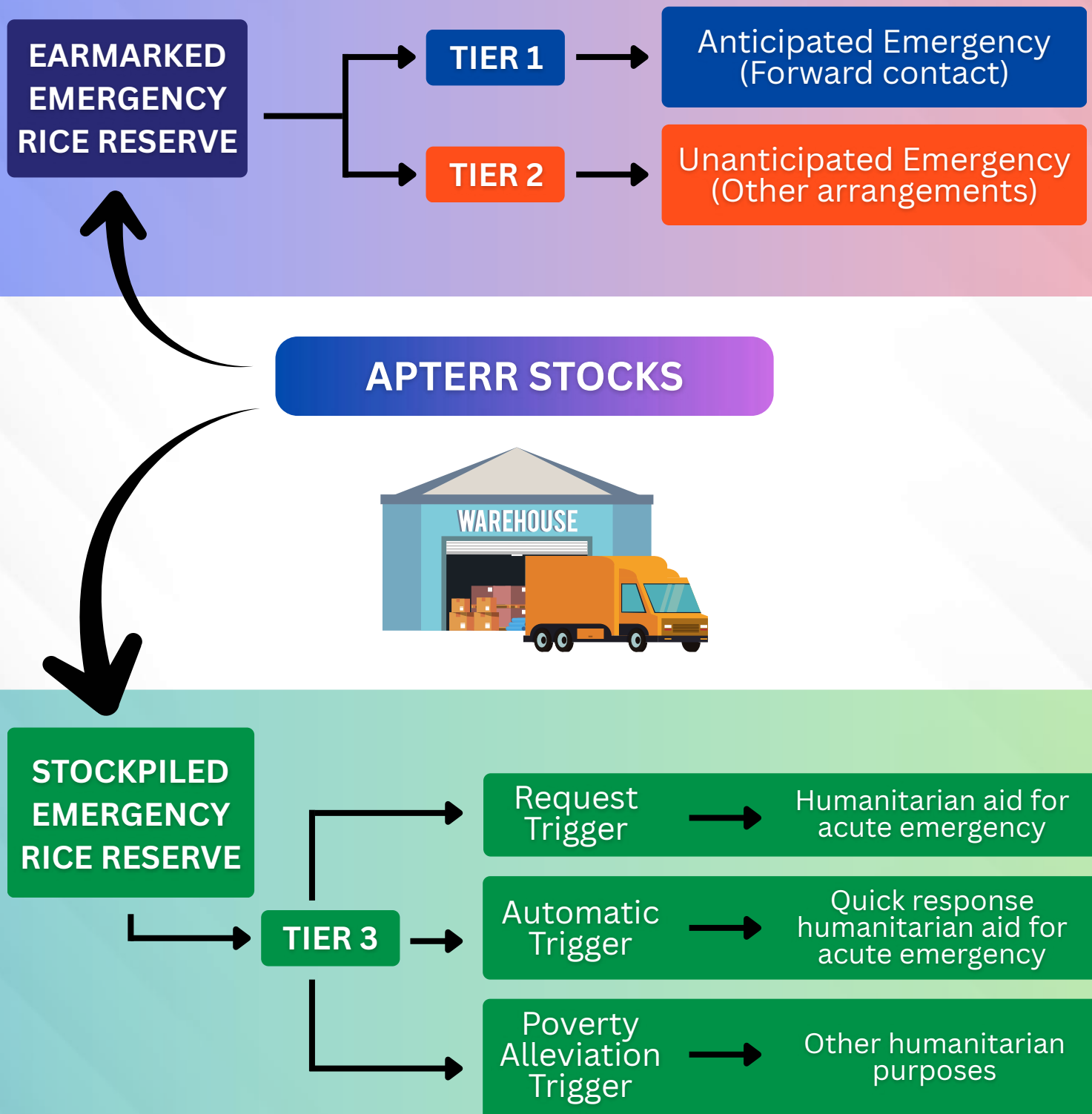
Tier 2 Programme shares the same objective as the Tier 1 Programme in responding to acute emergencies through earmarked emergency rice reserves. However, it utilises arrangements other than forward contracts. Payment may be made in cash, through long-term loans, or through other arrangements mutually agreed upon by the relevant parties.

