

**SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE NINTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 25 MAY 2012**

1. The Ninth ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 25 May 2012. The Conference was chaired Gen. Neang Phat, Secretary of State of Ministry of National Defense, Kingdom of Cambodia.

2. Representatives from the Ministry of Defence of all ARF participants, except Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan and Timor-Leste attended the Conference. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOMING REMARKS

3. In his welcoming remarks, Gen. Neang Phat welcomed all delegates to the 9th ASPC. He underscored that the Asia Pacific region is still facing tremendous security challenges. The central role of ASEAN is critical in leading the cooperation to serve regional interest with peace, harmony and security. He touched on the security situation in the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, in which he encouraged all parties to the conflict to exercise self restraint. Taking into account the cooperation underway in the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus, he underscored the urgency for ARF to move forward with concrete action in the future cooperation. It is therefore necessary for the ARF participants to improve the capacity to tackle conflicts. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation to all ARF participants for the support extended to Cambodia as ASEAN Chair. His welcoming remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Conference adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

5. The Conference viewed that the Asia Pacific is a region in substantive flux. Thus, it is vital for the countries in the region to continue work together to face the challenges. The Conference viewed that regional security issues, including maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, non-proliferation, terrorism, cyber security, energy security continue to capture attention and require cooperation.

6. The Conference viewed that while maritime domain provides ample potential for cooperation however if not carefully managed can also pose challenges. On this note, the Conference touched on the latest developments in the South China Sea. The Conference commended ASEAN's leadership in addressing this issue and supported the ongoing efforts to develop the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (CoC). The Conference called for all parties to implement the joint commitment prescribed by the Guidelines of the Implementation of the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC). Some participants raised concern of the rising tension in the South China Sea. Activation of the existing international dispute mechanisms to find permanent solution to the territorial dispute in this respect was suggested.

7. The Conference expressed grave concerns on the recent missile launch by the DPRK. Some participants were of the view that proliferation of nuclear technology and long range missile development has posed security challenges in the Asia Pacific region. The Conference reaffirmed that it is necessary to have frank and open dialogue between and among the parties concerned. ASEAN has the potential to create platform for dialogue among all parties concerned. The Conference encouraged the resumption of the Six-Party Talks and welcomed the intention of Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair to engage all parties in the Six-Party Talks to resume negotiations. The Conference recalled the successful bilateral talks between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK at the sidelines of the 18th ARF in Bali on 23 July 2011. The human security situation in the DPRK was also mentioned.

8. The Conference welcomed the positive political developments in Myanmar which will continue to contribute in building ASEAN Community. The successful by-election in Myanmar has sent a strong message that Myanmar is committed to democratic transition. The Conference noted with appreciation the Government of Myanmar for allowing international observers in the by-election and the positive outcomes of the visit by the United Nations Secretary-General to Myanmar. The Conference encouraged the lifting of all remaining sanctions and bans to support the ongoing progress in Myanmar.

9. The Conference addressed the recent situation in the Middle East. Some participants expressed their continued commitments to support the development in Afghanistan. It is important to ensure that efforts that have been made in Afghanistan are not wasted. The Conference commented on the recent developments of the security situation in Syria. The Conference noted the convening of the recent talks between Iran and the P5+1 nations in Baghdad.

10. The Conference underlined that the importance of adherence to the international conventions and protocols on non-proliferation. The Conference welcomed the ratification by Indonesia of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in February 2012. The Conference encouraged all ARF

participants to sign and ratify all non-proliferation treaties and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) commitment.

11. The Conference expressed concerns on the prevailing threats posed by terrorism and sea piracy.

12. The Conference discussed the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and welcomed the convening of the Arms Trade Treaty in New York on July 2012.

13. The Conference also congratulated the successful elections in Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and Timor-Leste. The Conference extended support for the national election to be held in Papua New Guinea in June and July 2012.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ENHANCING COOPERATION ON MARITIME SECURITY

14. The Conference viewed that maritime security contributes to the regional efforts in the war against sea piracy, drugs trafficking, human trafficking and people smuggling. The Conference observed that there are various aspects in maritime security and therefore, addressing maritime security requires comprehensive approach encapsulating these aspects. The Conference reaffirmed that maritime security challenges should be addressed together since no country can act alone in this respect.

15. The Conference suggested that the following aspects should be considered in developing strategic approach on maritime security, namely maritime border protection, illegal activities, transnational crimes, terrorism and sabotage, environmental destruction, sea communication and port security and disasters.

16. The Conference recognised that territorial disputes in the South China Sea have garnered increasing international attention. Addressing the disputes should follow a two pronged approach, namely the peaceful settlement of disputes and the establishment of a framework to govern the conduct of concerned parties. The ARF can cultivate an environment to facilitate the settlement of disputes in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law.

