Project Wrap-Up Workshop

24 July 2025 | Phnom Penh, Cambodia

on

"Honoring Resilience, Celebrating Impact, and Charting the Path Forward"

Under the Project

Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the **ASEAN Member States**



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AKCF	ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ARMAC	ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center
CMAA	Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority
CMAC	Cambodia Mine Action Center
DEP	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.
EO	Explosive Ordnance
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
HI	Humanity and Inclusion
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MFA-IC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIEM	National Institute for Emergency Medicine, Thailand
NRA	National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector, Lao PDR
PSA	Peace Sharing Association, the Republic of Korea
QTMAC	Quang Tri Provincial Mine Action Center, the Socialist of Viet Nam
TMAC	Thailand Mine Action Center
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAN	Victim Assistance Network
VNMAC	Vietnam National Mine Action Center

Acknowledgements

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) extends its deepest appreciation to all partners and individuals who walked alongside us in implementing the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025).

First and foremost, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) for its generous financial support and unwavering commitment to humanitarian action. This programme would not have been possible without AKCF's vision to strengthen regional cooperation and victim assistance.

We thank the ASEAN Secretariat, particularly the Security Cooperation Division 2 (SCD2) for their guidance, oversight and steadfast coordinantion throughout the project's lifecycle.

Special thanks are extended to the ARMAC Steering Committee, composed of representatives from all ten ASEAN Member States, whose strategic direction and endorsement were essential to the programme's success. We also acknowledge the crucial role of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as ARMAC's host country, for providing a strong foundation of institutional support and partnership.

Our sincere appreciation goes to our technical and implementing partners – most notably Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) from Singapore – for contributing world-class expertise in psychosocial support and trauma care. We also extend thanks to the Peace Sharing Association of Korea (PSA) and other academic and institutional collaborators for their dedication and insights.

We acknowledge the meaningful participation of national mine action authorities, mines action center, ministries, NGOs, and community-based actors in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Their leadership and on-the-ground cooperation made this initiative truly region-driven and survivor-focused.

Finally, to the survivors and their families who courageously shared their voices, stories, and hopes – we are humbled by your strength. Your lived experience gave this programme its purpose and its heart.

Together, across governments, communities, and countries, we have laid the foundation for a stronger, more inclusive victim assistance framework in ASEAN. ARMAC is deeply honoured to have journeyed beside each of you.

Executive Summary

The *Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025)* represents a landmark achievement in advancing survivor-centred and rights-based approaches to explosive ordnance (EO) victim assistance across Southeast Asia. Funded by the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) with a USD 2 million grant and implemented by the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), the programme addressed the critical needs of EO survivors in five most-affected ASEAN Member States: *Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand,* and *Viet Nam*.

The programme was supported by strong technical partnerships and in-kind contributions from SingHealth (Republic of Singapore), Yonsei University (Republic of Korea), and the Peace Sharing Association of Korea, placing survivors at the heart of its mission while laying the groundwork for sustained regional collaboration.

Key Achievements

- **Survivor Engagement**: Engaged over 5,700 survivors and affected persons through national consultations and needs assessments, ensuring that their experiences informed programme priorities and interventions.
- **Research, Evidence & Policy Tools:** Completed in-depth research and feasibility studies across all five countries, identifying service gaps and generating actionable recommendations. These studies underpinned the development of regional and national guidance tools.
- **Guidelines & Publications**: Produced a suite of 34 flagship publications – including *five national victim assistance profiles*, *two research studies*, *a regional guideline*, and *training manuals* – all disseminated to stakeholders across ASEAN to strengthen policy and practice.
- **Capacity Building:** Trained 243 professionals (including 82 women) through six Training-of-Trainers (ToT) workshops in psychosocial support, trauma-informed care, and survivor assistance, creating a regional network of capable and compassionate frontline providers.
- **Regional Coordination:** Established and launched the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN), with its *Terms of Reference*, *operational framework*, and a dedicated online platform to promote cross-border knowledge-sharing and sustained coordination.
- **Storytelling & Inclusion**: Produced and premiered the Voice of Victim documentary series, capturing powerful survivor testimonies that raised awareness, fostered empathy, and influenced inclusive policymaking throughout the region.

The programme culminated in a high-level Wrap-Up Workshop on 24 July 2025 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The hybrid event brought together 56 in-person participants (including 16 women) and 8 online attendees (including 2 females) from across ASEAN and beyond. Participants included national mine action authorities, government agencies, donors, civil society organisations, technical experts, and survivors.

Dignitaries such as the ASEAN Secretary-General, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Cambodia, and senior representatives from *Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR,* and *Myanmar* delivered opening and closing remarks, reaffirming regional and dialogue partner commitment to inclusive victim assistance.

The workshop featured:

- Two dynamic panel discussions reflecting on programme impact and sustainable partnerships;
- Powerful survivor testimonies from Cambodia, sharing lived experiences and pathways to resilience;
- A live psychosocial role-play demonstration by SingHealth, showcasing practical trauma support;
- Presentation of the ARMAC Roadmap 2026+, outlining strategic directions for long-term regional action.

As part of the event, ARMAC and its partners formally handed over the programme's key knowledge products to ASEAN Member States, ensuring continuity, ownership, and local relevance beyond the programme's conclusion. The theme — *"Honouring Resilience, Celebrating Impact, and Charting the Path Forward"* — captured the shared spirit of reflection, appreciation, and commitment to future progress.

Looking ahead, participants expressed a strong consensus on the need to build on the programme's achievements by integrating victim assistance into national systems, reinforcing cross-sector coordination among health, rehabilitation, and social protection services, and continuing to support survivor-led advocacy and peer engagement. There was also a unified call to mobilise new resources and partnerships to pursue a second phase of the initiative that will further expand its impact and ensure long-term sustainability. With these foundations firmly in place, ASEAN and its partners are now well-positioned to lead on inclusive, regionally owned victim assistance. ARMAC's coordination and AKCF's strategic support remain central to this vision—exemplifying a shared commitment to peace, dignity, and a future where all explosive ordnance (EO) survivors can heal, thrive, and contribute fully to their communities.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 6

1.1. Overview and Context 6

1.2. Significance of the Workshop 7

2. Background 8

2.1. ERW/Mine Context in ASEAN 8

2.2. Project Inception and Purpose 8

2.3 ARMAC's Mandate and Involvement 8

3. Workshop Overview 9

3.1 Objectives of the Workshop 9

3.2 Date, Time, Venue 9

3.3 Format 10

4. Opening Ceremony Summary 11

4.1 Opening session 1- Welcome and High-Level Statements 11

4.2 Opening session 2- Achievements and High-Level Dialogue Partner Remark 12

4.3 Launch and Handover of Publications 14

5. Participants 15

5.1 Total Numbers 15

5.2 Stakeholder Groups 16

6. Panel Dialogue Discussions 16

6.1 Panel Dialogue Session 1- Project Impact and Collaboration and Reflection on Victim Assistance for EO Survivors 17

6.2. Panel Dialogue Discussion 2 - Survivor Voices & Sustainable Partnerships. 19

7. From Trauma to Trust: Demonstrating Psychosocial Care in Victim Assistance 21

7.1 The Scenario 22

7.2. The Turning Point 22

7.3. Learning in Action 23

7.4. Why This Matters 23

8. The VAN Digital Platform Brief Video Showcase 23

9. Global Norms Virtual Session (APMBC) 24

10. ARMAC Roadmap 2026+ 26

11. Closing Ceremony 27

12. Conclusion 28

Annex X: Media Coverage 30

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Overview and Context



Decades after conflicts have ended, countries in Southeast Asia continue to grapple with the deadly legacy of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Across the ASEAN region, tens of thousands of survivors live with disabilities and trauma caused by explosive ordnance (EO) accidents. These survivors often face lifelong challenges — including physical rehabilitation, psychological healing, social stigma, and economic hardship — and require a broad range of integrated assistance services.

Recognising these needs, ASEAN Member States established the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) as a regional centre of excellence to address the humanitarian impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), with victim assistance as a core mandate.

In 2021, with generous support from the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), ARMAC launched the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025) to improve systems and services for EO victims and persons with disabilities across the region. The programme focused on five of the most heavily affected ASEAN countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and was implemented in close collaboration with national mine action authorities, health and social welfare ministries, and civil society partners.

