Concept Paper for an ARF Workshop on
"Raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation on CBRN risk mitigation"

to be presented at the 12th ARF ISM on CTTC
in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, April 15 – 16, 2014
for inclusion in the 2014-2015 ARF CTTC Work Plan

Considering

- the Chair’s Statement of the 18th ARF held in Bali, Indonesia on July 23, 2011 mentioning, under point 42, the inclusion of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) aspects in the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC),

- the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement of 2010 in the areas of Counter Terrorism – Transnational Crime (in particular point 2.5: Support the development of national strategies and legal frameworks in the field of counter terrorism and transnational crimes through such means as information exchange and capacity building.) and 4.10: Exchange experience and promote the development of relevant best practices and with a view to building common approaches in strategic export controls where appropriate.),

- Regulation 1717/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing an Instrument for Stability that outlines in its Article 4 (2) risk mitigation and preparedness relating to CBRN materials or agents as areas in which the EU shall provide technical and financial assistance including, among others, exchange of information,

- the UN Security Council Chair Statement of April 19, 2012 in which the establishment of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative was welcomed,

- the New York-Statement on behalf of the European Union at the United Nations 67th General Assembly Resolution on the Report of the IAEA of November 5, 2012, stating as one objective of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative to step up its outreach and coordination efforts to key partners and international organisations, and
• the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU enhanced Partnership (2013-2017) that promotes cooperation in mitigating risks associated with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials, and facilitate transfer of technology, exchange of expertise and physical or legal requirements, best practices and capacity building through the CBRN Centre of Excellence in South-East Asia in accordance with the respective domestic laws and policies on the matter.

The Republic of the Philippines and the European Union jointly outline the following challenge and propose the following action.

**Challenge:**

Most CBRN incidents involve different line ministries and successful interagency cooperation is the key in prevention, detection, preparedness and response as well as risk mitigation in general. Whereas an appropriate response might already be challenging at national level, it gets even more complex at regional level. At the same time, CBRN threats are transnational and global and there is a need to address them beyond national boundaries.

Prerequisites for an efficient interagency cooperation are stakeholders that are first of all aware of the need to respond within a joint response of different line ministries and agencies. Secondly, the establishment of suitable procedures, the availability of adequate information, trained human resources and appropriate equipment play also a critical role among other factors.

Currently there are many international efforts ongoing but there is a need for a coordinated and more harmonised approach to ensure the optimisation of resources and avoid duplication. The EU CBRN Centre of Excellence (CoE) Risk Mitigation Initiative is one attempt to achieve this objective.

The EU CBRN CoE Initiative is supporting the efforts of the ASEAN Member States in CBRN risk mitigation at regional level, but there is a need to strengthen regional cooperation further and to multiply national efforts. Global and transnational threats raise this issue to the ARF level. The EU CBRN CoE Initiative now includes 10 countries of the region and Manila hosts the secretariat. Since its start, about 40% of the budget allocated to projects under the CoE initiative went to South East Asia. The added value of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative start is the ownership of the results of the activity which remains with the participating countries while at the same time it creates a framework for better coordination within the neighbourhood.

Although the EU CBRN CoE Initiative has already been presented in events under the ARF, a need to raise further awareness, to inform non-members of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative about the latest developments of the initiative in South-East Asia and to exchange views between the EU CBRN CoE Initiative members and non-members is felt.
Proposed action:

Organise a 2-day ARF Workshop on "Raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation on CBRN risk mitigation". This Workshop should provide opportunities for the following:

1. Presenting the EU CBRN CoE Initiative with a special focus on South-East Asia (concept, structure, needs assessment, national action plans, projects);

2. Presentation by the 10 member countries of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative in South-East Asia (at the same time ASEAN member countries) on ongoing developments, expertise and CBRN priorities for future actions, including under this initiative.

3. Presentation by the Non-ASEAN members of the ARF of their ongoing developments, expertise and CBRN priorities for future actions;

4. Match making session: Providing an opportunity for developing possible follow up cooperation actions by mapping out priorities and expertise of the countries.

Proposed participants (aprox. 60):

Representatives from relevant ARF members' institutions, ASEC, the Regional CBRN Centre of Excellence in Manila, relevant guests.

Proposed venue and time:

To be held in Metro Manila, Philippines, in the first semester of 2015.

Contact persons:

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