17. The threat of sea piracy was raised in the Conference. The Conference observed that the threat of piracy has been moving eastward and southward. The Conference noted the series of attempts to prevent piracy in the Coast and Gulf of Aden. Anti-piracy patrol and escorts services provided for commercial ship have been conducted in the Coast and Gulf of Aden on the request of respective countries to keep away the threat of piracy. The Conference also welcomed the

establishment of the national maritime monitoring agencies in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

18. The Conference viewed that various institutions are responsible in tackling challenges in the field of maritime security, including the government. The Conference viewed that improving effectiveness of the government's response should include dividing zones of operation; deploying forces, materials and equipment; coordinating forces and means; and empowering the government officials. Strengthening legal foundation to address sea piracy was also suggested.

19. The Conference agreed that cooperation with external agencies such as the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is necessary to support national efforts and enhance cooperation. The common themes of these agencies are information sharing and legal framework. It is also observed that mutual confidence-building measures between countries and these agencies should be explored to provide firm foundation for cooperation.

20. The Conference noted that cooperative activities such as joint exercises, information exchange, training and capacity-building, sharing of best practices including in the area of search and rescue have been ongoing at the bilateral and multilateral levels among the ARF participants. Some participants suggested that table-top exercise on maritime security could be conducted under the ARF framework. The Conference encouraged Defence Departments to prioritise ARF partners to participate in trainings and capacity-building organised by respective ARF participants.

21. The Conference noted several proposals for confidence-building activities among maritime security practitioners. Notification on maritime training programmes to other parties, extending invitation to naval exercises, exchanging information in naval capabilities, observing maritime rules and regulations, and ship visits and ship rider programs were highlighted in this respect.

22. The Conference welcomed the adoption of the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security by the 18th ARF in Bali in 2011 and looked forward to its implementation. The Conference noted that the Work Plan has identified priority areas on which the ARF should work together, namely 1) information and intelligent exchange and sharing of best practices; 2) confidence-building measures based on regional and international legal frameworks and 3) capacity-building of maritime law enforcement agencies.

23. Cambodia, India, Philippines, Australia, the United States, China, New Zealand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka briefed the Conference. The briefing papers appear as **ANNEXES 4.**

AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION ON SAFETY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

24. The Conference suggested that all ARF participants should promote regional cooperation to enhance nuclear safeguards, safety and security of nuclear energy. Several practical measures to enhance regional cooperation, strengthen national legislation, improve implementation of international commitments under the IAEA framework were proposed. In addition, the Conference also encouraged countries with expertise in nuclear energy to help implement regional and national strategies on nuclear energy. Some participants emphasised that all ARF participants should consider signing or complying with enhanced nuclear safeguards, safety and security as prescribed in the international treaties and conventions.

25. The Conference noted a number of lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accidents in 2011. Preparation for the unexpected incidents, improvement power supply system, installation of survey and radiation protection tools, strengthening of petrol system, information security to protect information on nuclear facility were mentioned.

26. The Conference shared the view that nuclear energy is the source of future energy and therefore ensuring its safety is of concern of all ARF participants. Failure to protect nuclear energy and its facility could lead to catastrophe in national and world-wide scope. All countries are prone to the risk of nuclear accident.

27. The Conference noted the processes of development of nuclear power plant for safe use that are currently ongoing in several ARF participants. In this process, the Conference underscored that it is critical that countries work together to ensure the safety of nuclear energy. In this context, human resources capacity-building was identified as critical importance in preventing nuclear accidents.

28. The Conference noted the suggestion to strengthen public confidence in nuclear energy.

29. Cambodia, Japan, Viet Nam, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, India, and the European Union briefed the Conference. The briefing papers appear as **ANNEXES 5.**

AGENDA ITEM 6: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TERMINATION OF CIVIL WAR

30. The Conference took note of the sharing of national experiences in addressing internal conflicts and recommendations from the conflicts. The Conference learned that military solution alone cannot solve the source of the conflicts. The role of the central government and existing authority, engagement with moderate factions within the insurgency, integration of former insurgents into society and the government, and economic development of former insurgent regions all play an important part in ending conflict and sustaining peace. The Conference was briefed by Cambodia on the lessons learned in tackling national insurgency through the 'Win Win Policy'. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 6**.

31. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Sri Lanka on the lessons learned from the civil war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

AGENDA ITEM 7: BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 3RD ADSOM-PLUS

32. The Conference welcomed the outcomes of the 3rd ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Plus (ADSOM-Plus) which was convened in Siem Reap on 26 April 2012.

OTHER MATTERS

33. The Philippines updated the Conference on the new schedule for the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations to be held in Manila on 25-28 June 2012.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSING REMARKS

34. In his closing remarks, Gen. Neang Phat highlighted the outcomes of the discussion transpired throughout the Conference. He expressed appreciation to all ARF participants for the sharing of national experiences on issues deliberated in the Conference. He also thanked the ARF participants for the support to the Chair in delivering the Conference. His closing remarks appear as **ANNEX 7**.

35. The Conference commended on the frank and fruitful discussion. The Conference thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality made for the Conference.

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