The overarching goal of the programme was not only to deliver assistance but to empower survivors, enabling them to reclaim their rights, restore their dignity, and participate fully in socio-economic life. The VA Project was guided by five key objectives:

1. **To establish and operate a Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) as a platform for knowledge exchange and coordination.**
2. **To facilitate regional workshops and national consultative meetings to share best practices and engage policymakers and practitioners.**
3. **To conduct needs assessments and research studies in affected AMS to identify service gaps and opportunities for improvement.**
4. **To provide psychosocial support training to frontline professionals and community based actors across the region.**
5. **To raise awareness and amplify the voices of survivors through the production of the "Voice of Victim" documentary and public engagement.**

ARMAC served as the regional coordinator of the programme, fostering cross-border collaboration and acting as a central platform for technical coordination and capacity-building, while each ASEAN Member State led national-level Importantly, hundreds of survivors and their families were directly engaged, ensuring that the programme remained needs-driven, inclusive, and survivor-centred

Between 2021 and 2025, the programme delivered a wide array of impactful activities — from training healthcare providers and counsellors, to convening regional and national consultations, to producing country profile, guidance documents and tools. Importantly, hundreds of survivors and their families were directly engaged, ensuring that the programme remained needs-driven, inclusive, and survivor-centred.

1.2. Significance of the Workshop

The Wrap-Up Workshop, held on 24 July 2025 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, marked a major milestone in the culmination of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States (2021–2025). It served not only as a closing event but also as a regional platform for reflection, recognition, and recommitment. Under the theme "Honouring Resilience, Celebrating Impact, and Charting the Path Forward," the workshop brought together key stakeholders from across ASEAN and beyond to celebrate progress and reinforce shared responsibility for supporting EO survivors.

For ASEAN Member States, the workshop reaffirmed their joint commitment to inclusive humanitarian action and regional solidarity. For the Republic of Korea and the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), it highlighted the tangible impact of sustained strategic investment in peace, dignity, and victim assistance. For ARMAC, the event reinforced its leadership role as a regional coordinator and catalyst for collaboration. Most importantly, for survivors and affected communities, the workshop created a space where their stories were honoured, their contributions recognised, and their voices placed at the centre of dialogue and future planning.

The workshop also provided a venue for the official handover of key programme tools, including country profile documents, policy guidelines, research findings, and training resources, to ASEAN Member States. These knowledge products will serve as enduring resources for future victim assistance programming in the region.

With dynamic panel discussions, powerful testimonies, a psychosocial role-play demonstration, and the presentation of the ARMAC Roadmap 2026+, the workshop reflected the full depth of the programme — combining technical excellence, survivor inclusion, and regional collaboration. It represented not an end, but a transition point toward continued action and deeper regional ownership of victim assistance efforts.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. ERW/Mine Context in ASEAN

A number of ASEAN Member States continue to face profound challenges due to the widespread contamination from explosive ordnance (EO), including landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). These dangerous remnants not only cause immediate fatalities and life-altering injuries but also have far-reaching effects on the socio-economic development of affected communities. The continued presence of EO severely restricts access to land, hampers agricultural productivity, limits natural resources use, and disrupts critical infrastructure development.

Countries such as **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam** remain affected by landmines and other explosive ordnance, with Cambodia and Lao PDR among the most heavily impacted globally and continuing to report new casualties each year. Even in countries with fewer recent incidents, large numbers of survivors from past conflicts still require sustained care and support. The humanitarian consequences extend far beyond physical harm: survivors, their families, and communities often face lifelong barriers, including physical disability, psychological trauma, and social and economic exclusion. Addressing these needs requires integrated, survivor-centred support systems that go beyond emergency medical care—encompassing long-term physical rehabilitation, psychosocial assistance, and economic reintegration.

Addressing these complex and enduring challenges calls for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach that brings together national authorities/mines action center, communities stakeholders and international partners to build a comprehensive and sustainable support system for those affected by explosive ordnance.

2.2. Project Inception and Purpose

Recognising the transboundary nature of the challenges posed by explosive ordnance (EO) and the critical need for regional cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) launched the *"Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States"* project. The primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen victim assistance programs across the ASEAN region by fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and developing regional frameworks to address the comprehensive needs of EO victims. At the heart of the initiative are two strategic priorities: the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and the development of a regional guideline. Together, these aim to improve coordination, harmonise approaches, and ensure that victims of EO receive integrated, sustained, and quality support. The project envisions fostering a collaborative, region-wide effort that not only addresses immediate victim needs but also builds long-term, sustainable capacity across ASEAN Member States-enabling them to respond more effectively to the humanitarian and socio-economic impacts of EO.

2.3. ARMAC's Mandate and Involvement

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) was established by the ten ASEAN Member States as a center of excellence dedicated to addressing the persistent challenges posed by explosive ordnance (EO). ARMAC's mandate is to encourage and facilitate collective action among ASEAN Member States and relevant international institutions, focusing on comprehensive solutions to mitigate the impact of EO. As the lead agency for the "Enhance Victim Assistance Programme," ARMAC plays a critical role in coordinating regional efforts, facilitating the development of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and its online platform, and ensuring the creation of the regional guideline.

ARMAC's involvement extends beyond coordination to include providing technical expertise, supporting capacity-building initiatives, and offering guidance to ASEAN Member States to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of their victim assistance programs. Through these efforts, ARMAC strives to support ASEAN Member States in strengthening their responses to the needs of EO victims, thereby contributing to a safer, more inclusive, and resilient region.

3. WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

3.1. Objectives of the Workshop

The Wrap-Up Workshop, held on 24 July 2025 in Phnom Penh under the theme “Honoring Resilience, Celebrating Impact, and Charting the Path Forward”, was designed as both a celebration of achievements and a strategic forum for future planning. To guide discussions and ensure tangible outcomes, ARMAC outlined the following key objectives:

- **To commemorate the successful implementation of the VA Project and highlight its impact across EO - affected AMS.**
- **To showcase key outcomes and deliverables, including the launch of the Voice of Victim documentaries, regional guidelines, and 34 flagship publications.**
- **To create a platform for ASEAN Member States to reflect on national experiences, challenges, and best practices in victim assistance.**
- **To facilitate survivor engagement and amplify their voices in shaping inclusive and responsive support systems.**
- **To promote the long-term sustainability of the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) as a regional mechanism for coordination, advocacy, and capacity development.**
- **To present ARMAC's strategic vision for post-project initiatives, ensuring that momentum and partnerships are sustained beyond the project lifespan.**

3.2. Date, Time, Venue

The Wrap-Up Workshop on “Honoring Resilience, Celebrating Impact, and Charting the Path Forward” was held on **24 July 2025** at the **SUN & MOON Riverside Hotel**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was **a full-day event**, beginning with the opening ceremony in the morning, followed by thematic sessions, panel dialogues, survivor testimonials, and technical showcases throughout the day, and concluding with the closing ceremony in the late afternoon.

Alongside the main meeting hall, a **dedicated exhibition space** displayed the project’s flagship outputs, partner contributions, survivor stories, and the newly launched VAN Digital Platform. Country booths and partner displays enabled participants to explore knowledge products, multimedia materials, and campaign highlights in an interactive and engaging setting.

The venue provided both a formal conference environment and open networking areas, supporting high-level dialogue, technical exchange, and cross-sector collaboration in a single, purpose-designed space.



3.3. Format

The Wrap-Up Workshop was delivered in **a hybrid format**, combining **in-person participation** at the SUN & MOON Riverside Hotel in Phnom Penh with **virtual access** for stakeholders unable to attend physically. This approach proved essential in enabling official delegations from Thailand and Viet Nam, along with other ASEAN and international partners, to actively contribute despite not being present on-site. Virtual participants joined panel dialogues, knowledge-sharing discussions, and the VAN collaboration segment in real time, ensuring the event's inclusivity, regional reach, and meaningful engagement across all stakeholder groups. This ensured broad engagement across ASEAN Member States, dialogue partners, and regional and international partners.

