



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

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MEDIA INQUIRIES
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USTDA Supports ASEAN Connectivity with First Focus on Regional Disaster Management and Mitigation

ARLINGTON, Va. - In response to recent natural disasters across Southeast Asia, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is supporting the region's efforts toward the effective recovery, mitigation, and management of future natural hazards which include recurring seasonal typhoons, monsoons, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.

In cooperation with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), USTDA will sponsor the *ASEAN Disaster Management, Mitigation, and Response Technologies Workshop* in Bangkok, Thailand, from May 30 to June 1, 2012. The workshop will assist disaster management authorities from ASEAN economies in identifying appropriate technical and operational solutions as well as enhancing capabilities to adequately prepare for and effectively respond to disaster-related emergencies. Topics the workshop will cover include: regional cooperation and capacity building for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness; technology applications for managing disaster risk; terrestrial and satellite telecommunications applications for emergency response; and meteorological tracking, hazards early warning, mapping, and engineering design for mitigation.

"This workshop will bring together ASEAN national emergency and disaster preparedness officials with U.S. disaster management agencies and firms to explore practical technologies and solutions for developing disaster warning and response systems," stated Director Lee Zak of USTDA. "The private sector plays a critical role in contributing to disaster planning and continuity of operations in the aftermath of a natural disaster."

USTDA is working in cooperation with the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) to plan and organize this workshop.

This regional workshop will be the inaugural activity of the ASEAN-U.S. Connectivity Cooperation Initiative that was announced by President Obama during the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders Meeting in Bali in November 2011. It will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the potential role of the U.S. private sector in supporting disaster management, mitigation, and recovery efforts throughout ASEAN and to feature U.S. firms with expertise in these areas.

Registration information and more details on this event are available at: www.usaseandisasterresponse.org.

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.

