

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of  
the Third ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security  
Tokyo, Japan, 14-15 February 2011**

**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Hanoi on 23 July 2010, the meeting of the Third ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) was held in Tokyo from 14-15 February 2011. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Djauhari Oratmangun, Director-General for ASEAN Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Mr. Masafumi Ishii, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mr. Anthony Browne, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.
2. All ARF participants except the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Sri Lanka were present. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC), The Singapore C2 Information Fusion Center, and Track II institutions were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

**Opening Session**

3. Mr. Masafumi Ishii, in his remarks welcomed all ARF participants to the meeting. He also underscored the progress of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security. He informed the meeting that thus far only one country has submitted their comments on the draft Work Plan. He encouraged the Meeting to further deliberate on this issue.
4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Anthony Browne, recalled that ARF has come a long way since the first ISM on Maritime Security. He recognized the ARF's commitment to elevate their cooperation towards action oriented steps as noted in the ARF Vision Statement and the Ha Noi Plan of Action to

Implement the ARF Vision Statement. He recalled the discussion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF ISM on Maritime Security which provides the basis for the development of the Work Plan on Maritime Security.

5. In his welcome remarks, Mr. Djauhari Oratmangun recalled the discussion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF ISM on Maritime Security which was held Auckland from 29-30 March 2010. Successful responses to maritime security threats required effective and concerted regional cooperation and collective steps. He underscored that ARF ISM on MS will address maritime security challenges.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

6. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

### **Topic 1: Current Situation of Information Sharing on Maritime Security in the Region**

7. The Meeting took note of views expressed by three representatives of information sharing agencies and maritime security experts. The presentations discussed developments around regional information sharing. The Meeting also examined case studies of existing regional maritime security information sharing and regional collaboration to secure key sea lanes in Southeast Asia through the ReCAAP ISC and the Singapore C2 Information Fusion Center. The Meeting reiterated that information sharing is an essential element in promoting regional maritime security cooperation.
8. The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC. He highlighted the information sharing mechanism of the ReCAAP ISC and the challenges facing the Center. The ReCAAP ISC was established to facilitate information sharing, capacity building and cooperation to tackle piracy and armed robbery at sea. Mr. Endo explained the roles of the focal points network and modality of the information sharing in the ReCAAP ISC. He updated the Meeting on the latest tug boats incidents in 2010 which were returned to their countries of origin as a result of coordination and information sharing conducted through the ReCAAP ISC.

He emphasized the importance of the industry in particular in collaborating with law enforcement agencies and in sharing information with relevant actors. He concluded by outlining the challenges facing the ReCAAP ISC including limited resources, difference on comfort levels among authorities in information sharing, sustainability of efforts, different levels of capacities around ReCAAP focal points and the need for rapid flow of information. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 3.**

9. In his presentation, Dr. Eddy Prasetyono, Vice Dean, Faculty of Political and Social Science of the University of Indonesia, discussed Indonesia's perspectives on current situation of information sharing on maritime security in the region. Dr. Prasetyono acknowledged positive developments in this context, including countries' openness to share information, the constructive role of external powers in providing assistance, strengthening norms of cooperation, national government priorities on maritime issues and increasing resource allocation. Against this background, he underlined that information sharing is essential in promoting maritime security cooperation. However, whether information sharing will lead to the development of an information center in the region or common regional policies on maritime security is subject to further discussion. He probed on the type of information to share among countries taking into account the sensitivities of the issues related to maritime security. Information sharing requires coherent national maritime policies and close cooperation among the national maritime authorities. Further, a regional center for information sharing should be established with a clear mandate and terms of reference on its modality and operations. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 4.**

10. Senior Lieutenant Colonel Chow Ngee Ken, Comprehensive Maritime Awareness Group Commander, of Republic of Singapore Navy presented on the information fusion center as a model for information sharing in the Asia Pacific. He cited the Malacca Strait Patrols conducted by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand as example of regional collaboration. The activities of the Information Fusion Center (IFS) were also highlighted. He concluded that information sharing will enhance common awareness, help countries detect potential threats, strengthen maritime security and bring safe and secure sea for all. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 5.**

11. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of enhancing maritime domain awareness and discussed possible measures to address challenges in information sharing on maritime security. While harmonization of legal frameworks was reiterated as one measure to address maritime security threats, the Meeting also acknowledged that low levels of implementation of legal frameworks has hindered the promotion of maritime security cooperation. One way to facilitate harmonization of legal framework, countries were encouraged to establish a national maritime authority and national policies on maritime security. The Meeting agreed that it was important to develop a culture of information sharing which would help facilitate cooperation.
12. On the issue of type of information to share, some participants reminded the Meeting that some information and data are very sensitive to share and thus should be protected. Nevertheless, such a condition should not impede the political commitment and will of governments to work towards information sharing in maritime affairs.
13. Looking ahead, the Meeting exchanged views on approaches to deepen synergies, ways to strengthen inter-agency cooperation, issues to address to bridge the gaps between countries in view of promoting information sharing. The Meeting noted that training and education to develop technical expertise, joint exercises, exchange of expertise and best practice, financial capacity were among the possible measures to deepen existing cooperation. Identification of common issues on the ground which lead to the development of Standard Operating Procedures and common policies were also proposed to further cooperation in maritime security. The Meeting admitted that there is no common model in conducting information sharing. As such, regional information sharing should be implemented at a pace comfortable to individual countries.
14. At the regional level, the Meeting acknowledged the future potential of the ASEAN Maritime Forum which was initiated by Indonesia in 2010. The ASEAN Maritime Forum was set up to promote better understanding among ASEAN member State on various dimensions of threats to maritime security