The programme was designed to be **interactive, inclusive, and outcome-oriented**, combining high-level statements, technical presentations, survivor engagement, and practical demonstrations. Key components included:

- **Opening Plenary** — welcoming remarks and high-level statements from ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Republic of Korea, and technical partners, setting the tone for the day.
- **VA Project Impact Video** — a compelling visual recap of four years of milestones, survivor stories, and partner contributions.
- **Flag Procession & Knowledge Product Launch** — a symbolic handover of key regional outputs, including national profiles, guidelines, assessments, research, and training toolkits, reinforcing ASEAN unity and shared ownership.
- **Panel Dialogue: Project Impact & Collaboration** — national reflections from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam on implementation progress, lessons learned, and future needs.
- **Voice of Victim Documentary** — a powerful film amplifying the voices and resilience of EO survivors from across the region.
- **Survivor Testimonials** — direct accounts from survivors, highlighting the transformative impact of inclusive and psychosocial support.
- **Panel Dialogue: Survivor Voices & Sustainable Partnerships** — perspectives from civil society, UNDP, and Republic of Korea partners, discussing multi-stakeholder approaches to long-term victim assistance.
- **VAN Digital Platform Showcase** — a preview of ARMAC's new online tool for knowledge-sharing, survivor engagement, and evidence-based policymaking.
- **Live Psychosocial Role-Play Demonstration** — a practical showcase of trauma-informed care in action, based on real-life scenarios from training sessions, underscoring the role of mental health in recovery.
- **ARMAC's Roadmap Beyond 2026** — presentation of the strategic vision for institutionalising the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and sustaining project achievements.
- **Interactive Exhibition** — country and partner booths displaying publications, survivor stories, project highlights, and project showcase

Multimedia tools — including excerpts from the Voice of Victim documentary and a video montage of project highlights from 2021–2025 — were used throughout to maintain engagement and provide vivid illustrations of the programme's human and technical impact.

4. OPENING CEREMONY SUMMARY

The Opening Ceremony on 24 July 2025 formally launched the Wrap-Up Workshop, held under the theme "Honoring Resilience, Celebrating Impact, and Charting the Path Forward." It brought together high-level representatives from ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Republic of Korea, technical partners, and survivors, creating a united platform to celebrate achievements, reflect on the journey, and reaffirm commitments to victim assistance.

The ceremony was delivered in two sessions, blending heartfelt acknowledgements, strategic reflections, and symbolic activities that set an inspiring tone for the day.

4.1. Opening session 1- Welcome and High-Level Statements



Ms. Rothna Buth,
Executive Director, ASEAN REGIONAL MINE ACTION CENTER (ARMAC)

Ms. Buth warmly welcomed participants, recalling the four-year journey of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme as one of partnership, resilience, and shared purpose. She outlined the programme's major milestones, from establishing the Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) to delivering psychosocial training and producing research and guidelines that now serve as regional reference points. Expressing deep gratitude to the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) for its financial support and to SingHealth for its invaluable in-kind contributions, she also acknowledged the ARMAC Steering Committee, ASEAN Member States, and implementing partners for their unwavering collaboration. She concluded with a call to sustain momentum, ensuring survivors continue to receive the care, dignity, and opportunities they deserve.



H.E. Shaharuddin bivn Onn,
Ambassador of Malaysia to Cambodia, ***Chair of the ARMAC Steering Committee***

Ambassador Shaharuddin commended the Republic of Korea's steadfast support through the AKCF and SingHealth's role in advancing psychosocial support capacity across the region. He recognised Cambodia's leadership as ARMAC's host country, providing consistent political and financial backing since the centre's inception. Highlighting that victim assistance is both a humanitarian obligation and a matter of dignity, he urged ASEAN Member States to strengthen regional solidarity and ensure no survivor is left behind.



Dr. Kao Kim Hourn (Virtual Address),
Secretary-General of ASEAN

Dr. Kao reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to humanitarian mine action as an essential component of building a resilient, people-centred ASEAN under the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future vision. He praised ARMAC's development of the VAN digital platform as a sustainable tool for knowledge-sharing and collaboration, noting that this innovation ensures the programme's legacy will continue beyond its project life cycle. He emphasised that the challenge of explosive ordnance is regional in nature and must be met with shared responsibility.



H.E. Yeap Samnang,
Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia

Speaking on behalf of the host country, **H.E. Yeap** highlighted Cambodia's remarkable progress toward becoming mine-free, which has drastically reduced casualties. He recalled Cambodia's leadership in initiating the establishment of ARMAC in 2012, noting that the centre has since become a trusted regional hub for knowledge exchange and capacity building. He reiterated Cambodia's commitment to sustaining ARMAC's mission, grounded in ASEAN's humanitarian values and spirit of solidarity.

4.2. Opening session 2- Achievements and High-Level Dialogue Partner Remark

Building on the momentum of the opening remarks, the second session shifted from commitments to results — showcasing the programme's tangible achievements and the partnerships that made them possible.



4.2.1. Project Achievement Video – Milestones, Impact, and the VAN Journey

A powerful, fast-paced video presentation brought the four-year journey to life, blending milestone achievements with the voices of those directly impacted. It showcased:

- **Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN)** — established as a lasting platform for collaboration and peer support.
- **Regional guidelines and knowledge products** — developed to guide policy, practice, and service delivery across ASEAN.
- **Needs assessments and research** — completed in multiple EO-affected Member States to identify gaps and inform evidence-based action.
- **Psychosocial support capacity** — strengthened through specialised training and technical collaboration with leading partners.

Interwoven with these milestones were compelling survivor stories, underscoring that behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a community whose lives have been changed.

4.2.2. High-Level Dialogue Partner Remarks

Two key partners reflected on the journey, highlighting not only the technical and humanitarian progress made but also the enduring partnerships that underpin the programme's success.



Prof. London Lucien Ooi,
SingHealth

Prof. Ooi emphasised the transformative impact of building practical psychosocial support skills among a broad range of service providers, from frontline health workers to community counsellors. He noted that these skills are now embedded in local practice, enabling more timely, sensitive, and effective care for survivors of explosive ordnance incidents. Beyond training delivery, SingHealth's engagement has fostered a culture of collaboration between the health and mine action sectors—an approach that will continue to evolve as community-based, survivor-centred care gains traction across Southeast Asia. Prof. Ooi reaffirmed SingHealth's long-term commitment to working with ASEAN Member States, ARMAC, and regional partners to sustain and expand these gains, ensuring that mental health remains a core pillar of victim assistance.

Ambassador Lee delivered a deeply resonant statement reaffirming the Republic of Korea's steadfast commiment to ASEAN's vision of a people centred, inclusive, and resilient community. He emphasised that the Republic of Korea's support for the Enhance Victim Assitance Programme through the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) is grounde d in shared values of solidarity, dignity, and leaving no one behind. The ROK –ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, he noted, provides a powerful framework for transforming these values into concrete actions that directly improve the lives of individuals and communities.



H.E. Lee Jang-Keun (Virtual Address),
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN

Ambassador Lee commended the project for translating regional cooperation into tangible results — strengthening national systems, equipping service providers, creating the Regional Victim Assistance Network, and amplifying survivor voices across borders. He highlighted that the lessons learned, institutional linkages formed, and innovations piloted through this programme now serve as a solid foundation for deeper, long-term engagement. Importantly, he expressed the Republic of Korea's openness to exploring future collaboration with ASEAN and ARMAC, not only in victim assistance but also in broader humanitarian mine action efforts.

By linking the project's outcomes to the broader strategic relationship between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Lee's remarks reinforced the understanding that the achievements of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme are both a humanitarian success and a model for sustained, multi-sectoral cooperation.

Together, these perspectives underscored a shared message: the conclusion of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme marks not an ending, but the beginning of a new phase of regional solidarity, innovation, and survivor-focused action in ASEAN.



4.3. Launch and Handover of Publications

The ceremony culminated in a symbolic and highly visual moment that underscored the spirit of unity, collaboration, and shared ownership built over the four years of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme.



ASEAN Flag Procession — A ceremonial flag procession featured 13 flags representing the 10 ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN flag, the Dialogue Partner (Republic of Korea), and ARMAC. The procession symbolised regional solidarity and served as a formal prelude to the milestone handover of the project's flagship knowledge products.



Official Launch — The launch was officiated jointly by Mr. Kim Hyun-soo, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Cambodia; H.E. Shaharuddin bin Onn, Chair of the ARMAC Steering Committee; and Ms. Rothna Buth, Executive Director of ARMAC. This joint officiation reflected the essence of the programme — a regional endeavour powered by shared vision and collective effort.



