

## **Co-Chairs' Summary Report**

### **The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes (ISM-CTTC) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 29 - 31 May 2011**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes (ARF ISM-CTTC) was held at the J.W. Marriot Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 29-31 May 2011. The Meeting was Co-Chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Shahizan Abd Samad, Director-General, ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia and H.E. Ambassador Takaaki Kojima, Ambassador in Charge of International Counter Terrorism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, Peoples' Republic of China, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific (CSCAP) were also in attendance. The list of participants appears as **ANNEX A**.

#### **OPENING SESSION**

2. Ambassador Ahmad Shahizan in his opening remarks highlighted the progress that the ARF has achieved since its inception in 1994. He stressed that the adoption of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement in July 2010 is a testimony of the ARF's aspiration to become an action-oriented mechanism that is able to respond to security challenges in the region. He added that while the prospects for continued political stability and economic growth in the region remains positive at present, there remains a number of security challenges that needs to be addressed, including the threat of terrorism and extremism. In an effort to nullify the spread of extremist ideology, the Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak during numerous occasions has called for the establishment of the "Global Movement of the Moderates" to provide a platform for the moderates to voice their call for global peace and harmony.

3. Ambassador Ahmad Shahizan suggested that during the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM-CTTC, ARF participating countries should try to come up with ways to move forward on the implementation of pending activities under the three priority areas of ISM-CTTC, namely illicit drugs, bioterrorism and biosecurity as well as cybersecurity and cyberterrorism. He added that the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM-CTTC should also focus its deliberation on development of the new ARF Work Plan on CTTC in view of the expiry of the previous Work Plan.

4. Ambassador Kojima in his opening remarks highlighted that the ARF ISM-CTTC had transformed into a more action-oriented framework following the adoption of the ARF CTTC Work Plan. In addition, the adoption of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement has complemented the efforts undertaken under the ARF CTTC framework.

5. Ambassador Kojima highlighted that terrorism continues to remain a threat to the region due to the varied and complex methods used by terrorist groups. Furthermore, innovation and technology has led to the emergence of new types of threat. He pointed out that transnational crimes could potentially be one of the major impediments which could hinder and undermine ASEAN's efforts to achieve regional integration.

## **AGENDA 1 & 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA & BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

6. The Meeting considered and adopted the agenda (**ANNEX B**) and took note of the programme of activities of the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM-CTTC (**ANNEX C**).

## **AGENDA 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION**

7. The Meeting took note of the presentations by the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), Australia (**ANNEX D**), Bangladesh (**ANNEX E**), Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia (**ANNEX F**), Canada (**ANNEX G**), China (**ANNEX H**), European Union (**ANNEX I**), Indonesia (**ANNEX J**), Lao PDR, Malaysia (**ANNEX K**), Myanmar (**ANNEX L**), New Zealand (**ANNEX M**), Pakistan (**ANNEX N**), Papua New Guinea (**ANNEX O**), Philippines (**ANNEX P**), Republic of Korea (**ANNEX Q**), Russia, Thailand (**ANNEX R**), and the United States of America (**ANNEX S**) on the current situation pertaining to counter-terrorism and transnational crimes in the region. ARF Participants updated the Meeting on the situation in their respective countries and highlighted their respective policies, cooperations and activities in countering terrorism in the region.

8. A number of ARF participants were of the view that widespread transborder movement of people, transnational organized crimes, organized criminal syndicates and other crimes have contributed to complexities in combating terrorism. There were also views expressed that despite the death of Osama bin Laden, there remains a large number of terrorist networks which continued to threaten the peace and stability of the region. The Meeting noted the changing tactics used by terrorist groups, from big scale to small scale targets, taking the form of small groups acting independently, including the spread of radical ideologies through the use of ICT. The Meeting agreed that the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on counter terrorism, including 1267, 1373, 1624 and 1963 should be fully implemented, and that terrorism should not be associated with a particular ethnicity, nationality or religion. A number of ARF participants stated that due attention should be given to address the root causes of terrorism as well as conditions conducive to terrorism.

9. The Meeting recognised that transnational crimes today are growing and are supported by strong financial linkages. Therefore, there should be ways to track the movement of finances involved in transnational crime by devising appropriate methodology and forging cooperation at both regional and international level.

10. The Meeting acknowledged that transnational organized crimes such as illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, sea piracy, money laundering and cyber crime continue to threaten peace and stability in the region. In eradicating these threats, the Meeting reaffirmed the need to strengthen regional cooperation in countering terrorism and transnational crimes.

