



Asia Pacific Coalition  
for School Safety

Statement from APCSS at the closing session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Conference on School Safety

Bangkok – Thailand, 14-15 February 2017

We would like to highlight the following sharing on behalf of the members of the Asia-Pacific Coalition on School Safety (APCSS): ADPC, IFRC, Plan International, Save the Children, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR and World Vision.

1. Firstly, we would like to thank the organiser for inviting APCSS to share our experiences and ideas at this 2nd ASEAN Regional Conference on School Safety. We congratulate ASEAN Member States and the ASSI Program Management Team for the successful two-day discussion on strategies, goals and targets, including wider partnerships and stakeholders' engagement, which will guide ASEAN to a more unified direction and action towards comprehensive school safety for the region.
2. The APCSS, as a technical coalition supporting and fostering SS implementation in the Asia-Pacific Region, are glad to have had the opportunity to observe and participate in this collaborative effort in knowledge sharing, exchanging of good practices, policies, strategies, resources, and guidance tools to build capacities on school safety programming among SEA countries. At the same time this conference has reinforced collective efforts of interested stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region in adopting and aligning its activities with the three pillars of Comprehensive School Safety Framework, and shows the value in having the ASEAN Common Framework for Comprehensive School Safety.
3. One of the priorities of the *Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, at the 7th AMCDRR in New Delhi 2016*, was *strengthening education on disaster and climate risk reduction and accelerating the implementation of comprehensive school safety in the region*. In support of this regional action plan, the APCSS is currently pursuing its strategy to foster a systemised knowledge management system for more effective exchanges of good practice, knowledge and information among different stakeholders. We are also working to strengthen regional cooperation in technical advocacy to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, increase the resilient education sector investments, and promote enabling environment for regional and sub-regional cooperation. We believe that our region is rich in experience implementing school safety efforts, let us share more among ourselves and beyond our borders.
4. In light of collaborative ways forward for a more programmatic approach, we would also like to call for the engagement of more partners to join the ASSI in SEA to accelerate and up-scale this initiative and make it as effective as possible. In addition, we also hope that the coordination at national and regional levels will be enhanced, and collaborative efforts of interested stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region will increase number of countries that adopt and implement approaches consistent with the Comprehensive School Safety Framework. We call on governments to sign up as Safe School Leaders as part of the Worldwide Initiative for School Safety for a stronger and more resilient Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the face of increasing climate risks.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Conference on SS has obviously marked a steady step forward in achieving sustainable engagement of different stakeholders in school safety implementation, building safer education environment for children and resilient communities throughout ASEAN. Let us all continue working together to build on this momentum.

Thank you.