Symbolic Handover to EO-Affected Member States — Comprehensive publication sets were handed to the five ASEAN Member States most affected by explosive ordnance: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These sets included national victim assistance profiles, regional guidelines, needs assessments, research reports, and training toolkits — each a tangible output of the programme's work and a resource for continued action.







- **The Kingdom of Cambodia:** H.E. Yeap Samnang, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA.IC), represented the Kingdom of Cambodia to receive the respective publications.
- **The Lao People's Democratic Republic**: received by. Ounavong Soukinda, Second Secretary/ As Alternate/on behalf of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Kingdom of Cambodia
- **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar:** received by Mr. Htet Aung, First Secretary/ As Alternate/on behalf of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia
- **The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:** received by Mr. Nguyen Hong Van, Second Secretary of the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Kingdom of Cambodia
- **The Kingdom of Thailand** — due to a scheduling conflict, representatives were unable to attend in person; ARMAC will send the respective publications directly to the relevant institution for formal receipt.



The ceremony concluded with a **group photo** capturing all dignitaries, partners, and representatives, followed by an **exhibition tour** showcasing the publications and project highlights. This segment served not only as a handover of materials but as a symbolic passing of responsibility — from project to practice — ensuring that the knowledge, tools, and networks built through the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme will continue to benefit survivors across the region.

5. PARTICIPANTS

5.1 Total Numbers



A total of 56 participants (including 16 females) attended the Wrap-Up Workshop in person, with an additional 8 participants (including 2 females) joining virtually. The virtual participants included official delegations from Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as other stakeholders from ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, and international partners who were unable to travel.

Attendees represented a broad geographic and sectoral mix, including both explosive ordnance (EO)-affected and non affected ASEAN Member States, alongside regional and global partners. Countries heavily impacted by EO contamination—Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam—shared national experiences, challenges, and lessons learned, while other ASEAN Member States and international actors contributed diverse perspectives on collaboration and survivor-centred approaches.

The workshop brought together a diverse and multi-sectoral audience, including:

- ASEAN Member States (AMS) representatives from *Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand,* and *Viet Nam*;
- Delegates from National Mine Action Authorities and Centers (NMAAs/NMACs), government ministries, and health and social welfare departments;
- Key representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Mission of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to ASEAN and ASEAN-Korea Program Management Team, and related ROK partner institutions;
- Technical experts, implementing partners, and civil society organisations working on explosive ordnance (EO), disability inclusion, psychosocial care, and victim assistance;
- Observers and stakeholders from non-AMS countries, including *Cyprus* and *Switzerland*.

The cross-cutting presence of humanitarian actors, regional institutions, and survivor-led initiatives made the event a truly inclusive platform for collaboration, reflection, and forward planning.

5.2 Stakeholder Groups

The participants represented a wide range of stakeholder groups, reflecting the multi-sectoral and inclusive approach to strengthening victim assistance in the ASEAN region. These included:

- **Representatives from ROK Mission to ASEAN and the diplomatic community**
- **Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat**
- **Representatives from the ASEAN-Korea Program Management Team (AKPMT)**
- **Government ministries and agencies from ASEAN Member States are responsible for victim assistance, social welfare, health, and disability affairs**
- **National Mine Action Authorities (NMAAs) and National Mine Action Centres (NMACs) from explosive ordnance (EO)- affected ASEAN countries**
- **Representatives from project partners: SingHealth, Peace Sharing Association, NGOs, INGOs, and academic institutions**
- **United Nations agencies involved in humanitarian mine action, development, and disability inclusion**
- **Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), explosive ordnance survivors, caregivers, community representatives and civil society organizations (CSOs).**
- **Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) operators support victim assistance and field implementation across the region.**
- **Psychosocial training participants and trainees from previous programme activities.**
- **Media representatives, youth volunteers, and civil society actors.**

6. PANEL DIALOGUE DISCUSSIONS



6.1. Panel Dialogue Session 1- Project Impact and Collaboration and Reflection on Victim Assistance for EO Survivors

After the opening ceremony, the workshop transitioned into the first plenary session, which focused on national experiences, lessons learned, and best practices in victim assistance for explosive ordnance (EO) survivors. This session provided a platform for the ASEAN Member States (AMS) most affected by EO contamination to share their achievements under the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme, reflect on persistent challenges, and identify opportunities for continued regional collaboration.

The discussion emphasised the **central role of regional cooperation through ARMAC** and the support of the **ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF)** in catalysing progress, building capacity, and strengthening survivor-centred approaches across the region.

Moderated by H.E. Dr. Santo Darmosumarto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the session brought together national representatives from five explosive ordnance–affected ASEAN Member States: **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Thailand**. Each country provided a detailed account of their progress, lessons learned, and future priorities in advancing victim assistance, with a common thread of survivor-centred and inclusive approaches strengthened by regional cooperation.

The discussion underscored a shared commitment to a survivor-centred, inclusive, and coordinated approach, with each country highlighting national progress, gaps, and priorities for sustaining momentum beyond the project's lifespan.

CAMBODIA - H.E. Mr. Mao Bunnhath, Advisor and Director of Victim Assistance Department, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)



H.E. Mr. Mao Bunhath
Advisor and Director of Victim Assistance Department, Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)

H.E. Mr. Mao Bunnhath outlined Cambodia's significant progress in strengthening its victim assistance framework under the leadership of CMAA. Guided by national and international instruments—including the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan 2025–2029, the National Mine Action Strategy, the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Disability Strategy Plan 2024–2028, and the Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance—Cambodia has integrated mine/ERW survivors into broader disability and development agendas.He highlighted the National Guideline on Victim Assistance, which establishes clear service standards, referral pathways, and stakeholder responsibilities.

Improvements have been seen in access to rehabilitation, mental health care, psychosocial support, socio-economic inclusion, and livelihood opportunities, especially in high-risk provinces. Survivors are now more engaged in local planning processes, enhancing ownership and service quality. Despite persistent challenges in remote and underserved areas, Cambodia continues to expand community-based rehabilitation, strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, promote survivor leadership, and engage in regional cooperation with ASEAN, UNDP, NGOs, and the private sector.

LAO PDR - Mr. Chanmy Keodara, Deputy Head of Planning and Cooperation Unit, National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for UXO/Mine Action Sector

Mr. Chanmy Keodara provided a stark reminder of Lao PDR's legacy as one of the most heavily bombed countries per capita, with UXO contamination across all 17 provinces. Since 1964, over 50,000 people have been injured or killed, and children make up nearly half of recent casualties.



Mr. Chanmy Keodara

Deputy Head of Planning and Cooperation Unit, National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for UXO/Mine Action Sector

The country's victim assistance programme provides medical care, rehabilitation, assistive devices, vocational training, and psychosocial support, coordinated across multiple ministries and supported by international partners. Key initiatives include the Support Medical Fund (emergency medical care and mental health services) and the KOICA UXO Victim Assistance Project (2019–2023), which delivered vocational training, mobility aids, mobile clinics, and livelihood support.

Challenges remain in emergency response, data management, sustainable funding, and reaching remote communities. Lessons learned stress the need for strong national leadership, cross-sectoral coordination, and evidence-based planning.

Lao PDR's priorities include diversifying funding, improving clearance and data systems, and enhancing ASEAN-wide collaboration.

MYANMAR- Mr. Swan Yi Ya, Director, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.



Mr. Swan Yi Ya

Director, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Mr. Swan Yi Ya reflected on Myanmar's efforts to support survivors, including one-time cash assistance to over 900 EO survivors and targeted support for affected families. Various ministries provide vocational training, and there is growing collaboration to expand livelihood opportunities for mine-affected individuals.

Under the VA Project, Myanmar convened the 2022 National Consultative Meeting on the Victim Assistance Network and the 2024 Feasibility Study on rehabilitation and mental health. The study identified critical service gaps—particularly that only 10.8% of survivors have access to prosthetics—and emphasised the need for long-term physical and psychosocial support.

Participation in the Voice of Victims documentary amplified survivor voices and public awareness. Myanmar's lessons learned include the importance of direct survivor engagement, multi-sector collaboration, and data-driven planning. Looking ahead, the country will focus on expanding rehabilitation and psychosocial services, strengthening social protection, and aligning with the Regional Victim Assistance Network guidelines.

VIETNAM - Mr. Dinh Ngoc Vu, Vice Director, Quang Tri Provincial Mine Action Center (QTMAC) – Online.