Tier 2 Programme

Tier 3 Programme

Tier 3 Programme provides for the voluntary release of stockpiled emergency rice reserves to support acute and urgent emergency needs according to request trigger system or automatic trigger system. The release may be carried out through a pre-positioned stockpile system, whereby rice is stored in a prospective recipient country in advance to prepare for potential emergencies or urgent requests. An urgent request for Tier 3 rice may also be made in response to an emergency when pre-positioned stocks are unavailable or insufficient. If pre-positioned rice stocks are not released during the designated storage period, the remaining rice may subsequently be released for other humanitarian purposes, including poverty alleviation and malnourishment eradication.

Figure 3: Diagramme of the APTERR Stocks Releasing Mechanism



APTERR Fund

The operations and activities of the APTERR Secretariat have been financially supported by the APTERR Fund contributed by the member countries. 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). Following the completion of the first five-year period of financial contributions to the APTERR Fund in 2017, only the annual contribution to the OC, at the same amount, has been extended for successive five-year periods and continues to the present. The breakdown of the EF and OC is illustrated in **Figure 4** and **Figure 5** respectively.

Figure 4: The breakdown of the contribution to the Endowment Fund (EF)



Figure 5: The breakdown of the contribution to the Operational Cost (OC)

Chapter 2

The Milestone in Shaping the Regional Food Security Architecture

Food Emergency Monitoring and Information (FEMI): From Monitoring to Strengthening Food Security

APTERR is widely recognised for its emergency rice reserve mechanism. Yet, an effective emergency response depends as much on information. In this sense, the FEMI is designed as a decision-support tool and knowledge-sharing platform for food security that supports APTERR's operational strength for regional preparedness.

Over the past 15 years, FEMI has been one of the quiet strengths of APTERR, and has played an important role in consistently monitoring food security conditions that support the utilisation of APTERR rice stocks and pre-positioned arrangements. Through FEMI, APTERR has also produced a range of information products that have enhanced situational awareness across the APT region.

The knowledge products include **Weekly Update on Natural Disasters in ASEAN Plus Three**, **Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations**, **FEMI Quarterly Report**, **FEMI Quarterly Update**, and **FEMI Annual Report on Food Security and Outlook**, all of which are based on information from member countries, regional partners, international organisations, and trusted news agencies.

These reports provide comprehensive analyses of food security conditions, especially food availability, rice production, market developments, natural disasters, and other factors that may affect the region's food supply.

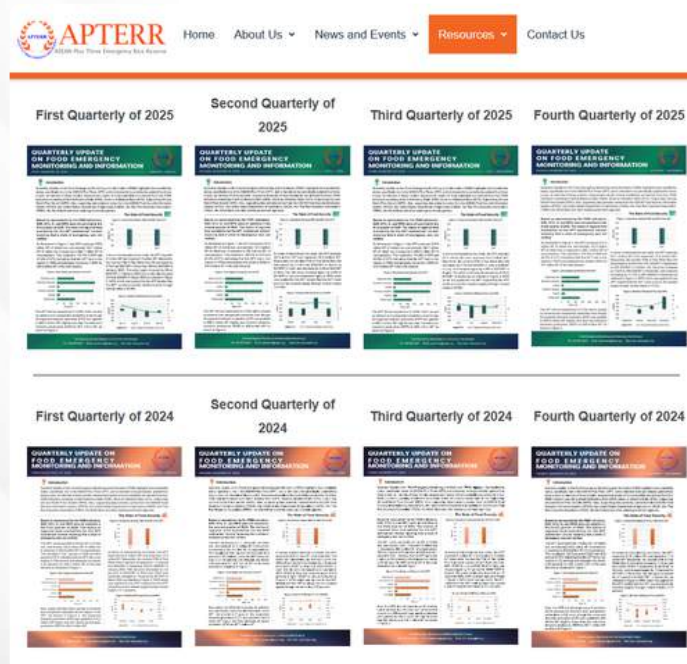


Figure 6: FEMI's knowledge products published on the APTERR website at www.apterr.org

