

KarIMUN 2017 – Light of the East

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Study Guide



Introduction:

The ASEAN and his neighbouring countries face a wide-ranging agenda of future challenges discussing the chances and means of cooperation. In times of natural disasters, threats posed by terrorism and military provocation through North Korea the region should keep calm and strike new paths of cooperation.

The 10 member states of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) already follow a quiet deep regional economic integration. With adopting the AEC Blueprint 2025 the ASEAN member states aim at closer collaboration in security-questions and social-cultural questions.

The Light of the East is a modern conference concept that focuses on innovation and new thinking about future cooperation and communication in the region of South-East Asia. The main target is to adopt a "Statement of the Session" in the General Assembly at the end of the sessions that outlines a strategy of cooperation and communication between the Southeast-Asian states or rather all members states of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) (and with it of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Council (APSCC), as well).

The superior topic of the Light of the East is *the challenge and practice of preventive diplomacy and cooperation*. You, as the delegates of the member states of the involved councils, shall work out an agenda to face future challenges, as *disaster risk reduction, reducing risks in military conflicts, economic cooperation* and other challenges you can think of.

For the stated topics you've been given three study guides for preparation.

Councils, delegations and topics:

ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum): China, Japan, South Korea, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, European Union (representing all EU-countries), North Korea, India, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Cambodia

TD (Trilateral Dialogue): Japan, China, South Korea

APSCC (ASEAN Political-Security Community Council): Philippines, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia; ASEAN member states coming from the ARF

The procedure (very recommendable to read!):

Aiming for one overall-resolution called "Statement of the Session" in the General Assembly at the end of the sessions, the participants of the Light of the East in the different councils work together on different topics. Both councils may add topics to their agenda with a motion to expand the agenda if the delegates wish so.

Draft resolutions adopted in the ARF are called "resolutions" from that time onwards. They are binding resolutions for all member states.

The APSCC may provide working papers the ARF can work on. Dealing with a working paper of the APSCC is not as extensive for the ARF. The council is automatically in the debate on the adopted resolution draft. In this debate the number of friendly or unfriendly amendments is limited to five. When the speakers list runs out and the council dealt with five amendments, the ARF proceeds into voting procedures directly.

At Saturday evening and Sunday morning the General Assembly of the Light of the East takes place. All councils of the Light of the East will hold the session together. Every delegation still has one vote in the General Assembly. The resolutions of the previous days shall be consolidated in one "Statement of the Session". For this, the submitters of the resolution drafts adopted in the councils of the Light of the East may work out one preamble out of the perambulatory clauses of all resolutions. This will be voted on in the General Assembly as well as on the whole "Statement of the Session".

You, as the delegates, may change councils with your colleagues whenever you want. The target is a huge cooperation between the councils and delegates.

Topic 1:

The prevention of military conflicts in South-east Asia

The ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) has been formed in 2009 with the adoption of the APSC Blueprint¹. “The APSC Blueprint proposed five areas of cooperation, or strategic issues: political development, norm setting and norm sharing, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding.”² The APSC is considered one of the three primary committees of the ASEAN Community. It’s aim is to go beyond addressing the traditional approach to traditional security concerns also considering the security impact of economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions of developments³. As such the scope of the APSC is broad and covers a wide range of issues. The APSC is overseen by the APSC Council (APSCC), and further consists of six sectoral bodies and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The Sectoral Bodies are Minister-level committees, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM), Commission on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Commission), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM), ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM), ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC).

¹ ASEAN, “ASEAN Political – Security Community“, <http://asean.org/asean-political-security-community/>

² Caballero-Anthony, M., 2010. Non-traditional security challenges, regional governance, and the ASEAN political-security community (APSC). *ASEAN and the Institutionalization of East Asia*, pp.27-42.

³ibid.