Mr. Dinh Ngoc Vu

Vice Director, Quang Tri Provincial Mine Action Center (QTMAC) – online

Mr. Dinh Ngoc Vu presented Viet Nam's victim assistance approach, grounded in its commitment to the CRPD and implemented through the National Mine Action Program 504 and the National Action Plan on Disability 2021–2030. Cross-sectoral coordination between Vietnam National Mine Action Center (VNMAC), Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Ministry of Health (MOH), provincial authorities, and INGOs has expanded rehabilitation, prosthetics, livelihoods, and peer support networks in heavily contaminated provinces such as Quảng Trị.

While data systems have improved through IMSMA, challenges remain in mental health services, community-based rehabilitation, and survivor participation in planning. Viet Nam supports formalizing the ASEAN Victim Assistance Network and strengthening regional exchanges. Recommendations include expanding survivor-centred services, improving data systems, empowering survivor-led networks, and aligning more closely with CRPD principles to ensure inclusive development.

THAILAND - Ms. Nantanoot Suwannawut, Director of International Cooperation Section, and Ms. Prim Kaewpradub, Foreign Relations Officer, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) — Online.

The Thai delegation shared their comprehensive, rights-based framework for victim assistance, embedded in national policies such as the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities and the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act.



Ms. Nantanoot Suwannawut - *Director of International Cooperation Section*

Ms. Prim Kaewpradub - *Foreign Relations Officer, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEP) – online*

Legal provisions guarantee **free medical care, assistive devices, inclusive education, vocational training**, and employment quotas. Inter-ministerial coordination—linking the Ministries of Defence, Public Health, and Social Development with TMAC, National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM), and Sirindhorn Institute—ensures a seamless continuum of care from emergency response to long-term rehabilitation.

Innovations include **One-Stop Service Centers**, the **One Data Project** integrating 15 ministries, and the **Disability Fund** supporting grassroots initiatives. Thailand is committed to sharing expertise, offering technical support, and engaging in regional collaboration to advance inclusive, survivor-centred development.

Closing Reflections

Across all five countries, the session underscored a shared vision for survivor-centred, inclusive, and collaborative victim assistance in ASEAN. While each nation faces unique challenges, common priorities emerged: strengthening policy frameworks, expanding rehabilitation and mental health services, improving data systems, empowering survivors, and deepening regional cooperation through platforms such as the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) and the Victim Assistance Network (VAN).

The dialogue further demonstrated the value of peer learning and mutual support among ASEAN Member States, showing that regional solidarity — backed by national ownership and donor support from the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund — remains central to ensuring that no survivor is left behind.

6.2. Panel Dialogue Discussion 2 - Survivor Voices & Sustainable Partnerships.

Following the country-led reflections in **Session 1**, the workshop moved into its second panel discussion, this time moderated by **Ms. Denise Coghlan**, Advisor to the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions. With decades of humanitarian mine action and advocacy experience, Ms. Coghlan guided the conversation towards the lived experiences of survivors and the critical role of non-government stakeholders in sustaining victim assistance.

The session featured deeply personal survivor testimonies, as well as insights from the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), illustrating how legal frameworks, innovative service models, and multi-stakeholder partnerships can advance resilience and inclusion. The dialogue underscored that effective victim assistance requires survivor leadership, strong community engagement, and durable cross-border cooperation.

Survivor Testimonies



In 2004, while working in Battambang, 42-year-old Ven Voeun's life was forever altered when she stepped on a landmine. The explosion claimed her leg in an instant, leaving not only deep physical wounds but also invisible scars. In the months and years that followed, she battled waves of pain, isolation, and stigma—even within her own family. She spoke of the unbearable loneliness that came from being treated as a burden, of the nights she lay awake wondering if life would ever hold meaning again.

Through the unwavering support of the Disability Development Services Programme (DDSP) and other compassionate organisations, Voeun slowly began to rebuild—not just her livelihood, but her sense of self-worth.Today, she runs a small family business and raises livestock alongside her husband. Standing before the audience, she expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to share her journey, calling on ASEAN countries to ensure that no person with disabilities is left behind, and to commit to creating jobs, providing skills training, and clearing the land of hidden dangers that continue to steal futures.



For Prom Saroum, a 63-year-old former soldier, the year 1984 is etched into his memory. During a military operation, a landmine tore away his leg and, with it, the life he once knew. The physical pain was intense, but it was the crushing weight of hopelessness and rejection that nearly broke him. Faced with economic hardship, he made the difficult decision to work in Thailand, saving every possible cent to rebuild a life worth living.

Years later, his path crossed with Voeun's, and together they found strength in shared understanding. Today, as husband and wife, they run their business and care for their livestock, transforming pain into purpose.

Saroum's voice carried a firm plea: for continued employment opportunities, financial support, vocational training, and faster mine clearance—so that future generations will be free from the suffering that shaped his life.

Regional Contributions



Republic of Korea – Prof. Jai Kook Cho,
Peace Sharing Association

Prof. Cho shared lessons from the ROK's unique legal framework for mine victim compensation, developed through a Special Act enacted over seven years of advocacy. This law has provided survivors with financial compensation averaging USD 36,240 each, covering medical expenses and income loss, and has served as a precedent for government accountability. He highlighted two critical insights:

1. **Legal and policy frameworks** can affirm both state responsibility and the power of civil society partnerships.
2. **Community-based care** is essential, as survivors in ASEAN often benefit from strong community empathy and support systems.

Prof. Cho recommended strengthening **peer networks**, improving **prosthetic quality** (e.g., endo-skeletal devices), and fostering direct partnerships between Korean and ASEAN survivors to advance sustainable victim assistance and mutual support.



UNDP – Ms. Marie Odile,
Programme Specialist

UNDP outlined its long-running Clearing for Results project in Cambodia, co-implemented with CMAA and expanded with KOICA funding to include a stronger victim assistance component. Key interventions include:

- **Emergency response:** First aid training for remote communities and strengthening the referral chain to trauma care services.
- **Trauma care partnerships :** Collaboration with hospitals and provincial health facilities to improve acute care for survivors.
- **Physical rehabilitation and outreach:** Support to rehabilitation centres, mobile teams delivering prosthetics and physiotherapy, and outreach to remote areas.
- **Pain management through mirror therapy:** An innovative approach to alleviating phantom limb pain among amputees.
- **Socio-economic reintegration:** Small business grants and vocational training to help survivors achieve financial independence.

The programme has contributed to reduced casualties and improved access to health, rehabilitation, and livelihoods. However, challenges remain in **ensuring sustainable funding, strengthening coordination among service providers**, and **integrating victim assistance with broader national social protection systems**. UNDP's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ARMAC aims to bolster regional cooperation and knowledge sharing.



Closing Reflections

The session reaffirmed that **survivor voices must remain central** to policy and programme design. Personal testimonies illustrated the resilience and leadership of survivors, while organisational contributions demonstrated how legal innovation, service integration, and multi-stakeholder partnerships can sustain progress.

Key takeaways included:

- Inclusion of survivors in **decision-making and advocacy** ensures more relevant interventions.
- **Sustainable partnerships** between survivors, communities, civil society, and governments are critical for long-term success.
- Continued investment in mine **clearance, legal protections, accessible services,** and **regional peer support networks** is vital to ensure no survivor is left behind.

The dialogue closed with a shared commitment to make the ASEAN Victim Assistance Network (VAN) a lasting platform for regional solidarity, knowledge exchange, and survivor-led progress.

7. FROM TRAUMA TO TRUST: DEMONSTRATING PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE IN VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Following the deeply moving survivor testimonies in Session 2, where Ven Voeun and Prom Saroum shared how the scars of explosive ordnance extend far beyond the moment of injury, this session brought those truths into focus through action. If Session 2 gave voice to the survivors' lived realities, Session 7 showed what can be done to meet those realities with compassion, skill, and hope.

Moderated by **Dr. Boon**, Senior Principal Psychologist from SingHealth, the session demonstrated one of the most significant achievements of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme: building the capacity of frontline responders to deliver trauma-informed, survivor-centred care.

The live role-play was drawn from an actual case study in the recent Psychosocial Support Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop—an initiative supported by the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund and implemented by ARMAC in partnership with SingHealth.



