

**CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY REPORT
4TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE
Manila, Philippines
May 24, 2007**

1. The 4th ARF Security Policy Conference was held in Manila, Philippines on May 24, 2007. The Conference was chaired by Honorable Antonio C. Santos, Jr., Undersecretary for Defense Affairs, Department of National Defense, Philippines.
2. The Conference was attended by representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, DPR Korea, European Union, India Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, United States, Vietnam, and the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX A**.
3. In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed the participants to the Conference and noted how the ASPC, as an effective dialogue mechanism to discuss and exchange views on current and emerging security issues, has increased transparency and understanding, and facilitated the establishment of networks among ARF member countries. The Chair added that the future role of the ASPC to strengthen security in the region will depend on the collective efforts of all.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Conference considered and adopted the Agenda which is attached in **ANNEX B**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

5. The Conference acknowledged that despite the overall stable security situation in the region, ARF member-countries still face common traditional and non-traditional threats such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, transnational crimes, territorial disputes, natural disasters, environmental concerns and epidemics, among others.
6. The Conference noted that the complex, diverse and unpredictable nature of these regional security threats have drawn ARF member-countries closer and have led to greater interdependence, coordination and cooperation in the region.
7. The Conference recognized the important role that the ARF has played in facilitating mutual understanding and in building trust and confidence among regional countries to better address long-standing and emerging security threats. Participants renewed their commitment and support to multilateral security arrangements and frameworks.

8. The Conference emphasized the need to enhance existing security cooperation among ARF member-countries to include the conduct of more frequent military visits and exchanges, and better sharing of information, experience and technology, especially those focused on capability-development.
9. Copies of papers presented by China, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and the United States appear in **ANNEXES C, D, E, F, G, H and I.**

AGENDA ITEM 3: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND FOUNDATIONS TO SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES OF ARF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH TERRORISM AND OTHER NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

10. The Conference recognized that terrorism and other non-traditional security issues in the region pose a direct threat to national and international stability.
11. The Conference noted that as countries have adapted their strategies in dealing with terrorism, terrorist organizations have also reinvented and reorganized themselves in keeping with the changes. Participants emphasized the need to continuously improve their capabilities in dealing with terrorism and other non-traditional security threats.
12. The Conference acknowledged that no country can address terrorism and non-traditional security concerns on its own and emphasized the need to strengthen international and regional institutions such as the UN, ASEAN, ARF and APEC through the regular conduct of dialogues, joint training and information sharing.
13. To more effectively deal with terrorism and related non-traditional security issues, the Conference noted the need for the following:
 - 13.1. Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between military and police forces;
 - 13.2. Emphasis on consequence management particularly directed on improving the capability of ARF member-countries to prepare for and recover from structural collapse, provide immediate medical assistance in mass casualty incidents, and the conduct of forensic investigation; and,
 - 13.3. Cooperation between security forces and other actors such as the academe, particularly on the conduct of terrorism-related researches to support and enhance decisions and actions.
14. Presentations by Bangladesh, Indonesia and Singapore appear in **ANNEXES J, K and L.**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS/
ARRANGEMENTS ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF
PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING FORCES**

15. The Conference noted that peacekeeping operations have become more important than ever and are rapidly changing far exceeding traditional peacekeeping concepts.
16. The Conference emphasized the importance of having clear legal frameworks for effective peacekeeping participation as this will define the nature and scope of operations.
17. The Conference acknowledged both international and national legal mandates that underpin peacekeeping missions which include, among others, the UN Charter and mandates on peacekeeping, related international laws like humanitarian law, and other legal documents such as Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) and Rules of Engagement (ROEs).
18. The Conference recognized the need to address the following issues related to legal frameworks in peacekeeping operations:
 - 18.1. Interoperability of security forces involved in peacekeeping operations;
 - 18.2. Coordination between security forces and international or non-government organizations; and,
 - 18.3. Differences in interpretation of ROEs and other legal arrangements.
19. The Conference commended the series of ARF activities on peacekeeping and emphasized the need for increased dialogue and interaction on the following areas:
 - 19.1. Sharing of information and experiences among countries in the region;
 - 19.2. Enhancing the capabilities of ARF member countries through training;
 - 19.3. Standardization of protocols on peacekeeping; and,
 - 19.4. Bridging the capability gap between developed and developing countries.
20. Presentations of **Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, Malaysia and Thailand** are in ANNEXES M, N, O, P, Q and R.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS

21. Singapore, as the next Chair of the ASEAN and the ASPC, will build on the progress achieved by previous Chairs and added that it looks forward to the continued support of all ARF member-countries.

22. Timor Leste expressed its appreciation for the support of the international community in securing peace and stability in the country. Timor Leste registered its concurrence on the leadership role of the United Nations in the conduct of peacekeeping operations and, at the same time, raised the need for more flexible mechanism to immediately deal with humanitarian contingencies requiring rapid response.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

23. The Conference expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and for the hospitality extended to the participants.