ASEAN approach conflict prevention

The current basis of the work for the APSC has been laid out in the ASEAN Political-Social Community Blueprint 2025, that updates the founding Blueprint of the APSC. The new Blueprint⁴ pushes for the following 4 key areas of improvement:

1. Establishing shared values and ASEAN unity

In order to prevent ASEAN-internal conflicts, the ASEAN Nations actively promote a sense of unity among its people, with focus on shared values and norms and a sense of community. This is promoted for example by education initiatives that aim to further the “understanding and appreciation” of the diversity of the different political and legal systems of ASEAN nations. However, it aims not only to share and promote shared values, but also explicitly the diversity of ASEAN nations. This is highlighted by the reiteration of the principles of independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and non-interference towards its Member States. Given the diversity of the ASEAN Nations that obviously complicates the scope of a common identity.

2. Ensuring the Stability of the ASEAN Region

In order to ensure internal stability, ASEAN puts a number of intergovernmental mechanisms in place. The main responsibility in this regard among the Sectoral Bodies are on the ADMM and the ARF. Accordingly, these bodies should further expand in scope and power. This is in line with the commitment to further develop peaceful dispute settlement and arbitration mechanisms to be used for conflicts between member states, in accordance with ASEAN’s rules-based approach. Especially a focus on preventive diplomacy and transparency, lead by the ARF are considered. Furthermore, the commitment to international law in regards of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and their commitment to solve the South China Sea conflict in a cooperative manner are stressed.

3. Strengthen ASEAN unity and a common approach on international issues

⁴ ASEAN Secretariat, 2016, "ASEAN political-security community blueprint 2025." *Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat.*

Focusing on ASEAN-led mechanisms to solve internal conflicts is widely adopted. However, with the emergence of a wider scope of inter-regional security interests, ASEAN strived to include non-ASEAN partners in these mechanisms to address their security concerns. This is reflected in the decision to expand ASEAN processes that include partners, like the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Plus three. Furthermore, a stronger coordination on global issues of common interest, even outside of the immediate region, should be achieved to produce joint statements. To be more visible and effective as a block on the international stage, a stronger cooperation in building capacity for peacekeeping and the active participation of ASEAN Members in peacekeeping operations is also proposed.

4. Expanding ASEAN Capacities

With the first blueprint from 2009-2015 establishing the current framework of cooperation in the APSC, the current aim is to expand the existing institutions. A major focus is on the ARF and ADMM, even though all institutions should expand their activities. In general, the APSC is in process to expand the scope and capacity of its cooperation. These expansions range from new mechanisms for military cooperation, information exchange to an increasing role of ASEAN institutions in coordinating their member states.

However, the concrete implementation of these proposals is yet undefined. Furthermore, the push for deeper integration is hindered by the strong notion to non-interference in internal matters and the need for unanimity, which can both complicate a situation. E.g. seeing the internal situations in Thailand and Myanmar, that can be possible sources for instability, they have not been addressed until now because of these principles. Also, the failure to have a unified stance on the South China Sea show how hard it is to achieve a compromise⁵.

⁵Japan Times, "ASEAN vexed by South China Sea disputes as Phnom Penh backs Beijing", 6.8.2017

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/08/06/asia-pacific/politics-diplomacy-asia-pacific/asean-vexed-south-china-sea-disputes-phnom-penh-backs-beijing/#.WeY0XxOCzMU>

Potential threats to international stability in South-East Asia

To provide a comprehensive overview on the security challenges of the ASEAN Nations, an expansion on the focus to possible conflicts in East Asia is reasonable. Due to the strong economic, historical and cultural ties it is reasonable to assume that these conflicts have considerable implications for the security interests of the ASEAN nations, especially when China is involved, even if they are not affected directly themselves.

1. *Growing tension on the Korean Peninsula*

North Korea remains formally at war with the South since the armistice agreement of 1953. The recent developments include the 6th nuclear test with the by far largest yield yet⁶, adding further credibility to their technical abilities to use weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, the repeated tests of long range missiles increased their strike capability.

The bilateral relations between the Korean states are on a long time low⁷, especially after the permanent closure of the Kaesong Industrial Complex in 2016.

While the ASEAN Countries are not expected to be involved in any military conflict with North Korea, it can provide a forum and act as a mediator⁸. However, the ASEAN has clearly stated in the Blueprint 2025 its goal to promote disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction⁹.