Dr. Boon,
Senior Principal Psychologist from SingHealth

7.1. The Scenario

Inside a rehabilitation centre in Battambang, Mr. Aun, a 48-year-old former soldier who had lost his leg to a landmine, sat quietly in his wheelchair. His posture carried the weight of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—nightmares, flashbacks, and the heavy sense that life had lost its meaning.

A trained psychosocial responder, Dara, entered the scene with calm and empathy. Using skills learned in the ToT programme, Dara introduced himself, maintained open and respectful body language, and began to listen—not just to words, but to silences, gestures, and the pain behind them. Through gentle questioning, he acknowledged Mr. Aun's distress and gave space for his emotions to surface.

7.2. The Turning Point

When Mr. Aun voiced his despair, Dara responded with a steady, heartfelt assurance:

"Mr. Aun, your life is precious, and we will walk this journey with you."

This was more than a comforting phrase—it was a promise of solidarity, a lifeline reminding him that recovery is not a path walked alone. Dara closed with gratitude:

"Thank you for speaking with me today. I know it wasn't easy."



7.3. Learning in Action

Dr. Boon then guided participants through the key elements of the demonstration:

- **Trust-building** – starting with respectful introductions and role clarity
- **Active listening (SOLER)** – maintaining open posture, leaning forward, and attentive eye contact
- **Empathy and validation** – recognising and affirming the survivor's emotions
- **Needs identification** – assessing for PTSD, depression, or suicidal thoughts
- **Calm presence** – using voice and pace to create safety
- **Closing with hope** – ending on affirming, actionable words that leave the survivor stronger than before

7.4. Why This Matters

This session was not just a training exercise—it was a living example of the project's vision in action. It showed how the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme has gone beyond frameworks and policies to build the human capacity needed to make survivor-centred care a reality.

It also bridged the human stories from Session 2 with the technical achievements of the programme: survivor voices fuel the urgency, and trained responders deliver the change. Together, they form a cycle of listening, learning, and acting—a cycle that will continue to grow through the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) and future cooperation.

In the words of one participant observing the session:

"This is how we turn empathy into action—by giving survivors not just care, but dignity, trust, and hope for the future."

8. THE VAN DIGITAL PLATFORM BRIEF VIDEO SHOWCASE



Following the powerful demonstration of psychosocial care, the workshop shifted from the human touch to the digital backbone that will help sustain and scale such support—the official launch of the **ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) Digital Platform.**

Presented virtually by ARMAC, this platform represents a major milestone for the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme and for ASEAN as a whole. For the first time, victim assistance efforts across the region will be connected through a single, integrated system—turning data into actionable solutions and linking survivors to the services they need.

Built on **three strategic pillars:**

1. **Dynamic Dashboards** – Offering real-time visualisations of progress in mine action, victim assistance, and inclusive development.
2. **Intelligent Analytical Tools** – Allowing policymakers to identify gaps, allocate resources effectively, and measure impact with precision.
3. **A Regional Knowledge Hub** – Housing structured documentation from all ASEAN Member States, enabling knowledge exchange, replication of good practices, and fostering a sense of regional solidarity.

The VAN platform is more than a database—it is a living infrastructure for action. Its interactive dashboards highlight achievements such as land clearance, survivor support programmes, and risk education, while also identifying areas where needs remain unmet.

Why It Matters

This is **ASEAN's first digital infrastructure dedicated solely to victim assistance** — a product of years of collaboration, technical innovation, and shared commitment to a survivor-centred approach. It embodies the spirit of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme: combining compassion with capacity, and turning commitment into tangible tools for change.

As ARMAC moves toward **Phase 2**, the VAN platform stands ready to become the engine of deeper cooperation, broader impact, and a region where survivors are supported not just in moments of crisis, but throughout their journey toward recovery and inclusion. It is a bridge between the stories we heard in Session 2, the care we witnessed in Session 7, and the sustained, coordinated action needed for a mine-free and inclusive future.

9. GLOBAL NORMS VIRTUAL SESSION (APMBC)



Presenter: Juan Carlos Ruan, Director of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU),
for the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)

Building on the momentum of Session 8, which celebrated the launch of the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) digital platform as a groundbreaking regional tool, Session 9 shifted the focus to how ASEAN's survivor-centered efforts align with — and contribute to — global norms. This virtual session offered a bridge between regional progress and international frameworks, underscoring the mutual reinforcement between ASEAN-led initiatives and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan delivered a comprehensive overview of the Convention's core provisions and its pioneering role as the first humanitarian disarmament treaty to integrate victim assistance into its obligations. He outlined the three central aims:

- Destroying all stockpiled mines.
- Clearing all mined areas.
- Supporting and reintegrating mine victims into society.

Victim assistance, he emphasized, is anchored in **Article 6** on international cooperation and assistance. Over nearly three decades, States Parties have developed a shared understanding of its pillars:

- **Data collection** for accurate planning.
- **Emergency and continuing care** to improve survival rates.
- **Physical rehabilitation and access** to assistive technology.
- **Psychological and psychosocial support** to address trauma and promote resilience.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion** to restore livelihoods.
- **Supportive laws and policies** to institutionalize services.

Mr. Ruan stressed the importance of a **non-discriminatory, human-rights-based, and gender and diversity-sensitive** approach, implemented through **national ownership** and integrated into broader frameworks for health, education, and disability rights. He pointed to strong synergies with the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD),** to which all ASEAN Member States are parties, as a powerful tool to advance victim assistance beyond the mine action sector.

A major highlight was the recently adopted **Siem Reap Action Plan (2025–2029)** — a roadmap for States Parties and non-Parties alike. Its priorities include:

- Strengthening interministerial and multisectoral coordination.
- Developing measurable and inclusive national disability action plans with survivor participation.
- Enhancing centralized, disaggregated data systems.
- Expanding access to emergency care, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support.
- Promoting social and economic inclusion, safety, and accessibility.

He acknowledged ongoing challenges such as coordination gaps and limited funding, but stressed that **"if there is a will, there is a way,"** noting that lessons from nearly 30 years of implementation can guide solutions. He encouraged ASEAN Member States — both Parties and non-Parties — to:

- Join **Victim Assistance Experts' Meetings** held alongside the annual Meeting of States Parties
- next scheduled for 1–5 December 2025 in Japan
- Submit **voluntary reports** to the APMBC to share achievements and needs.
- Explore **regional and cross-regional cooperation** to amplify impact.

Mr. Ruan concluded by affirming that ASEAN's initiatives, such as the VAN digital platform, not only reflect the spirit of the APMBC but also inspire the global community, offering models for precision, sustainability, and survivor leadership in victim assistance.

10. ARMAC ROADMAP 2026+



Presenter: Ms. Chanthana Sengthong, Project Manager,
ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)

Taking the momentum of the VA Project's achievements into the future, **Ms. Chanthana Sengthong** presented ARMAC's strategic vision beyond 2026, framing it as **"A Journey of Hope: From Survivors to Thrivers."** She reminded participants that since 2016, ARMAC has evolved from an ambitious idea into a recognized regional center of excellence — building networks, training professionals, amplifying survivor voices, and embedding victim assistance into ASEAN's humanitarian agenda.

Her presentation stressed that the story is not finished. Despite notable progress, explosive ordnance accidents still occur across the region, creating new survivors who require decades of support. The gains from **Phase I** — such as the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN), trained service providers, and policy frameworks — are fragile without institutionalization. Ms. Chanthana called for transforming these project-based results into permanent ASEAN-led systems that will endure for generations.

The vision for 2026–2030 is clear:

- **Institutionalizing the VAN** with rotating ASEAN leadership and ARMAC as coordinator.
- **Integrating victim assistance into national systems,** including disability and development plans, ensuring survivor support is mainstreamed and budgeted.
- **Empowering survivor voices** by placing them in advisory and decision-making roles, expanding peer networks, and developing regional survivor protection guidelines by 2027.
- **Strengthening national capacity** through integration of VA training into universities and professional curricula, robust referral systems, and improved resource mobilization.
- **Leveraging the VAN digital platform** for real-time data sharing, joint projects, and evidence-based policymaking.

The roadmap's milestones are ambitious yet achievable:

- **2025 (Launch Phase):** VAN digital platform live; first formal ASEAN VAN meeting; regional VA guidelines issued; national needs assessments updated.

