

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DEFENSE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 7 DECEMBER 2011**

1. The ARF Defense 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 2011-2012 was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 7 December 2011. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Cambodia and New Zealand, and attended by ARF participants except Bangladesh, Democratic People's of Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Pakistan. The ASEAN Secretariat was also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX A**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME REMARKS

2. In his welcome remarks, Maj. Gen. Lay Chenda, Director of Department of ASEAN Affairs, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of National Defence, welcomed all delegations of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD). He highlighted the purpose of the Dialogue which was to explore opinions on [responding and] strengthening cooperation in peacekeeping cooperation and enhancing maritime security cooperation in the region. He observed that peacekeeping missions at present require closer cooperation with regional partners to meet the challenges in the operations. He encouraged ARF participants to share their knowledge and experience on the aforementioned topics in a constructive and mutual understanding manner. He hoped that the outcomes of the Dialogue would contribute to political stability and regional order.
3. Mr. Paul Sinclair, Head of International Defence Relations of the Ministry of Defence of New Zealand expressed that it has been a privilege for New Zealand to co-chair the ARF DOD with Cambodia. He underscored that the range and scale of peacekeeping missions now corresponds to the greater demand for peacekeepers to serve in the United Nations. He also committed that all ARF participants have a stake in maritime security, and he recognised the progress in dealing with maritime security challenges.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Dialogue adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears as **ANNEX B**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: STRENGTHENING COOPERATION ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATION AMONG ARF PARTICIPANTS

5. The Dialogue considered that peacekeeping is one of the most important discourses in the ARF. The Dialogue noted that most ARF participants have

contributed to United Nations peacekeeping missions. Against this background, the Dialogue suggested that ARF participants can work to build specialised capabilities such as demining and clearing of explosive remnants of war (ERWs). The Dialogue identified areas where ARF participants can work together such as training of United Nations peacekeepers and joint studies on various aspects of peacekeeping operations, including policy analysis and concept analysis. The Dialogue welcomed the development of the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre Network which is currently underway and the outcomes of the ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations (EWG on PKO), the first meeting for which was recently held in Wellington on 21-23 November 2011.

6. The Dialogue agreed on the importance of training in peacekeeping prior to the deployment of national peacekeeping force to participate in United Nations peacekeeping missions. In some countries, peacekeeping troops returning from missions have been invited to training centres as instructors. In the context of cooperation with other countries, the Dialogue agreed on the benefits of joint exercises, particularly in exposing national troops to the capabilities and best practices of other countries in peacekeeping missions.
7. The Dialogue concurred that it is critical for contributing countries to identify their core capabilities in order to make the best use of their contributions. At the same time, contributing countries also need to consider expanding the capabilities and expertise of their peacekeeping troops in order to meet the needs of the mission. New demands on the role and function of peacekeeping troops such as election monitoring, military observation, and medical assistance require the development of skills that are unique compared to past conventional missions.
8. The Dialogue shared the view that adherence to United Nations standard operating procedures by peacekeeping forces is key to protecting troops in high risk operations. In the context of the United Nations, some ARF participants called for extension of the United Nations mandate to also support the political processes of the host governments to protect civilians. A framework to enhance complementarity of peacekeeping operations was also suggested.
9. The Dialogue identified challenges facing peacekeeping training centres in the region, which included shortage of physical infrastructure such as accommodations for troops in training, shortage of equipment, and language skills. Issues of timely exit strategy and smooth transition between peacekeeping and peace-building were also highlighted.
10. The Dialogue took note that Indonesia and Thailand will co-host the 1st ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network Meeting in Thailand in June 2012.

11. Cambodia, China, India, Singapore, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, the United States, Sri Lanka and Thailand presented their national experiences on peacekeeping operations. The presentations appear as **ANNEXES C**

AGENDA ITEM 4: ENHANCING COOPERATION ON MARITIME SECURITY AMONG ARF PARTICIPANTS

12. The Dialogue discussed the threats to maritime security in the region. The Dialogue viewed that the threats are becoming more serious and therefore, practical cooperation among the navies of ARF participants needs to be intensified. The Dialogue recognised existing multilateral cooperation mechanisms in maritime security at the policy level. While the mechanisms are now in place, the efficiency of these mechanisms to boost practical cooperation should be increased.

13. The Dialogue exchanged views on challenges in combating maritime security threats. The vast area of the sea, inefficiency of maritime surveillance and interdiction, shortage of naval capabilities and resources, economic crisis, lack of coordination and collaboration, limited capabilities in management, intelligence sharing and law enforcement were among the issues to be addressed in this respect.

14. The Dialogue considered recommendations to address the challenges which included:

- Develop agreements on maritime security cooperation, joint intelligence system, and agreements on standardised investigation, arrest and prosecution procedures;
- Enhance coordination at the operational level;
- Improve naval capabilities;
- Move towards seamless situational awareness;
- Adhere to the law of the sea;
- Learn from the best practices of other countries.

15. The Dialogue reiterated that open information sharing and promotion of practical cooperation are keys to building capacity in maritime security issues. In this context, fellowship at defence universities, technical training, joint exercises, and coordinated ship rider programmes are proposed. With a view to improve mutual understanding, the Dialogue stressed the necessity to adhere to traditional as well as new joint rules at sea. The Dialogue noted that the Code for Unalerted Encounters at Sea (CUES) developed by the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) affected a vulnerable guide.

16. At the regional level, some participants suggested strengthening links and encouraging synergy between the ARF, the ADMM-Plus, and the East Asia

Summit as one way to avoid overlaps between these mechanisms in the effort toward future practical maritime security initiatives.

17. The Meeting took note of the briefing by Australia on the outcomes of the 1st ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security (EWG on MS), held in Perth on 20-22 July 2011 and co-chaired by Malaysia and Australia. Australia also informed the Dialogue that the 2nd ADMM-Plus EWG on MS will be held in Malaysia on 8-10 February 2012 in the form of a seminar.

18. Cambodia, Canada, Australia, Viet Nam, Japan, the Philippines, the United States, China, and India presented their national views on maritime security. The presentations appear as **ANNEXES D.**

AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS

19. No other matters were raised.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING REMARKS

20. In his closing remarks, Mr. Paul Sinclair recalled that the discussion on peacekeeping operations underscored the increased demand for contributions to UN peacekeeping missions. He was encouraged that most ARF participants are now contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions. In conclusion, he extended an invitation to all ARF participants to attend the next ARF DOD which will be held in Wellington on 7 May 2012.

21. Maj. Gen. Lay Chenda summarised the outcomes of the discussion and emphasised that the promotion of maritime security and safety issues through information sharing and technical cooperation is necessary to enhancing maritime security cooperation among ARF participants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

22. The Dialogue expressed appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality extended to all ARF participants. The Dialogue also commended the Co-Chairs for a fruitful discussion and frank exchange of views.

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