The value of FEMI extends beyond data collection. It reflects APTERR's commitment to regional cooperation, where information is shared not only to understand today's conditions but also to prepare for tomorrow's challenges. In an increasingly interconnected world, where climate change, extreme weather events, pandemics, geopolitical tensions, and supply chain disruptions can rapidly affect food systems, timely information has become as essential as emergency food reserves.

Looking ahead, APTERR has the opportunity to evolve beyond a monitoring programme into a comprehensive regional system supported by satellite observation, geospatial technologies, big data analytics, climate forecasting, and enhanced collaboration with regional partners and global institutions. By integrating these innovations and partnerships with established monitoring and assessment, FEMI has a potential to further strengthen APTERR's capacity to anticipate risks, support decision-making, and facilitate coordinated regional responses.

As APTERR celebrates its 15th anniversary, FEMI stands as more than a monitoring programme. It represents the organisation's vision that effective emergency preparedness and response begin with knowledge, and cooperation. Continuing to invest in information, innovation, and regional collaboration, FEMI will remain a cornerstone of APTERR's efforts to strengthen food security and resilience for the people of APT for many years to come.



APTERR Mechanism: From Preparedness to Timely Response and Recovery

APTERR has progressively transformed its role as a regional food security mechanism, moving beyond post-disaster assistance toward greater preparedness, timely response and sustained recovery. Drawing on lessons from the past emergencies and strengthened cooperation among its member countries and partners, APTERR has become better equipped to respond effectively to the global shocks threatening food security.

To date, APTERR has released nearly **60,000 MT** of rice through Tier 3, reaching more than **seven million people** across the region.

This assistance has addressed a wide range of crises, including climate-related disasters, human-induced emergencies, the COVID-19 pandemic, and poverty alleviation, demonstrating the mechanism's reliability when national capacities are under pressure. These experiences have deepened member countries' commitment to collective preparedness, driving a significant rise in Tier 3 contributions, particularly from the Plus Three countries, from modest annual amounts to over 10,000 MT in some years.

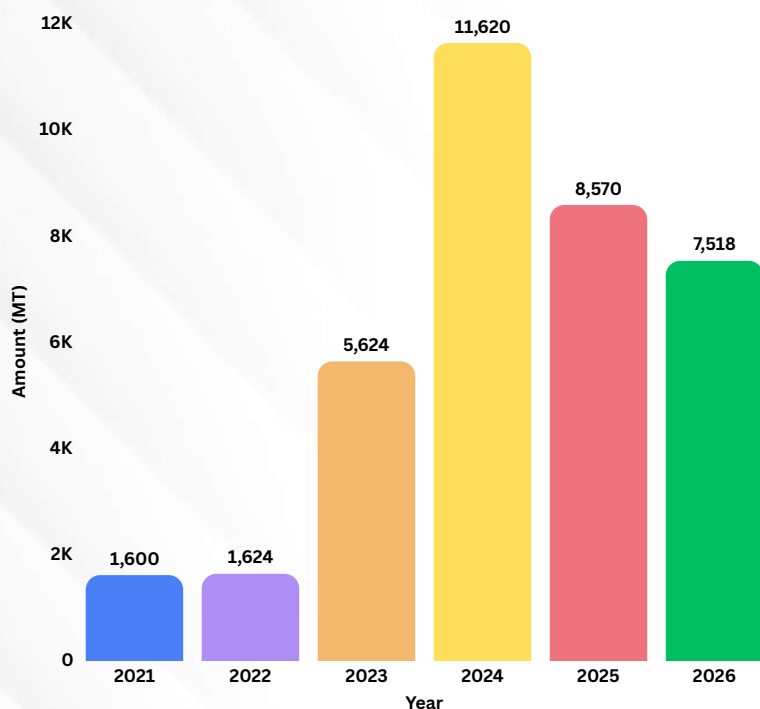
60,000 MT of
voluntarily
contributed rice