- **2026–2027 (Expansion Phase):** ASEAN adopts Regional VA Roadmap; regular technical workshops; cross-border projects; resource mobilization training.
- **2028+ (Institutionalization Phase):** VAN operates independently with biannual meetings; regional data system fully functional; VA embedded in all national policies; survivor protection policy adopted region-wide.

Ms. Chanthana concluded with a call to action for ASEAN leaders, donors, and partners to commit to collective action, reaffirming the 2030 vision of "No Victim Left Behind"—where survivors are not only supported but fully integrated into society as empowered, contributing citizens.

11. CLOSING CEREMONY



As the day's programme drew to a close, participants reflected on an extraordinary journey—from hearing the voices of survivors and exploring sustainable partnerships, to witnessing live demonstrations of psychosocial care, launching the VAN digital platform, and engaging in global and regional dialogues on victim assistance. Each session built on the last, weaving together stories of resilience, innovation, and collaboration into a powerful collective vision. It was a day that not only celebrated the achievements of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme, but also reaffirmed the shared commitment of ASEAN, its partners, and its people to a future where every survivor is supported, included, and empowered.



Mr. Wonjip Kim, First Secretary,
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Cambodia

Closing Remarks:

Marking the close of the "Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States", **Mr. Wonjip Kim** reaffirmed the Republic of Korea's unwavering commitment to victim assistance efforts in ASEAN, delivered through the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF). He reflected on the four-year journey—supported by over USD 2 million—not as a mere technical cooperation project, but as a deeply human mission to address one of the most enduring humanitarian consequences of conflict.

Mr. Kim highlighted the programme's key achievements:

- **National consultations and studies** in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- **Comprehensive country profiles** and **regional victim assistance guidelines** to strengthen policy and practice.
- The **Voice of Victim documentary**, a poignant reminder that behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a future.

He paid tribute to the leadership of ARMAC, the vital support of the Government of Cambodia as ARMAC's host, and the technical expertise of SingHealth, whose psychosocial support training ensured that the programme addressed not only physical needs but also emotional healing.

Looking ahead, Mr. Kim confirmed that discussions are already underway for **Phase II**, underscoring that sustained partnerships, survivor-centred approaches, and regional solidarity remain crucial to achieving a future where every survivor is seen, supported, and empowered.

He closed with a message of gratitude to governments, experts, partner organizations, and—most of all—the survivors, whose courage and resilience give true meaning to this work:

"Through solidarity and partnership, we can change lives. Let's carry that spirit forward — together."

12. CONCLUSION

The wrap-up of the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme was marked by both symbolism and substance, reflecting a unified regional commitment to a survivor-centred future.

A Symbol of Unity and Partnership

A ceremonial ASEAN flag procession — featuring 13 flags representing the 10 ASEAN Member States, ARMAC, ASEAN Secretariat, and the Republic of Korea — opened the closing segment, setting the tone for reflection and solidarity. Immediately following the procession, the official closing was jointly officiated by Mr. Kim Hyun-soo, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Cambodia, together with ARMAC leadership. This powerful sequence underscored the unity and partnership that have driven the programme's success over four transformative years.

Handover of Regional Publications

In a symbolic act of knowledge-sharing, ARMAC formally handed over the newly launched regional victim assistance publications to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, with Thailand to receive its set at a later date due to scheduling. These publications represent not only technical outputs but also a collective regional voice advocating for survivor inclusion, policy innovation, and capacity building.

Commitment from Affected Member States

Representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam reaffirmed their dedication to advancing survivor-centred assistance, strengthening policy frameworks, and deepening cross-border collaboration. Their pledges came despite the recognition of persistent challenges—highlighting the resilience and determination that define this shared mission.

Survivor Inclusion and Psychosocial Care

The day's earlier psychosocial role-play demonstration vividly illustrated the human heart of victim assistance. Portraying the journey of a trauma survivor, trained responders showcased the principles of active listening, empathy, and reassurance—ending with affirming words that restored dignity and offered hope. This moment encapsulated the programme's essence: that healing is as much emotional as it is physical.

Innovation through the VAN Digital Platform

The launch of the ASEAN Regional Victim Assistance Network (VAN) digital platform signaled a new era in regional coordination. Anchored in dynamic dashboards, knowledge-sharing, and policy tools, the platform transforms data into action, enabling evidence-based decision-making and more effective survivor-centred programming across ASEAN.

Global Alignment and International Solidarity

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention reinforced the global context by presenting the newly adopted **Siem Reap Action Plan (2025–2029).** This plan calls for inclusive, rights-based victim assistance, stronger coordination, and the integration of services into broader social and disability frameworks—goals that resonate deeply with ASEAN's direction.

A Roadmap for the Future

Finally, ARMAC unveiled its **post-2026 strategic vision,** committing to institutionalising VAN, embedding victim assistance into national systems, amplifying survivor voices, and expanding regional cooperation. The target is clear: by 2030, ensure that all ASEAN Member States have inclusive, sustainable, and survivor-led victim assistance embedded in their development agendas

Unwavering Support from the Republic of Korea and ASEAN Leadership

This journey would not have been possible without the steadfast partnership and generosity of the Republic of Korea, through the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund, which invested more than USD 2 million in this initiative. **H.E. Ambassador Lee Jang-keun,** during the programme's course, consistently championed the cause of victim assistance as a humanitarian priority, emphasising that true peace is measured by how we care for the most vulnerable. Likewise, **H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn,** Secretary-General of ASEAN, has been a strong advocate for strengthening ARMAC's role as a regional hub for cooperation, recognising that this project is a model for ASEAN's unity, inclusivity, and action-oriented spirit.

The conclusion of this event was not an end, but a passage into a new chapter—one defined by sustained partnerships, unwavering commitment, and the shared belief that no survivor should be left behind.

ANNEX X: MEDIA COVERAGE

The Enhance Victim Assistance Programme Wrap-Up Workshop attracted significant national and regional media attention, helping amplify its messages on survivor inclusion, ASEAN solidarity, and long-term partnerships for victim assistance. Coverage spanned print, television, radio, and online platforms, reaching diverse audiences across Cambodia, ASEAN, and beyond.

I. National & Regional News

1. Khmer Times – ASEAN-Korea Wrap-Up Landmark Programme Empowering Landmine Victims Across Region



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KHMER TIMES

National | Business | ជេរធេតាសា | 中文新闻 | Khmer Times TV | Editorial | Opinion | Property | Sport

National July 24, 2025

ASEAN, Korea Wrap Up Landmark Programme Empowering Landmine Victims Across Region

Khmer Times

WRAP-UP WORKSHOP

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The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) and the Republic of Korea celebrated the conclusion of a four-year regional initiative aimed at enhancing victim assistance for landmine survivors across five ASEAN countries.

The Wrap-Up Event for the "Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States" was held in Phnom Penh.

Funded by a generous $2 million grant from the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), the programme supported Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam in strengthening their national victim assistance services. Singapore also played a vital role, contributing technical expertise through SingHealth in the field of psychosocial and mental health care.

Supported by: AKCF ARMAC

"This programme was never just about policies or systems—it was about people. Survivors, families, and communities who live with the legacy of conflict. With resilience and dignity, they have shaped this journey, and ARMAC is proud to have walked alongside them, together with our committed partners from across ASEAN and the Republic of Korea," said ARMAC Executive Director Rothna Buth in her opening remarks.