2. *Situation regarding the Rohingya in Myanmar*

The internal situation in most of Myanmar has stabilized with the formation of an elected government, and a peaceful transition of power from the military junta since 2015.

⁶Norwegian Seismic Array, "Large nuclear test in North Korea on 3 September 2017", 3.09.2017, <https://www.norsar.no/press/latest-press-release/archive/large-nuclear-test-in-north-korea-on-3-september-2017-article1534-984.html>

⁷ New York Post, "North Korea hasn't picked up South Korea's call for 18 months", 03.10.2017, <http://nypost.com/2017/10/03/north-korea-hasnt-picked-up-south-koreas-call-for-18-months/>

⁸ BBC, "Asean offers US a rare chance to meet N Korea", 7.08.2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-40848541>

⁹ ASEAN Secretariat, 2016, "ASEAN political-security community blueprint 2025." *Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat*.

However, the tensions with the Muslim minority in Rakhine State (Rohingya) have intensified over the last years with the rise of a pro-muslim insurgency, culminating in one of the most extreme displacement of refugees seen in decades¹⁰. The military action by the central government however has been widely criticized as an overreaction by the international community¹¹ and might face further scrutiny¹². This situation may have negative consequences for Myanmar himself, as well as for Bangladesh, which faces difficulties to accommodate the refugees. Furthermore, the question of the repatriation of the approximate over 500.000 refugees¹³ might be a point of contention between the countries for the foreseeable future, especially considering that Bangladesh as a muslim-majority

country sees the actions of Myanmar against its muslim minority very critical.



3. Border disputes in the South China Sea

The tensions about the nautical borders in the south china sea have been prevalent since at least 1974. And there are currently conflicting claims by 7 entities (Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan) on various islands or sea areas. While the issue lay mostly dormant for

a long time after the adoption of UNCLOS, since 2012 there is a increase in conflict driven especially by China. The construction efforts by china to build airstrips military bases on some of the occupied Spratly-islands have increased tension since these claims are not accepted by the international community. However, China has repeatedly threatened ASEAN nations with

¹⁰ The Economist, "The Rohingya refugee crisis is the worst in decades", 21.09.2017, <https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2017/09/daily-chart-13>

¹¹ UN News Center, "Attacks against Rohingya 'a ploy' to drive them away; prevent their return – UN rights chief", 11.10.2017, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57856#.Wd5jDBOCzMU>

¹² Business Standart, "Rohingya crisis: EU, US weighing sanctions against Myanmar army leaders", 9.10.2017, http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/rohingya-crisis-eu-us-weighing-sanctions-against-myanmar-army-leaders-117100900089_1.html

¹³ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Rohingya Refugee Crisis" <https://www.unocha.org/rohingya-refugee-crisis>

military action¹⁴ ¹⁵ for violating its claims. The ASEAN has recently decided on a joint Code of Conduct on how to address the issue in unity¹⁶ as well as a strong commitment in the Blueprint 2025¹⁷. However, the effectiveness of this approach to address the issue in favour of the ASEAN nations has been called into question¹⁸.

4. Taiwan

Even though the economic relations between mainland China and Taiwan continue to deepen and the risk of an immediate military conflict is low, the conflict between the one china policy and the will for self-determination of the taiwanese people remain unsolved. The recent appointment of a pro-independence prime minister and an increasing pro-independence sentiment in Taiwan might challenge fragile balance¹⁹.

5. Thailand

Thailand is ruled by a military government since 2014, that has pledged to transfer power in 2018 back to a democratically elected government²⁰. However, given that many internal disputes that lead to the initial instability in 2014 remain unresolved. Furthermore, the yet-to-come formal accession of the new King might pose some problems, as he might not be able to serve to the same extend as a unifier as his predecessor.