in the region and coordinate maritime cooperation under various ASEAN bodies. The Meeting also welcomed the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, which was signed by the Leaders during the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Ha Noi on 27 October 2010. The Meeting also took note of the importance of submission of ARF Annual Security Outlook in which ARF participants share views on regional security situation including maritime security and higher transparency. The Meeting took note that Thailand will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Maritime Forum in August 2011 to promote closer cooperation on maritime-related issues among ASEAN Member States. The Meeting took note of efforts to explore greater synergies between the AMF and the ARF ISM on MS. The Meeting also took note of the website of the CGPCS developed by the Republic of Korea which contains information on counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia as well as intelligence and information sharing. This website will be launched in July 2011.

The meeting was briefed by the Vietnam's delegation on new developments of the work of the Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). In this regard, Vietnam emphasized the importance of the Declaration as a milestone between ASEAN Member States and China, embodying their collective commitment to ensuring the peaceful resolution of disputes in the area. He stressed that the Declaration has been effective in building mutual trust and confidence that will help maintain peace and stability in the region.

## **Topic 2: Maritime Security Issues to be Looked into in the Future**

15. The Meeting took note of presentations by two maritime security experts who identified challenges posed by various factors and actors. Among the new potential threats identified was climate change. The Meeting also noted the existing regional initiatives at both Track I and II to address maritime security issues. The Meeting agreed that more effort is needed to ensure effective implementation of these initiatives in view of achieving their goals.
  
16. Prof. Yoshihiko Yamada from the Marine Technology School of Tokai University presented on Japan anti-piracy initiatives and activities. He

explained that Japan's anti-piracy policy is based on Article 100 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with the Japan Coast Guard as the law enforcement agency to investigate acts of piracy. Japan realized that international cooperation is mandatory to tackle piracy. Japan Coast Guard has been working with maritime security agencies in Asian countries, the World Maritime University and the ReCAAP ISC. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 6.**

17. Dr. Marc Lanteigne, Senior Lecturer/Research Director, New Zealand Contemporary China Research Center of the Victoria University of Wellington highlighted five future challenges in maritime security. He identified incidents at sea, the threat of maritime piracy, maritime terrorism, trade/economic security, and transnational crime as the future challenges. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 7.**

18. Cognizant of the future challenges in maritime security, the meeting reiterated the call for closer collaboration and concrete cooperation through exchange of expertise to develop excellent national capabilities to address maritime security challenges. The Meeting took note of the suggestions to set up an ARF database which contains information on contact points on maritime security and to organize an ARF desk-top exercise in the future. The ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that the ARF Directory of Contact Points on Maritime Security has been developed and is accessible from the ARFNet. The ASEAN Secretariat invited ARF participants to continue updating the Directory through the ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting also noted the suggestion to invite representatives from the shipping industries to future ARF discussions on maritime security.

19. Korea explained to the Meeting its recent operation against pirates in the Arabian Sea, and expressed its appreciation to the governments of the countries that lent support to the effort. Korea stressed the need for the international community to work together to send a clear message to the pirates in line with the principle of universal jurisdiction on piracy acts espoused by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

## **Discussion on the Work Plan**

20. Co-Chairs introduced the draft ARF Work Plan Maritime Security, describing its key features and the main considerations that underpinned it. A number of participants made suggestions for refinements to the text. Following deliberations, the meeting agreed to amend the Work Plan to take account of this discussion.
21. The Meeting agreed on the text of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security and decided to submit it to the consideration by the usual channels of the ARF for eventual consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Meeting. The text agreed by the ISM on Maritime Security appears as **ANNEX 8**.
22. The Meeting welcomed Malaysia's interest to lead priority area no. 2 of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security.

### **Wrap-Up Session**

23. Japan briefed the Meeting on the progress of the collection of questionnaires on the Best Practice on Maritime Enforcement Capacity-Building. Japan informed the Meeting that it will continue to be a focal point for the collection of the questionnaires at least until the 18<sup>th</sup> ARF in July 2011.
24. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and the United States to co-chair the ARF ISM on Maritime Security.

### **Other Matters**

25. The Philippines informed the Meeting that it will co-host with Australia the ARF Seminar on the UNCLOS in Manila on 8-9 March 2011. All ARF participants are invited to attend the Seminar.
26. Indonesia informed the Meeting of the Indonesian call center number on maritime security issues related, which is (62) (21) 500500 and addressed to the Indonesian Maritime Security Coordination Board (IMSCB) or BAKORKAMLA.

## **Closing Session**

27. The Meeting expressed gratitude to the Co-Chairs for their effective leadership and fruitful discussion. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the excellent arrangements and hospitality accorded to all ARF Participants.

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