7,000,000
affected people
across the region



APTERR emergency rice contribution under Tier 3 Programme during 2021–2026



Building on this track record, preparedness has become an increasingly important foundation of APTERR's operations. Recognising that the effectiveness of emergency assistance depends not only on the availability of rice but also on how quickly it can be mobilised, the APTERR has strengthened the pre-positioning of Tier 3 rice in disaster-prone locations, guided by FEMI alongside country's food security and disaster data and lessons from past implementations. This ensures rice is positioned closer to potential beneficiaries before crises occur, enabling faster and more predictable rice assistance.

Additionally, in 2025, the automatic trigger release threshold under Tier 3 was increased from **50 MT** to **100 MT**, allowing larger volumes of emergency rice assistance to be mobilised more rapidly.

Alongside faster response, APTERR has diversified its Tier 3 assistance to match member countries' requirements through physical rice contributions, including milled and pre-cooked rice, as well as cash contribution used to procure rice locally. This flexibility allows assistance to be tailored to national contexts while making effective use of available resources.

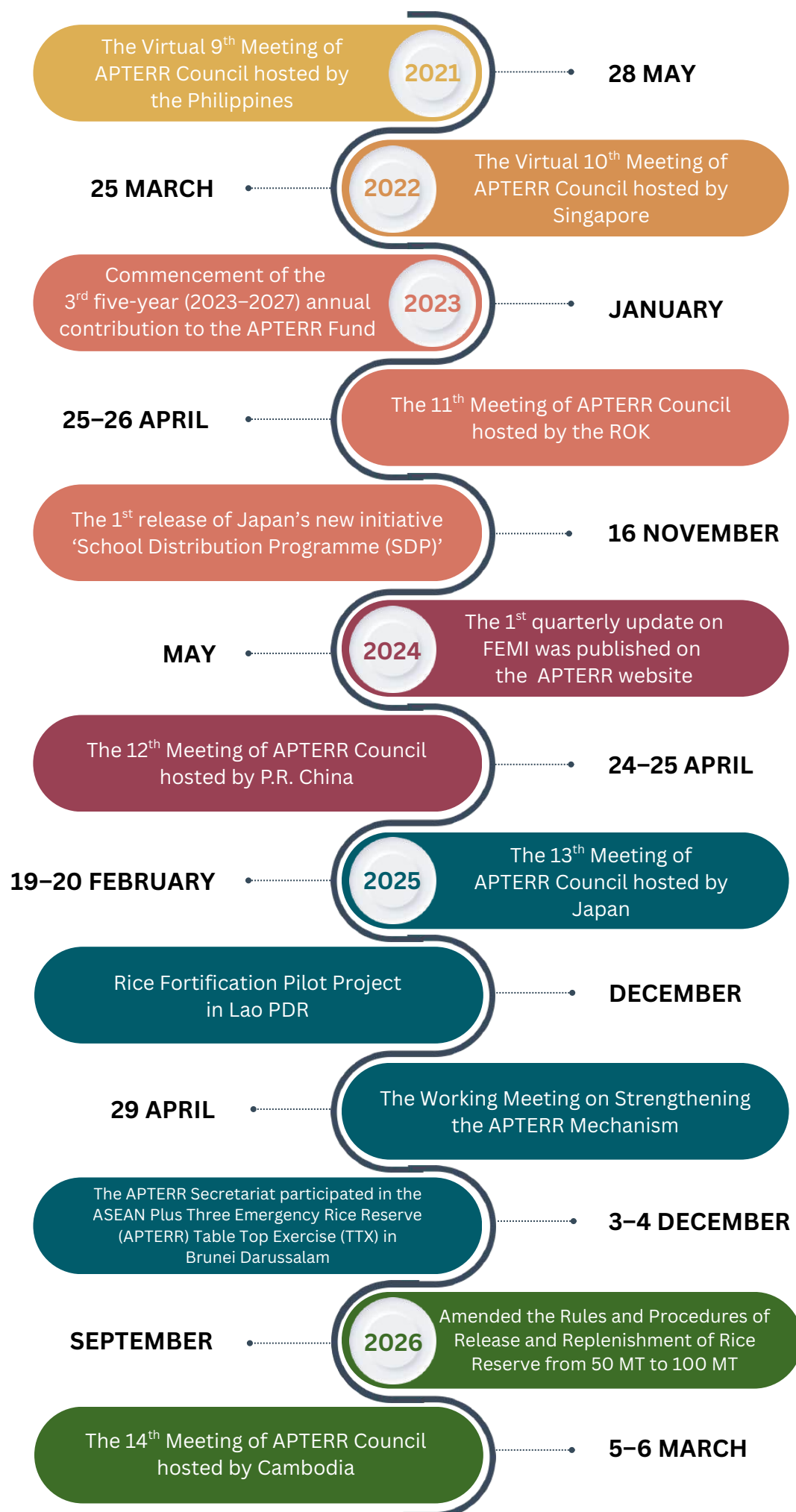


At the same time, the ongoing Tier 1 cooperation between the Philippines and Japan, now in its third phase, further illustrates the value of maintaining rice reserve arrangement and diversified supply sources. The experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and trade disruption have further underscored the importance of such arrangements in strengthening resilience against complex shocks that can affect food supply and distribution.

APTERR Programme Activities during 2021–2026



Achievement of APTERR Activities during 2021–2026



These achievements have been supported by stronger operational partnerships. The APTERR Secretariat has worked closely with its member countries and key partners, particularly the WFP and the ADB, to strengthen implementation capacity, improve operational arrangements and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of rice assistance. At the national level, coordination among government agencies and disaster-response networks has likewise been strengthened, enabling APTERR assistance to be better integrated into national emergency response ecosystems and to reach people in need.