11. The Meeting generally agreed with the view that addressing terrorism and transnational crimes would among others require comprehensive and multifaceted strategies which would involve the following:

- Strengthening regional dialogue on counter-terrorism and transnational crimes;
- Enhancing commitment towards counter terrorism capacity building measures;
- Improving collaborative efforts between ARF participating countries;
- Ensuring that counter terrorism measures are undertaken without compromising the sanctity of human rights;
- Deepening cooperation among the relevant law enforcement agencies in countering terrorism within the region;
- Promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace;
- Promoting tolerance amongst diverse communities; and
- Strengthening international cooperation in the fight against piracy.

#### **AGENDA 4: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARF DECISIONS**

##### Review of ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2009-2010

12. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the review of the Work Plan on CTTC 2009-2010, challenges faced in the ARF CTTC framework, as well as recommendations on the way forward. With regard to the priority areas under the Work Plan on CTTC, the Meeting took note that Thailand was the lead country on illicit drugs, the Philippines and the US on bioterrorism and biosecurity; and Russia on cyber security and cyber terrorism. The briefing notes by the ASEAN Secretariat appears as **ANNEX T**.

13. On the challenges faced by the ARF CTTC framework, ASEAN Secretariat highlighted the difficulty in appointing lead countries for some priority areas under the ARF CTTC Work Plan, the insufficient period of time for implementation of activities, as well as the lack of interest among ARF participants in taking up projects under the priority areas.

14. As a way forward, ASEAN Secretariat suggested that ARF should undertake a review of the current priority areas of the ARF CTTC Work Plan. The lead countries under each priority areas should be identified before the ARF CTTC Work

*Final*

Plan is adopted. ARF participants should focus on areas of concern, and that lead countries should play an active role in initiating projects under the respective priority areas.

Review Of The Implementation Of Concrete Projects By Each Priority Area

A. Illicit Drugs

15. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Thailand pertaining to steps that have been undertaken to address the issue of illicit drugs, in line with ASEAN's vision to realize a drug-free ASEAN by 2015. Thailand stressed that illicit drugs have been the main priority of the country and there is a need to focus and enhance efforts to eliminate drug trafficking. Thailand also stressed the need to exchange information and coordination among the ARF participants in tackling this issue.

16. Thailand informed the Meeting that in 2009, the Government of Thailand has solved more than 160,000 cases related to drug trafficking in the country. Thailand underlined the main strategies in preventing drug trafficking which includes the concept of border fence, community fence, social fence, school fence and family fence.

17. Thailand pointed out that as ASEAN endeavors to enhance connectivity in the region, it should take into consideration that the greater movement of people in the region could potentially increase cases of drug trafficking.

18. The Philippines encouraged the ARF to establish mechanisms that will take into account mitigating circumstances uphold basic human rights and ensure adherence to international standards on the treatment of offenders.

B. Bioterrorism and Biosecurity

19. The Meeting took note of the briefing by the Philippines and the United States on activities that have been implemented under the bioterrorism and biosecurity priority area, including the convening of the ARF Bio-Risk Management Workshop in Manila, the Philippines on 28-30 September 2010. The Workshop discussed national and international efforts on biorisk management as well as the ways and means to implement a biorisk management strategy.

20. The Philippines informed the Meeting that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Biorisk Management, proposed to be held this year will focus on the third pillar of biological threat production - detection and surveillance.

21. The Meeting took note of Australia's proposal to expand the scope of the priority area to also cover the chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) issues.

C. Cybersecurity and Cyberterrorism

22. Australia, Russia and Malaysia confirmed their readiness to co-lead in the cyber security priority area in the CTTC Work Plan.

23. Australia briefed the Meeting on its proposal to hold a workshop on cyber security incident response in 2012. The full proposal is at **ANNEX U**. The proposed workshop would explore and enhance ARF participants' capacity to cooperate in the event of a cyber security incident. The workshop would focus on the benefit of consistent offences as well as examining information sharing mechanisms between law enforcement agencies and computer emergency response teams (CERTs). Australia sought interest from ASEAN Member States in co-chairing the proposed workshop.

24. Republic of Korea introduced its recent experience of cyber attacks from outside of the country on critical national institutions and major national banks to which it successfully responded due to close cooperation of the countries in the region.

Development of ARF Work Plan on CTTC

25. The Meeting took note of Japan's proposal to include "Counter-Radicalization" as a new priority area in the CTTC Work Plan and readiness to serve as the lead country. Japan opined that there is an urgent need to address the spread of terrorist and radical ideology and therefore, the inclusion of the said new priority area would serve this purpose.