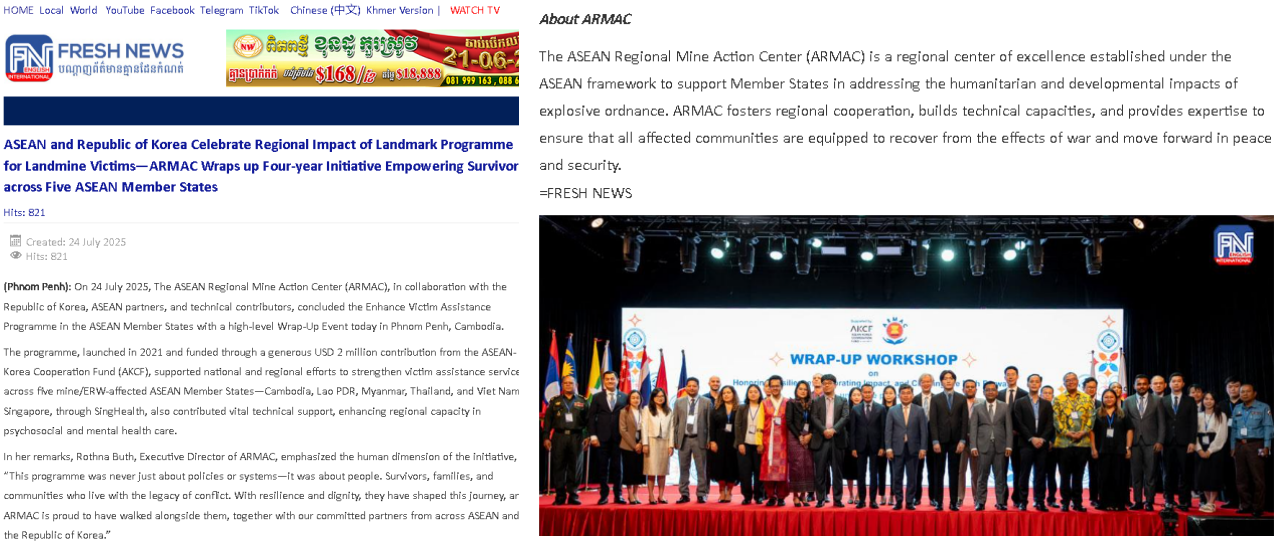
Another highlight of the event was the premiere of Voice of Victim, a documentary showcasing personal testimonies from survivors across the region.

WRAP-UP WORKSHOP

"This programme exemplifies the true spirit of partnership between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea. The impact is not only measured in statistics or reports, but in the individual stories of resilience and renewed hope—as captured in the documentary Voice of Victim," said Lee Jang-keun, South Korean Ambassador to ASEAN. "Korea firmly believes that investing in programmes like this is an investment in peace, stability, and fundamental human dignity.

https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501723709/asean-korea-wrap-up-landmark-programme-empowering-landmine-victims-across-region/

2. FNA Asia – ASEAN-Korea Wrap-Up Landmark Programme Empowering Landmine Victims Across Region http://en.fna.asia/c2a26



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FRESH NEWS

ASEAN and Republic of Korea Celebrate Regional Impact of Landmark Programme for Landmine Victims—ARMAC Wraps up Four-year Initiative Empowering Survivor across Five ASEAN Member States

Hits: 821

Created: 24 July 2025
Hits: 821

(Phnom Penh): On 24 July 2025, The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), in collaboration with the Republic of Korea, ASEAN partners, and technical contributors, concluded the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in the ASEAN Member States with a high-level Wrap-Up Event today in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The programme, launched in 2021 and funded through a generous USD 2 million contribution from the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), supported national and regional efforts to strengthen victim assistance service across five mine/ERW-affected ASEAN Member States—Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam Singapore, through SingHealth, also contributed vital technical support, enhancing regional capacity in psychosocial and mental health care.

In her remarks, Rothna Buth, Executive Director of ARMAC, emphasized the human dimension of the initiative, "This programme was never just about policies or systems—it was about people. Survivors, families, and communities who live with the legacy of conflict. With resilience and dignity, they have shaped this journey, ar ARMAC is proud to have walked alongside them, together with our committed partners from across ASEAN and the Republic of Korea."

About ARMAC

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) is a regional center of excellence established under the ASEAN framework to support Member States in addressing the humanitarian and developmental impacts of explosive ordnance. ARMAC fosters regional cooperation, builds technical capacities, and provides expertise to ensure that all affected communities are equipped to recover from the effects of war and move forward in peace and security.

=FRESH NEWS

WRAP-UP WORKSHOP

II. Television & Broadcast Media

1. TVK – National Television of Cambodia – Prime-time news coverage highlighting the event's opening ceremony, survivor testimonies, and the VAN Digital Platform launch.



2. BTV Cambodia – News coverage featuring keynote speeches, psychosocial role-play demonstration, and key messages from ARMAC and partners.
https://www.btv.com.kh/article/80944



BTV NEWS

ទំព័រដើម ព័ត៌មានសំខាន់ៗ ព័ត៌មានជាតិ ព័ត៌មានអន្តរជាតិ ព័ត៌មានកីឡា ព័ត៌មានវប្បធម៌

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសកម្មភាពកំចាត់មីនក្នុងតំបន់អាស៊ាន និងសាធារណរដ្ឋកូរ៉ៃ ប្រជុំគ្នាពីផលប៉ះពាល់ក្នុងតំបន់នៃកម្មវិធី LANDMARK សម្រាប់ជនរងគ្រោះដោយសារមីន

2025/07/24 02:59:37 pm 445

មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសកម្មភាពកំចាត់មីនក្នុងតំបន់អាស៊ាន អាមម៉ាក់ (ARMAC) សហការជាមួយសាធារណរដ្ឋកូរ៉ៃ នៃទុនអាស៊ាន បានបើកកិច្ចប្រជុំជាមួយនិងអ្នកផ្តល់ជំនួយបច្ចេកទេស នៃលទ្ធផលបញ្ចប់កម្មវិធីលើកទម្ងន់ជំនួយជនរងគ្រោះដោយសារមីន ក្នុងវគ្គសិក្ខាអាស៊ាន នៅរសៀលថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែកក្កដា ឆ្នាំ ២០២៥ នេះស្ថិតនៅ SUN & MOON, Riverside Hotel ក្នុងរាជធានីភ្នំពេញ។

ជាមួយគ្នានេះដែរ ឯកឧត្តម ង្គឹម សុវណ្ណារ៉ា ដែលជាប្រធានបច្ចុប្បន្ននៃអាមម៉ាក់(ARMAC) និងអាស៊ាន បានសង្កត់ធ្ងន់ថា គំនិតផ្តួចផ្តើមនេះឆ្លុះបញ្ចាំងពីកិច្ចសហប្រតិបត្តិការក្នុងតំបន់ប្រកបដោយប្រសិទ្ធភាព និងតម្លៃរួមដែលចាក់ឫសនៅក្នុងតម្លៃអាស៊ាននៃសន្តិភាព សន្តិសុខ និងការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយចីរភាព ។

សូមបញ្ជាក់ថា កម្មវិធីនេះបានចាប់ផ្តើមនៅឆ្នាំ២០២១ ក្នុងនាម និងផ្តល់មូលនិធិតាមរយៈការរួមចំណែកដ៏សប្បុរសចំនួន ២លានដុល្លារពីមូលនិធិសហប្រតិបត្តិការអាស៊ាន-កូរ៉ៃ (AKCF) បានគាំទ្រដល់កិច្ចខិតខំប្រឹង ប្រែងថ្នាក់ជាតិ និងតំបន់ក្នុងការពង្រឹងសេវាជំនួយជន រងគ្រោះនៅទូទាំងតួសមាជិកអាស៊ានចំនួនប្រាំដែលរងផលប៉ះពាល់ដោយសារមីន/ERW-មានដូចជា កម្ពុជា ឡាវ មីយ៉ាន់ម៉ា ថៃ និងវៀតណាម។ ជាមួយគ្នានេះដែរ តាមរយៈ SingHealth ក៏បានចុះហត្ថលេខាលើកិច្ចព្រមព្រៀងសហប្រតិបត្តិការបច្ចេកទេសដ៏សំខាន់មួយផងដែរ។ អត្ថបទ/ការឡូ



3. Bayon Radio & Television – Broadcast and online coverage focusing on the project's outcomes and donor commitment.

Facebook Video Share



[WATCH] អាស៊ាននិងកូរ៉ៃ ប្រជុំគ្នាពីផលប៉ះពាល់ក្នុងតំបន់នៃកម្មវិធី LANDMARK សម្រាប់ជនរងគ្រោះដោយសារមីន







III. Social Media Highlights

1. **ARMAC Facebook Page –** Real-time updates, photos, and videos capturing the flag procession, survivor testimonies, and digital platform launch.

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19F73NmBV2/?mibextid=wwXIfr

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center
Jul 24 ·

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2. Bayon Radio Facebook – Feature segment promoting the workshop's achievements.
Bayon Radio Post



This initiative is implemented by the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), under the Enhance Victim Assistance Programme in ASEAN Member States, with the generous support of the ASEAN–Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF)

ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)

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This document is available in PDF format on the ARMAC website.

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