Together, these 15 years of experience have positioned APTERR as a reliable and trusted regional mechanism that its member countries can depend on when it matters most. The successful APTERR operations also steadily contribute to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Going forward, APTERR will continue strengthening preparedness, accelerating and expanding partnerships with full utilisation of the APTERR mechanism across all three Tiers (Tier 1, 2, and 3) as our ultimate goal, to safeguard regional food security resilience for the year ahead.



Tier 3 Initiatives: From Innovation to Future Sustainability

As food security challenges grow more complex and interconnected, APTERR has expanded and adapted its mechanism to deliver comprehensive emergency responses to meet increasing needs and elevate the value of rice assistance to nutrition security. These innovations reflect APTERR's continued efforts to evolve its operation to serve broader regional food security and nutrition across the region.

Pre-cooked Rice

Catastrophic disasters often leave affected communities without electricity, cooking gas, or basic infrastructure, while the traditional milled rice requires time and facilities to prepare. To fulfill this gap, the APTERR pioneered pre-cooked rice, initiated by Japan under Tier 3, delivers ready-to-eat rice when and where the crisis-affected people needed it most. Requiring minimum preparation while retaining rich nutritional quality, pre-cooked rice offers an immediate lifeline to disaster-affected people struggling to access food during their most difficult moment.

Since 2020, the pre-cooked rice has been deployed for rapid response in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and the Philippines. Today, it stands alongside standard milled rice as a core component of Tier 3 physical stocks. This initiative exemplifies the synergy between technological innovation and humanitarian action and has inspired AMS to develop similar national mechanism for faster and more effective disaster response.