¹⁴ New York Times, "Duterte Says Xi Warned Philippines of War Over South China Sea", 19.05.2017
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/19/world/asia/philippines-south-china-sea-duterte-war.html>

¹⁵ CNBC, "China reportedly threatens Vietnam into ending energy exploration in South China Sea", 23.07.2017, <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/23/china-threatens-vietnam-over-south-china-sea-drilling.html>

¹⁶ Reuters, "ASEAN, China adopt framework for crafting code on South China Sea", 6.08.2017,
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asean-philippines-southchinasea/asean-china-adopt-framework-for-crafting-code-on-south-china-sea-idUSKBN1AM0AY>

¹⁷ ASEAN Secretariat, 2016, "ASEAN political-security community blueprint 2025." *Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat*.

¹⁸ The Diplomat, "Will a China-ASEAN South China Sea Code of Conduct Really Matter?", 5.08.2017,
<https://thediplomat.com/2017/08/will-a-china-asean-south-china-sea-code-of-conduct-really-matter/>

¹⁹ South China Morning Post, "Taiwan warned choice of pro-independence premier will see relations with mainland China worsen over next three years", 08.10.2017,
<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/policies-politics/article/2114552/taiwan-warned-choice-pro-independence-premier-will-see>

²⁰ BBC, "Thailand announces 2018 general election", 10.10.2017,
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41563661>

Conclusion & Issues a Resolution could address:

As of now there are little indicators for the danger of a military conflict between nation states in South-east Asia besides the South China Sea Conflict. However, military conflicts in East Asia (North Korea and Taiwan) seem more likely. Furthermore, internal conflicts (Thailand, Myanmar) may have serious implications to the overall security situation. In general, the ASEAN community continues its goal to form an ASEAN community and approach its tightrope walk between embracing common values and the diversity of its nations, with a focus on good governance and tolerance. As a conclusion, this council may consider the following questions:

- How can inter-ASEAN unity on international issues be achieved more effectively?
- How can ASEAN influence on international issues be increased?
- How can the principles of independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and non-interference balance with the need to address national instability and the need for unity and joint political issues?
- How can the the structural proposals of the Blueprint 2025 be implemented, especially with regards to strengthening various ASEAN institutions?

Further Reading (except for footnotes)

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, 2017. ASEAN@5 Volume 4: Building ASEAN Community: Political–Security and Socio-cultural Reflections
http://www.eria.org/publications/key_reports/asean50-vol.4.html

Topic 2:

Economic cooperation in terms of climate change

What is the ASEAN Regional Forum(ARF)?

The ARF is a tool of ASEAN meant to foster multilateral dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, in a formal and official setting. The ARF Ministerial meeting happens every year since it was started in 1994, and the Forum also provides a variety of specialised events year-long: expert group meetings, workshops, trainings on a variety of topics from disaster relief to marine hazards.

The ARF's main goal is to enhance the peace and the prosperity that has been increasingly present in the Asia-Pacific region for the past decades. It does not have conflict-resolution mechanisms and does not address issues such as the place of Taiwan in the region. Its aims are consensus and discussion. So far, it has achieved great results in its chosen goals and provided a crucial platform to discuss issues pertaining to the region. ²¹

ASEAN and climate change

ASEAN has underlined climate change as one of its major concern, since its members are coastal South-Asian countries, which would be threatened by rising sea levels. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall could threaten the agricultural lifestyle of many of their population, increase the frequency of disasters such as floods or hurricanes, and harm the flora and fauna.

ASEAN has resolved to adapt rather than suffer the consequences of climate change; its member states can address climate change on their own terms, but ASEAN has also created a working group on Climate change. Since 2013, the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to

²¹The ASEAN Regional Forum : A Concept Paper - 2002

<http://aseanregionalforum.asean.org/files/library/Terms%20of%20References%20and%20Concept%20Papers/Concept%20Paper%20of%20ARE.pdf>

Climate Change is also an important tool for these countries to cooperate towards the fight against climate change.²²

However, one of the main issues faced by ASEAN members in this fight is the lack of financial means to research, mitigate or counter climate change and its consequences. While the Action Plan includes the idea to give incentives to the private sector to invest in low carbon development, production, and technology, that is not enough, and the members must also be helped through multilateral funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Green Investment Fund, and the Adaptation Fund.

