

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 7 MAY 2012**

1. The second ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) for the inter-sessional year 2011-12 was held in Wellington, New Zealand, on 7 May 2012. The Dialogue was chaired by New Zealand and Cambodia and was attended by ARF participants except Sri Lanka, Russia, Myanmar, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The meeting was also attended by the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of participants appears as **ANNEX A**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOMING REMARKS

2. Mr. Paul Sinclair, Head of International Defence Relations of the Ministry of Defence of New Zealand welcomed delegates to New Zealand. He noted that this dialogue was the second of the Inter-sessional Support Group meetings (ISG) on Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and Preventive Diplomacy (PD).
3. Maj. Gen. Lay Chenda, Director of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of National Defence, extended his sincere thanks to all attendees, noting that the ARF provides a platform for identifying key security issues, sharing knowledge, and improving regional understanding.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Dialogue adopted the Provisional Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 3: HOW DEFENCE OFFICIALS MIGHT HELP IMPLEMENT THE APPROVED ARF WORK PLAN ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

5. The Dialogue noted that Defence officials have an important role to play in Preventive Diplomacy (PD). The Work Plan on PD approved by Ministers in July 2011 contains a number of areas relevant to defence. These include: strengthening cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief (HADR), Maritime Security and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO); the identification of and partnering with mutually agreeable organisations; and involvement in mediation.
6. It was suggested that the ARF Secretariat might be able to partner with organisations such as the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to see how defence officials in those organisations are contributing to PD.

7. In relation to involvement in mediation, a register of defence officials with appropriate experience might be set up.
8. The Dialogue noted the progressive approach of the ARF and the gradual positive move from Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) through to PD. The Dialogue noted that defence officials could contribute to PD through the promotion of consultation and cooperation in accordance with the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, and complying with international law and the ASEAN Charter, while continuing to respect national sovereignty and integrity.
9. Contributions to PD might also be assisted through transparency mechanisms. Public information about national defence policies is one way of promoting transparency and maintaining regional peace and stability. Defence officials could also continue making substantive contributions to the ARF Annual Security Outlook.
10. Other possibilities for a defence contribution to PD include utilising the Annual meeting of ARF Defence Colleges or initiating a mechanism for the sharing of PKO and HADR lessons learned.
11. The Dialogue noted that ARF defence dialogues have served members well over the past decade, and was important in the development of CBMs and building peace and stability in the region and to PD.
12. The Dialogue agreed that the development of the ARF toward PD is progressing in line with the principles set out in the PD work plan at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants. It was also suggested that tangible activities and actions that strengthen cooperation are the key to moving from CBMs to PD. One delegate then noted that the PD work plan has already identified a number of activities which may be undertaken as a first step toward implementation.
13. The Dialogue noted the contribution of some members to the capacity building element of the PD work plan. The Dialogue noted the possibility of government/militaries working with other organisations on capacity building programmes in non-traditional security areas to support PD.
14. The Dialogue considered that PD and CBM efforts often require a whole of government approach.
15. The value of previous ARF HADR exercises was recalled, and it was suggested that similar exercises in the future would be beneficial. The extension of the existing PKO centre network to non-ASEAN ARF members would be a further way for defence officials to bolster the effectiveness of the PD work plan.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROMOTING CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARF AND ADMM PLUS

16. The Dialogue noted the active involvement of member countries in both the ARF defence dialogues and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus. Both forums aid cooperation and promote security dialogue. The risk of duplication of efforts was discussed, although it was also noted that some overlap could be constructive. It was reiterated that the Hanoi Plan of Action and the ARF SOM in Surabaya in 2011 emphasised the need to ensure synergy and complementarity between the ARF and ADMM Plus.
17. The meeting agreed that the ARF DOD was the most appropriate forum to coordinate the sharing of information at the broad strategic level. It was emphasised that ADMM Plus should continue to focus on practical military-military cooperation while the ARF Defence Dialogue could continue to provide comprehensive and strategic direction.
18. The Dialogue generally agreed that there needs to be a clear conduit of communication between the ARF DODs and ADMM Plus. Mutual attendance at ARF Inter-sessional meetings and ADMM Plus EWG meetings was sought by some dialogue participants as a means of initiating this communication.
19. One member stated that ADMM plus needed time to develop and it would be premature to make any significant decisions on this issue.

AGENDA ITEM 5: FREQUENCY OF ARF DEFENCE MEETINGS

20. The Dialogue agreed that there are now a significant number of defence meetings especially for those who are members of both the ARF and ADMM Plus. They agreed that these meetings played an increasingly important role in building confidence among militaries which in turn contributed to regional security. They noted however that the number of meetings now placed some pressure on the resources of some member countries.
21. It was agreed that there was an opportunity for a slight reduction in the number of meetings while still providing an adequate opportunity for defence officials to exchange their views.
22. The Dialogue agreed that the DOD associated with the ARF Ministerial meetings would be the logical dialogue to be discontinued without having any significant impact on the overall process, since the ARF Security Policy Conference (ARF SPC) along with the ARF SOM can provide the necessary defence-related issues for the Ministerial meeting to consider.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

Tokyo Defense Forum

23. The meeting noted the outcomes of the Tokyo Defense Forum, which focussed on civil military cooperation in disaster relief operations and efforts to ensure maritime security. The Tokyo Defense Forum Seminar was also covered.

Upcoming Meetings

24. The Dialogue noted that Cambodia will host the next DOD on 24 May and the ASPC on 25 May. The ADMM meeting for ASEAN countries will be held on 28-30 May.

UN Secretary General Visit to Indonesia

25. The Dialogue was briefed on the UNSG's visit to Indonesia in March 2012 for the Jakarta International Defence Dialogue and his comments on peacekeeping capabilities. The meeting was also briefed by Indonesia on the steps that it has taken to help assist the UN with its peacekeeping requirements.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSING REMARKS

26. Maj Gen Lay Chenda emphasised the constructive nature of the discussion, with particular regard to possible links between ARF and ADMM Plus. Maj Gen Chenda extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to the DOD participants.

27. Mr Sinclair noted that it had been a pleasure to work with the co-chairs, and that he very much appreciated the substantive conversations.