26. Malaysia expressed support for Japan's proposal to include counter radicalization as a new priority area, and that due attention should also be given to address the root causes of terrorism. Malaysia is prepared to co-lead on this proposed priority area.

27. The Meeting also took note of other proposals and interest to include new priority areas in the new ARF CTTC Work Plan such as terrorism financing (Russia), trafficking in persons (Philippines) as well as the proposal by Australia to expand the scope of bioterrorism and biosecurity to include chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) aspect.

28. It was also suggested by the Co-Chairs that these proposed priority areas and expansion of priority area will be reflected in the new Work Plan when at least one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN have agreed to co-lead the priority areas before the Work Plan is submitted for the Ministers' endorsement.

29. Viet Nam stressed the need to institutionalize the ARF ISM-CTTC process, including the timing of its meetings. Viet Nam was of the view that ARF ISM-CTTC should be convened before the ARF ISG CBM-PD to enable proper submission of proposals and projects for endorsement.

## **AGENDA 5: FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF ARF ISM-CTTC**

### Review and Further Action for the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement

30. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the status of the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (PoA) to implement the ARF Vision Statement, which was adopted by the 17<sup>th</sup> ARF in July 2010. The briefing by the ASEAN Secretariat appears as **ANNEX V**. ASEAN Secretariat also put forward the following recommendations:

- (i) The future ISMs should be informed on activities conducted in other ISMs. The Co-Chairs of the ISMs should also report the progress of the PoA's implementation in their respective areas to the ISG and ARF SOM.
- (ii) There are areas in which ARF needs to develop more initiatives or undertake more activities to ensure full implementation of the PoA by the year 2020. One way to achieve this is to synergise the activities in the existing or forthcoming ARF Work Plans for Disaster Relief, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Maritime Security and Preventive Diplomacy with the recommendations of the PoA.

31. Viet Nam proposed that ASEAN Secretariat upload a scorecard or matrix on the implementation of activities under the Hanoi PoA to the ARF website.

### Establishment of the ASEAN Regional Forum Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC)

32. The US briefed the Meeting on its proposal to establish the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC), which was first mooted during the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ARF ISM-MS) in New Zealand in March 2010. The US also circulated the revised concept paper on the ATTIC, which appears as **ANNEX W**.

33. The Meeting took note of the proposal of ATTIC and agreed to refer this proposal to respective governments as the revised paper was different from the one which was previously circulated. Given the importance of this proposal, it needs further in-depth study by respective governments. It was also emphasised that identifying gaps and avoiding duplication in the information sharing structure is very important.

34. In its response, the US noted that the revised concept paper has only included drugs and related transnational crimes as opposed to its initial paper which incorporated broader areas of cooperation. The US emphasized that it is focusing on deepening information sharing arrangements in line with the Hanoi PoA to Implement the ARF Vision Statement. The US welcomed detailed feedback from

participating countries to identify the appropriate modalities for the ATTIC, and expressed its intention to discuss the proposal at the upcoming ARF SOM.

Draft Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ARF Participating States on Cooperation in Ensuring International Information Security

35. The Russian Federation briefed the Meeting on its proposal to issue the Statement by the ARF Ministers on Cooperation in Ensuring International Information Security for adoption by the ARF Ministers at the upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> ARF in July 2011. Russia encouraged ARF participating countries to provide substantive inputs on the statement.

36. Some participating countries expressed reservations on the statement and requested Russia to redraft the statement based on their inputs and comments. Following discussions, Russia circulated an updated version of the draft (**ANNEX X**) The Meeting agreed to defer the discussions on the issuance of the draft Statement to the ARF SOM and encouraged ARF participating countries to provide written comments on the draft Statement.

**AGENDA 6: TOWARDS FUTURE MEETINGS**

Preparation for the ARF SOM and 18<sup>th</sup> ARF

37. Indonesia briefed the Meeting that the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) is scheduled to be held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 9-10 June 2011. Indonesia also informed that the 18<sup>th</sup> ARF will be held in Bali, Indonesia on 23 July 2011.

Preparation for the next ARF ISM-CTTC by Malaysia and Japan

38. The Meeting took note of the interest by Canada to become the next Co-Chair the ARF ISM-CTTC. The Meeting urged an ASEAN Member State to take up the Co-Chairmanship of the ARF ISM-CTTC with Canada in the inter-sessional year 2011-2012.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

39. Ambassador Ahmad Shahizan and Ambassador Kojima thanked participants for their cooperation and valuable contributions. They acknowledged the fruitful discussions which led to the valuable insights and successful convening of the Meeting.

40. The Meeting expressed sincere appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their effective Co-Chairmanship as well as for the excellent arrangements for the Meeting.

.....