The ARF: Economic cooperation and climate change

What about the ARF? Most of its members also belong to the Asia-Pacific region and would suffer the same consequences as ASEAN members from climate change. Climate change and its consequences also affect topics which the ARF has been addressing since its origins such as maritime issues: It is, anyhow, a global concern.

Climate change however has not been so far a main topic of the ARF, which has no publication pertaining to it (while it has published Work Plans on topics such as Maritime security, Counter-terrorism, and Disaster Relief). Only two events have been organised about climate change by the ARF, among the many events it holds: a seminar on the Security implications of the consequences of climate change, held in Brussels in 2010, and a workshop on climate change adaptation and disaster management in 2016.²³

While ASEAN has urged developed countries to increase their financial assistance on the matter of climate change, this has not been mentioned at the ARF, which members such as the Australia, Canada, the EU or the USA could be instrumental in this regard.

Cooperation regarding climate change which could have economic impacts can be different from a simple financial support: for instance, environmentally friendly technology could be

²² ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change - 2012 <http://environment.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/ANNEX-8-Lead-Countries-for-ASEAN-Action-Plan-on-Joint-Response-to-Climate-Change-27-March-2013.pdf>

²³ List of ARF activities by intersessional year - ARF - 2017 [http://aseanregionalforum.asean.org/files/library/List%20of%20ARF%20Track%20I%20Activities%201994-2017\(by%20Inter-sessional%20Year\)%20.pdf](http://aseanregionalforum.asean.org/files/library/List%20of%20ARF%20Track%20I%20Activities%201994-2017(by%20Inter-sessional%20Year)%20.pdf)

transferred from one country to another, disregarding economic profits, since the fight against climate change can be regarded as a priority surpassing the need for profit. Help could also be provided in the work of experts, technical advisors, for example in the fields of recycling, fauna and flora protection, and reforestation.

It is therefore an issue that the ASEAN Regional Forum has yet to address with the urgency it requires.

Topics on the Agenda:

The member states of the ARF work closely with each other in terms of economic cooperation. The question is how the cooperation of these nations could look like regarding the fighting of climate change under these circumstances. The following questions are an input on what the debates could focus on:

- Is it possible to introduce an agenda against climate change as the ARF? Which goals could help reaching the international climate goals of the Paris Agreement? Which goals seem realistic to agree on in view of economic interests?
- Could the ARF agree on measures to reach the goals of the economic community “AEC Blueprint 2025”²⁴?
- Which measures of cooperation and communication may help to reach climate goals easier? Is a financial cooperation possible? What about scientific cooperation?
- Which measures do the member states implement to make their economies more sustainable in terms of environmental and economic issues?

²⁴ <http://www.asean.org/storage/images/2015/November/aec-page/AEC-Blueprint-2025-FINAL.pdf>

Topic 3:

Disaster Risk Reduction

Introduction:

Natural disasters and emergencies can devastate the communities they affect, and the speed and quality of a response can be a matter of life and death. During the last decades, the quantity and severity of disasters has worsened due to the increasing threat climate change. In particular, climate models indicate temperature increases in the Asia-Pacific region on the order of 0.5-2°C by 2030 and 1-7°C by 2070. Furthermore, winter rainfall is likely to decline in South and Southeast Asia, suggesting increased aridity from the winter monsoons. The region will be affected by an increase in global sea level of approximately 3-16 cm by 2030 and 7-50 cm by 2070 in conjunction with regional sea level variability.

Due to its geographical situation, Asia is easily a victim of natural disasters. The ASEAN region sits between several tectonic plates causing earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. The region is also located in between two great oceans namely the Pacific and the Indian oceans causing seasonal typhoons and in some areas, tsunamis.

According to a World Vision survey, the Asian Pacific region is home to 40% of natural disasters, whereby 84% of people affected by natural disasters worldwide are living in this region. Solely in 2016, Asia was hit by 13 earthquakes, 37 tropical storms as well as El Niño which caused drought across many countries in the region.