School Distribution Programme (SDP)

Initiated by Japan under Tier 3 in 2022, SDP strengthens food assistance for vulnerable students. Beyond providing meals, it addresses poverty and malnutrition at the roots, securing underprivileged families' access to rice, reinforcing household food security and giving children a lasting reason to remain in school. Recognising education as the foundation for a better future, SDP safeguards continuity of learning for students from food-insecure families, directly advancing the UN SDG 1, which aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

To date, SDP has already extended its reach to school students in the Philippines and Lao PDR. Building on this achievement, the programme will continue expanding across the region, guided by a simple belief that a full stomach fuels student's ability to learn and that learning fuels a brighter future for both the individual and society.



APTERR Rice Fortification

As one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, APT faces nutritional challenges that intensify sharply during crises, making emergency nutrition a paramount regional priority. Rice fortification therefore offers a proven and highly effective strategy to combat micronutrient deficiencies aligned with the regional food security cooperation framework.

To meet this need, the APTERR Rice Fortification has moved from concept to active operation. In strategic partnership with the WFP under Tier 3, a pilot project has been launched and implemented in Lao PDR since 2025. The insights and operational outcomes from this current phase will provide the evidence and knowledge base for systematically integrating fortified rice into APTERR's emergency rice reserves, supporting wider adoption across member countries and enhancing regional foundation for food security and nutrition.

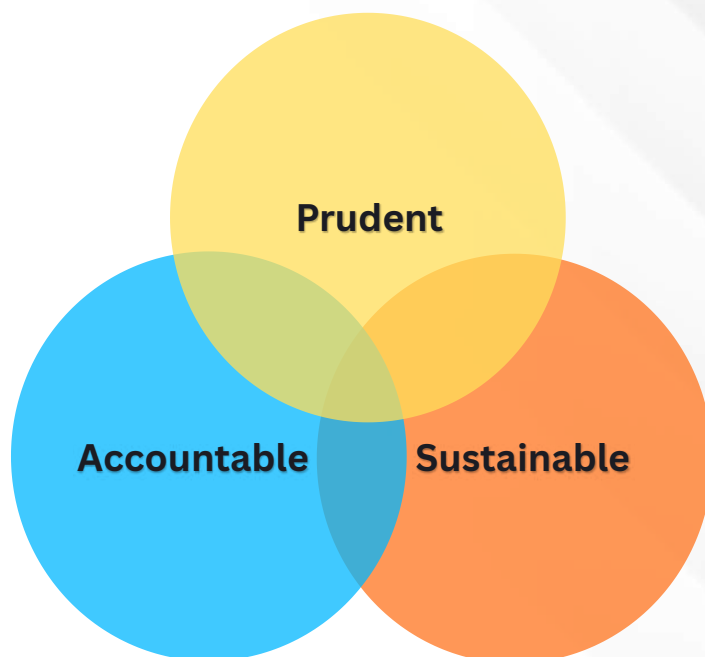


Fund Management: From Financial Stewardship to Stronger Accountability

The APTERR Fund stands as a lasting symbol of the shared commitment of member countries to enhancing regional food security and strengthening resilience across the APT region.

Recognising the value and trust placed in these contributions, the APTERR Secretariat has anchored its financial management in integrity, transparency, accountability, and sound financial discipline. In practice, this has meant tightening budget oversight, reinforcing cost-saving measures and streamlining processes, without compromising the quality of programme delivery.

A key achievement has been its efforts to reduce operational costs and maximise the value of every contribution. By working closely with financial institutions to improve transaction arrangements and minimise financial charges associated with APTERR operation, it secured a permanent exemption from transaction fees with Bank of Ayudhya for APTERR-related financial transactions. This has generated substantial savings and allowed more resources to be directed towards its APTERR programmes that strengthen regional food security resilience and humanitarian assistance. Building on this, the APTERR Secretariat has also pursued partnerships and private sector engagement, seeking opportunities to share costs, mobilise additional resources, and broaden support for APTERR activities.



This track record of accountable and transparent management has translated directly into stronger confidence and trust of member countries. Their continued financial support reflects sustained confidence in the APTERR Secretariat's stewardship of the fund and its ability to convert contributions into meaningful regional outcomes.

