

*Summary Report of ASEAN Regional Forum Defence Officials' Dialogue
Sydney, Australia, 6 April 2011*

1. The second ASEAN Regional Forum Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF DOD), hereafter called the Dialogue, was held in Sydney, Australia, on 6 April 2011. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Brigadier Syaiful Anwar, Director of Mobilisation, Indonesian Ministry of Defence, and Brigadier Mark Brewer, Director-General South East Asia, Australian Department of Defence. All ARF participants, except the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, were present, as was the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of participants is at ANNEX A.

Agenda Item 1: Welcoming Remarks

2. The co-chairs welcomed all delegates and expressed their hopes for a frank and useful discussion. They expressed condolences for the loss of life in Japan, New Zealand, and Myanmar, commenting that this reinforced the importance of multilateral cooperation on disaster response. They stated that cooperation in the ARF is impressive and it remains the principle forum for security dialogue in Asia. The co-chairs noted the inaugural ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Vietnam last year, and recognised the importance of complementarity between ADMM-Plus and ARF.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

3. The Dialogue adopted the Agenda, which is at ANNEX B.

Agenda Item 3: 11 March Earthquake and Tsunami

4. Japan briefed the Dialogue on the 11 March earthquake and tsunami, expressing their gratitude for the sympathies by 134 countries, including ARF participants, and 39 international organisations. A magnitude 9.0 earthquake hit Japan on 11, causing catastrophic damage both to human lives and infrastructure. Current information suggests there are 12,175 deceased, 15,489 missing, and 165,800 evacuees.
5. Japan commented that the nation lies within a tsunami prone region and, despite Japanese government preparations and early warning systems, the scale of this disaster was unprecedented. This is Japan's largest disaster relief operation, with two concurrent deployments focused on containment of radiation leaks and reconstruction.
6. Japan expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by the international community, and will share experiences from the disaster to assist learning about non-traditional security challenges.
7. Dialogue participants expressed their sympathy and condolences to Japan, as well as New Zealand and Myanmar, and acknowledged that natural disasters were not a single country's concern, but impact the region more broadly. The success of the ARF disaster relief exercise (DiREx) held in Manado in March 2011 highlighted the need to pool resources and coordinate responses at the multilateral level. The Dialogue was of the view that continued practical cooperation among ARF members must remain central to effective responses to natural disasters.

Agenda Item 4: ARF and the ADMM-Plus

8. The co-chair provided an overview of the ADMM-Plus and acknowledged the Hanoi Plan of Action clause 6.6, which directs the ARF to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of activities between ARF and ADMM-Plus. The Dialogue took note of additional information provided by the ASEAN Secretariat on the relationship between the ARF and ADMM-Plus.
9. The Dialogue acknowledged the centrality of ASEAN to both the ARF and ADMM-Plus and the shared security priorities of each forum. Discussion highlighted the distinction between the policy direction of ARF and practical cooperation initiatives driven by ADMM-Plus. However, the Dialogue also noted that it was inevitable that the agenda of the ADMM-Plus and the ARF would overlap and this was not necessarily negative because they were different forums and served different purposes. The Dialogue agreed that ARF DOD and ADMM-Plus should work together to implement and build on each forum's strengths, noting that this should not exclude the ARF from also working towards practical cooperation, or the ADMM-Plus from discussing strategic and defence issues facing the region.
10. The Dialogue identified the importance of improved information-sharing to mitigate policy overlap, and recognised the potential for the Dialogue to act as a conduit between both forums. It was suggested that the Dialogue analyse each forum's priorities for and identify areas of commonality, and that ARF members consider how to achieve this objective. The Dialogue agreed that ADMM-Plus should be a standing agenda item in the Dialogue and that the next Dialogue could consider useful mechanisms for information-sharing about ADMM-Plus activities. ARF DOD participants agreed to take this suggestion back to capitals for further consideration.

Agenda 5: Maritime Security Capacity-building

11. The co-chair opened the agenda item and commented on the need to enhance collaboration between ASEAN members on maritime security and to address threats through existing regional mechanisms.
12. The following countries presented:
 - Japan (ANNEX C)
 - China
 - EU
 - Singapore (ANNEX D)

Russia, Bangladesh, India, Laos, Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia contributed interventions and comments to the discussion.
13. The Dialogue was of the view that information-sharing is essential for regional capacity-building and resolution of maritime security issues. The Dialogue noted that the Singapore Information Fusion Centre presented a successful model for information-sharing and increased capacity-building within the region. Furthermore, the Dialogue observed that information-sharing was essential in identifying gaps and overlaps in multilateral maritime security, and that increased collaboration on information-sharing through established mechanisms should be considered at future Dialogues. Japan noted the work of the ARF Intersessional Support Meeting on Maritime Security in collecting information on regional maritime security initiatives to facilitate capacity-building and welcomed any further comments.
14. The Dialogue suggested civil-military cooperation could promote and enhance multilateral information-sharing and had an important role to play in addressing

maritime security challenges. The Dialogue also observed that without the full support and participation of all members, the region would not derive maximum benefit from information-sharing activities. The Dialogue observed that maritime security was of interest to both the ARF and ADMM-Plus, and noted that both forums continue to identify knowledge gaps and areas for further cooperation.

Agenda Item 6: Prospects for future ARF DOD counter-terrorism cooperation

15. The co-chair opened the agenda item, observing that counter-terrorism is currently undefined within the Dialogue.

16. The following countries presented:

- United States
- Pakistan ([ANNEX E](#))

Indonesia, Australia, Russia and Bangladesh contributed interventions and comment to the discussion.

17. The United States briefed the Dialogue on the concept of an ARF Transnational Threat Information Centre (ATTIC) ([ANNEX F](#)). Dialogue participants acknowledged that ATTIC was a useful concept which would contribute to the security of the region but which still required additional amendments. Pakistan shared its experiences of multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation and stressed the benefits of information-sharing. At the conclusion of the agenda item, the Dialogue agreed to recommend the ATTIC proposal be endorsed by the ARF Intersessional Support Group as practical initiative of the ARF.

Agenda Item 7: Multilateral Peacekeeping Operations

18. The co-chair opened the session, commenting that collaboration between ARF peacekeeping centres is a priority, as mandated in the Hanoi Plan of Action.

19. The following country presentations on their respective peacekeeping initiatives:

- Mongolia
- New Zealand
- Canada

Russia, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Australia contributed interventions and comment to the discussion.

20. The Dialogue noted that networking amongst peacekeeping training centres was an aim of the Hanoi Plan of Action and that there are already many organisations and bilateral agreements linking peacekeeping training centres.

Agenda Item 8: Other Business and Closing Remarks

21. Indonesia thanked ARF members for their participation in the 14-19 March DiREx in Manado, Indonesia, despite the impact of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami disaster on the eve of the Exercise. Japan reiterated their thanks for the support of the international community.

22. The co-chairs thanked Dialogue participants for the open and frank discussions and their contribution to exploring how the Dialogue could promote the objectives of the Hanoi Plan of Action and how the Dialogue could work with the ADMM-Plus.