Current situation and actions:

In 2015, the United Nations agreed on a framework for disaster risk reduction, called Sendai-Framework according to the city in which the framework has been elaborated. They worked out seven global targets to reduce the damage and risks of regions affected by disasters. The global targets are stated as following:

- a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;

- b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;
- c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;
- d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;
- e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;
- f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030;
- g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

Source: Sendai-Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN:

http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

In order to reach these goals, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) may work out a plan for disaster risk reduction, as South-East Asia is a highly affected region.

There are two main types of disasters: *Rapid-onset disasters* which include earthquakes, cyclones, floods and tsunamis and *slow-onset disasters* like droughts, famine, conflict and war. Both of these need a structural, transnational disaster risk management as well as an investment in emergency preparedness in order to reduce the humanitarian impact and deaths.

These disasters often surpass national borders and exceed the capacities of individual countries to manage them. Most countries in this region have limited financial resources and physical resilience. Moreover, the level of preparedness and prevention varies in between the countries and regional cooperation does not exist to the necessary extent. Because of this high vulnerability and the relatively small size of most of the ASEAN countries, it will be more efficient and economically clever for the countries to cooperate in the areas of civil protection, disaster preparedness and prevention.

Aside from the geographical situation, there are numerous other factors which require urgent action and need to be kept in mind while discussing future plans. One of these is the rapid population growth which primarily affects the big metropolises. By 2030, 5 billion people will live in cities worldwide. This growing population density will be another challenge to be faced by the countries.

Although the populations concentrate on the urban areas, rural areas are at least as severely affected through disasters. One reason for this is the lack of infrastructure. The countries need to work on a solution regarding fast and safe supplies to those areas. Non-Governmental-Organizations (NGO's) may be involved into those plans, as well.

Worse to be discussed – Questions on the agenda:

At the beginning of all endeavours should stand structured analyses which are not limited to the country level but could for example cover a high-resolution grid as suggested by the United Nations. Risk aggregation by hazard type and area would provide, at low cost, a much more refined picture of the risk than it is offered by the present analyses.

Linking it back to the growing metropolises, worst case scenarios should be elaborated for these, so that the uncertainty of loss is replaced by scientifically based preparations of city disaster management plans (DMP's). All data collected form analysis should be accessible through an Open Source platform. An example for this could be the American version HAZUS-M.

In order to be efficient and effective, Disaster risk reduction needs to be multisector, inclusive and accessible as stated in the Sendai Framework. This means that governments should on one hand lead the coordination but on the other hand engage with relevant stakeholders and minorities. If the public and private sectors acted in concert, it would create opportunities for everyone involved. This also means that businesses as well as schools and hospitals aren't left out and able to integrate disaster risk into their management practices. Thus, rebuilding after a disaster is faster, critical infrastructures may be saver and the economy is less effected.

Further question on the agenda could be:

- How could a transnational warning system, e.g. for tsunamis and floods, be arranged? Which measures are necessary to strengthen transnational cooperation?
- May there be general standards and regulations for housing and building in terms of population growth on the one hand and safety on the other hand?
- Is it possible to work out plans for emergency accommodation? If so, which requirements are needed?
- Which measures are necessary to extend transnational communication on disaster risk reduction?
- Is it possible and necessary to enlarge financial support and funds for disaster risk reduction?
- Which opportunities exist to cooperate with actors in public and privat sectors or in science?

(These questions are meant to be an orientation for the debates in the council. The topics are, of course, not limited on these.)

Sources/Documents/Useful Links:

- Sendai-Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN:
http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf
- <https://ocharoap.exposure.co/2016-year-in-review>
- http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/2015_Year%20in%20Review_final_PDF_1.pdf
- http://www.unisdr.org/files/18872_asean.pdf
- <http://www.ndma.gov.in/images/policyplan/dmplan/National%20Disaster%20Management%20Plan%20May%202016.pdf>
- http://www.focus.de/politik/ausland/asien-kontinent-der-katastrophen_aid_441544.html
- http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Aussenpolitik/RegionaleSchwerpunkte/Asien/Regionalorganisationen-Text_node.html
- <https://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr>
- <https://www.worldvision.org/our-work/disaster-relief>
- <https://www.munichre.com/topics-online/de/2017/topics-geo/overview-natural-catastrophe-2016>
- <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/18872>