Moving forward, the APTERR Secretariat remains committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, transparency, accountability, and financial discipline, while pursuing further opportunities to improve efficiency, mobilise resources, and strengthen partnerships. Together, these efforts will keep the APTERR Fund a sustainable and trusted financial foundation for regional food security resilience and humanitarian assistance for years to come.

Strategic Partnerships: From Regional Cooperation to Greater Resilience

The APTERR has stood as a trusted regional mechanism for safeguarding food security across the APT region for 15 years. Its achievements have been made possible not only by the unwavering commitment and solidarity of its member countries, but also the invaluable support of regional and international partners whose expertise, resources, and shared visions have strengthened APTERR's operations and long-term sustainability.



As food security challenges continue to evolve, APTERR has expanded its strategic partnerships to strengthen regional preparedness and emergency response.

Close collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the AFSRB Secretariat, the AFSIS Secretariat, the ADB, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the WFP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), and related agencies has enriched APTERR through technical expertise, policy dialogue, research, innovation, and knowledge exchange. These partnerships have reinforced APTERR's emergency rice reserve mechanism, enabling more timely and effective assistance to communities affected by disasters and crises while strengthening regional resilience against increasingly complex food security challenges.



Recognising that effective emergency response begins with timely and reliable information, APTERR continues to enhance cooperation with technical partners to improve data sharing, food security monitoring and assessment, and early warning systems.

These efforts support evidence base for decision-making, improve the programme implementation, and enable more proactive and coordinated responses to emerging of food security risks. While emergency response remains central to APTERR's mission, the organisation has also embraced innovation through strategic partnership that advance initiatives promoting food availability, accessibility, resilience, and nutritional adequacy. These initiatives demonstrate APTERR's commitment to continuously improving the quality, effectiveness, and impact of its humanitarian assistance.

In addition to technical cooperation, these partnerships contribute significantly to APTERR's long-term institutional and financial sustainability. They could support stronger governance, facilitate resources, encourage innovation, and promote policy coherence.

Guided by the belief that lasting progress is achieved through powerful collaboration, APTERR remains committed to deepening existing partnerships and building new ones to strengthen its operations, secure its financial sustainability, and capacity to address future challenges. Together with its partners, APTERR will continue to safeguard food security, provide humanitarian assistance, and build a more resilient and sustainable future for the APT region.



Public Recognition: From Commitment to Trusted Regional Mechanism

APTERR has evolved from a regional initiative into an important part of the APT's efforts to address food security challenges, and humanitarian assistance since its establishment. The 15-year journey reflects the region's determination to ensure that rice assistance can reach people when it is needed most, particularly during times of disaster and crisis.

Over the years, APTERR has responded to emergencies and provided rice assistance to communities facing difficult circumstances. Each response represents more than the delivery of rice; it reflects a commitment to protecting livelihoods, supporting recovery, and helping people overcome times of hardship. These experiences have demonstrated the value of maintaining emergency rice stocks as a practical means of strengthening food security and enhancing APTERR's role and recognition as a trusted regional mechanism which includes high-level platforms such as the APT Summit. APTERR's contributions have also been recognised and referenced at the national, regional, and global levels.

In addition, APTERR's work provides a meaningful example for other regions and organisations seeking to develop mechanisms for emergency reserves. Information about APTERR and its knowledge products, available on the APTERR official website and Facebook, helps raise public awareness of the importance of preparedness and humanitarian support in an increasingly uncertain future.

As APTERR marks this important milestone, its 15-year journey provides both a legacy to celebrate and a foundation for the future. The experiences gained, lessons learned, and lives touched along the way will continue to shape APTERR as it moves forward, reaffirming its enduring purpose of contributing to a more secure and resilient APT region.



