



**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
FOR THE 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM  
HEADS OF DEFENCE  
UNIVERSITIES / COLLEGES / INSTITUTIONS  
MEETING  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009  
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum for Heads of Defence Universities / Colleges / Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM) was held at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.
2. The National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces hosted the Meeting. The Meeting was chaired by Vice Admiral Amorntep Nabangchang, Superintendent, National Defence College, National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces.

## **CONCEPT OF THE MEETING**

3. The concept of the Meeting focused on the theme supported by issues brought forth during the presentation sessions. The forum consisted of speeches by Thai dignitaries, including a keynote address delivered on behalf of General Songkitti Jaggabatara, Chief of Defence Forces, by Air Chief Marshal Manit Changpuek, Deputy Chief of Defence Forces and paper presentations delivered by participating countries, including question and answer sessions.
4. A Cocktail Reception was held to welcome the participants followed by the celebration of "Loy Krathong" festival, one of the most important cultural events celebrated annually by Thais on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month. A formal dinner was organized for the Delegates on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2009 with Thai cultural performances. An informal dinner was organized onboard a river cruise boat along the Chao Phraya River.

5. Visits were arranged to the “Arts of the Kingdom” Exhibition, and the Grand Palace. Heads of the Delegates also made courtesy call on the Defence Minister. Some of the Delegates attended the Defence & Security Exhibition at Impact Arena, Muangthong Thani in Nonthaburi province on the outskirts of Bangkok.

6. Vice Admiral Amorntep Nabangchang, Superintendent, National Defence College of Thailand chaired the meeting. Colonel Wasu Fuangsumruat moderated the Meeting, as well as all question and answer sessions. All planned activities were carried out to the satisfaction of Delegates present. The Meeting agenda is attached in **Annex A**. The detailed program of the Meeting is attached in **Annex B**.

## **ATTENDANCE**

7. A total of 20 out of 27 ARF participants (ASEAN Member Countries, Dialogue Partners, and ASEAN Secretariat) attended this Meeting. In addition, observers from the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as representatives from the Foreign Ministry also attended the Meeting. A total of 62 Delegates were in attendance. The full list of participants is attached in **Annex C**.

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

8. Five speeches were delivered by the host country during the Meeting including the welcoming remarks from General Puchong Rattanawan, Commanding General, National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces, the keynote address delivered by Air Chief Marshal Manit Changpuek,

Deputy Chief of Defence Forces, on behalf of the Chief of Defence Forces, and the opening remarks by Vice Admiral Amorntep Nabangchang, Superintendent, National Defence College of Thailand in his capacity as Chairman of the Meeting.

9. Heads of Delegates also received a welcoming at the Ministry of Defence from General Prawit Wongsuwon, Defence Minister.

10. In addition, Delegates received a farewell remarks from Vice Admiral Amorntep Nabangchang, Superintendent, National Defence College of Thailand.

11. The key points of these speeches were as follows:

- a. Non-traditional threats have posted dangers in every dimension. Every country needs to have an agency to tackle these threats.
- b. The Armed Forces are required to undertake more duties and roles to maintain internal security of the country. Many countries have placed great importance on unrest from terrorism which affects the lives of the people, or unrest arising from national racial and religious conflicts. Each country has placed different priority and urgency on internal security.
- c. This Meeting provides a good opportunity to scrutinize concepts that are based on diverse experiences for mutual understanding and confidence with one another. The acquired knowledge and

information will be useful in developing the appropriate courses of action in resolving internal security issues, and addressing the necessary doctrine and codes of conduct, as well as reviewing the relevant laws, orders, rules and regulations.

- d. The Delegates were encouraged to take full advantage of this forum to share their experiences, try to understand one another and make use of this good opportunity to reach a common solution that satisfies all of us as much as possible.

## **THEME OF THE MEETING**

12. The theme of this year's Meeting: '*The Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security*' as a tool for the State in maintaining internal security, how can the Armed Forces play effective roles in the time of national crisis such as terrorist attack, insurgencies and internal unrests, national disaster, outbreak of epidemic diseases, and other common regional challenges, was well covered by 15 papers as well as the keynote address. Delegates from the Philippines also presented the Draft TOR on Information Exchange, which was then considered and approved by all Delegates attended the meeting. The three topics set forth areas to support the theme were as follows:

- a. **Topic 1:**     *Appropriate unit structure and management*  
A total of 7 papers were presented.
- b. **Topic 2:**     *Doctrine and codes of conduct*  
A total of 3 papers were presented.
- c. **Topic 3:**     *Supporting laws, orders and regulations*  
A total of 5 papers were presented.

## PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

13. For the sub-theme on Topic 1: *APPROPRIATE UNIT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT*, the titles of the papers presented by delegations were as follows:

- a. **Paper 1.** *“Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security: The Case of Southern Thailand Discord”*, sponsored by Thailand.
- b. **Paper 2.** *“The Armed Forces and Emergency Rescue and Disaster Relief Operations”*, sponsored by the People’s Republic of China.
- c. **Paper 3.** *“Role of ROK Armed Forces in Response to Terrorism and National Disasters”*, sponsored by the Republic of Korea.
- d. **Paper 4.** *“Transforming the Armed Forces of the Philippines Through the Philippines Defense Reform Program: Focus on Internal Security”*, sponsored by the Philippines.
- e. **Paper 5.** *“The SAF’s Role in Homeland Security”*, sponsored by the Republic of Singapore.

- f. **Paper 6.** *“The Role of Royal Brunei Armed Forces in Support of National Disaster Management Center (NDMC)”* sponsored by Negara Brunei Darussalam State of Brunei.
  