Chapter 3

The Way Forward: Towards Greater Regional Resilience

Evolving into a More Responsive Regional Food Security Safety Net

In an increasingly uncertain world, unity and solid cooperation remain the surest guarantee of a resilient future. As the region's trusted mechanism for food security, APTERR will sharpen its operational capacity across Tier 1–3 and strengthen its FEMI system. These efforts will ensure that APTERR stands ready for rapid response when the member countries need it most, so that no one is left behind.

APTERR will actively improve its existing mechanism and build greater operational flexibility to keep pace with a rapidly changing, interconnected global landscape.

Emergency preparedness will be placed at the centre of this effort, ensuring that the APTERR mechanism is sufficiently prepared, accessible and fit for timely mobilisation when emergencies arise. Stronger preparedness will enable more effective and timely responses, helping to mitigate the impacts of crises on food security. This includes reviewing and broadening the definition of "emergency" to reflect evolving risks and ensure the APTERR mechanism's relevance in addressing the food security challenges of tomorrow.



Over the past 15 years, APTERR has progressively expanded its roles—from responding primarily to natural disasters to addressing a broader range of emergencies, including man-made conflicts and the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. To be aligned with the Strategic Thrust 1: Enhancing Regional Food Security stated in the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry: APTCS-FAF (2026–2035), APTERR will further reinforce its efficiency, effectiveness and readiness while fully leveraging its collective capacity as the region's trusted mechanism. Through continued adoption, preparedness and cooperation, APTERR will remain a mechanism that member countries can rely on, whenever needed, to safeguard food security and build greater resilience against emerging risks.

Building a Broader and Stronger Partnership Network

Food security resilience in the APT region cannot be achieved by any single country or organisation alone. The experience gained from 15 years of APTERR operation has demonstrated that coordinated action delivered more effectively when diverse strengths, expertise and networks unite behind shared goals.

As the region navigates a more complex and interconnected global landscape, the APTERR Secretariat will continue to deepen cooperation with its member countries, strengthen existing alliances, and pursue new and trusted partnerships. At the same time, the APTERR Secretariat will also support Timor-Leste, as ASEAN's newest Member State, in its accession to APTERR, extending the mechanism's regional reach and collective capacity.



Beyond expanding its network, the APTERR Secretariat will harness partnership to drive practical action by strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, facilitating knowledge and experience sharing and leveraging complementary capacities across the region. This will enable faster and coordinated response to crises with cross-cutting impacts, accelerate the delivery of high-quality food assistance and enhance operational agility and preparedness.

Ultimately, bridging diverse strengths through strategic partnerships will be essential to addressing emerging food security challenges and building lasting regional resilience. As APTERR enters its next chapter, a broader and more connected partnership network will not only strengthen the regional emergency rice reserve mechanism, but also contribute to stronger, more sustainable food security resilience across the APT region.

Securing Long-Term Institutional Sustainability

As a regional food security safety net, APTERR's long-term viability is essential to its role as a permanent and effective regional institution. APTERR will keep adapting its operations to respond to evolving and increasingly complex food security challenges, while broadening its scope to encompass interconnected dimensions of food security, including nutrition security and food system transformation. By progressively incorporating these considerations into its evolving areas of action, APTERR can provide a more comprehensive and effective response while continuing to meet the changing needs of its member countries and reinforcing its continued relevance and value as a regional mechanism for food security.

Financial sustainability is the backbone of this ambition. To secure it, the APTERR Secretariat will pursue prudent and efficient financial management, including cost optimisation, resource efficiency, and strategic approaches to operational financing. It will also expand collaboration with existing and new partners, including the private sector, to unlock cost-sharing, resource mobilisation and other forms of support for APTERR operations.

The APTERR Secretariat will further explore innovative and sustainable approaches to maximise the strategic use of the APTERR Fund, ensuring its resources generate lasting value and underpin APTERR's institutional sustainability for decades to come.





APTERR Secretariat

2nd Floor, Innovation Building, Office of Agricultural Economics, Kasetsart University Complex, Phahonyothin Road, Ladyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

 +66 2579 4816

 www.apterr.org

 apterrsec@apterr.org

 ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR)

 APTERR Secretariat