- g. **Paper 7.** *“The Role of Armed Forces of Vietnam in Maintaining Internal Security”* sponsored by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

14. For the sub-theme on Topic 2: *Doctrine and codes of conduct*, the title of the papers presented were as follows:

- a. **Paper 8.** *“Domestic Operations: a Canadian Perspective”*, sponsored by Canada.
  
- b. **Paper 9.** *“Role of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security: The Indian Experience”*, sponsored by the Republic of India.
  
- c. **Paper 10.** *“Role of Armed Forces in Internal Security-Doctrine and Codes of Conduct: The Pakistani Perspective”*, sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

15. For the sub-theme on Topic 3: *Supporting laws, orders and regulations*, the title of the papers presented were as follows:

- a. **Paper 11.** *“Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security - Supporting Laws, Orders and Regulations”*, sponsored by Japan.
- b. **Paper 12.** *“Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security”*, sponsored by Mongolia.
- c. **Paper 13.** *“Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security”*, sponsored by the United States of America.
- d. **Paper 14.** *“Roles of Armed Forces in Maintaining Internal Security”*, sponsored by the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces.
- e. **Paper 15.** *“Roles of the International Committee of the Red Cross and its Promotion of International Humanitarian Law”*, sponsored by International Committee of the Red Cross.

16. In addition, a presentation was provided on *“Draft of Terms of Reference (TOR) on Information Exchange”* by the Philippines. The TOR is attached in **Annex D**. The Meeting considered and approved the TOR.



## KEY OUTCOMES

17. The key outcomes of these presentations and general consensus are summarized as follows:

- a. The promotion of internal security is one of the most pivotal responsibilities of the Armed Forces in the present world, and that sustainable internal security has become the priority agenda for democratic administrations across the world.
- b. Today's internal security problems are very complex and broad in scope that the public security forces cannot solve them by working alone. Effective initiatives need to be considered to allow members of the Armed Forces to work closely with Civil Society to achieve appropriate comprehensive set of capabilities to contend with the expanded spectrum of operations in order to maintain and ensure internal safety and security.
- c. The way in which the Armed Forces expand their roles beyond the realm of defence and war, and becomes involved with the civil society and the key for their success may vary from country to country.
- d. In order to effectively tackle traditional and non-traditional threats, professional Armed Forces must work with civilian authorities and other government agencies by, but not limited to sustaining mutual confidence building through shared education and participation in joint exercises.

- e. Military education must prepare military officers and government officials to meet this changing environment as well as other diverse challenges such as building competent unique sets of skills in order to contribute effective disaster response in time of crisis and natural disasters.
  
- f. Military operations should be conducted only in support of civil authority and in conformity with the laws, orders and regulations of the State.
  
- g. From the presentations and discussions, the Meeting agreed that:
  - (1) Responses to internal incidents should be handled first and foremost by local civil authorities. Catering for people's needs in time of crisis and natural disasters must be carefully balanced with available resources.
  - (2) The doctrine and codes of conducts have to be dynamic to effectively respond to time sensitive situations.
  - (3) Flexibility, adaptability and proactive approaches need to be the key components of the doctrine dealing with internal security threats.
  - (4) The Meeting agreed on the importance of effective inter-agency cooperation, coordination, collaboration, communication, and control particularly between the Armed Forces and Civil Service Agencies.

## OTHER MATTERS

### 18. Duration and Organization of the Meetings

- a. The Meeting this year was extended from two-day duration to four-day duration to cater for all the presentations and discussions on questions of interest as requested at the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCI Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- b. The Question and Answer sessions were slotted following the presentations on each subtheme as requested at the 12<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCI Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan.

### 19. ARF Institute for International Security

- a. Indian Delegates proposed an establishment of an “ARF Institute for International Security”. The Meeting considered the proposal and was in agreement. The United States of America supported the endeavor and said that the topic would be included in next year’s Meeting. The Indian Delegates also proposed that this topic should be put forward to the ARF Secretariat unit for consideration before proceeding with further details. The meeting concurred.

20. The Meeting agreed that the information gathered at this forum should be conveyed to the appropriate authorities of each member country.

## 21. Hosts for Future ARF HDUCI Meetings

- a. The delegation from the USA reiterated their readiness to host the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCIM in the USA. The proposed themes and sub-themes for the Meeting are as follows:
  - **Strategic Challenges FOR Defense Universities:**
    - **Managing Information Sharing**
    - **Prospects for Strategic Multilateralism**
    - **Teaching and Researching in a new Strategic Environment**
- b. The Meeting noted with appreciation that the USA has expressed their interests in hosting the subsequent Meeting of the HDUCI in 2010.
- c. Suggestion to host the annual meeting in 2011 has been put forward to Indonesian Delegates and Indonesia has kindly reiterated their readiness to host the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCIM. The theme and sub-theme for the meeting shall be advised accordingly at the next meeting.
- d. The Meeting noted with appreciation also that Indonesia has expressed their interest in hosting the subsequent Meeting of the HDUCI in 2011.

## TOUR / ACTIVITY

### 22. Tour of “Arts of the Kingdom” Exhibition

In the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, Delegates were taken on a tour of the “Arts of the Kingdom” Exhibition at Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall. The objective of this visit was to share with member countries some of the major tourist attractions in Bangkok.

### 23. Courtesy Call on Defence Minister

In the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, Heads of Delegates paid courtesy call on General Prawit Wongsuwon, Defence Minister. The objective of this visit was to officially welcome Delegates to Thailand by representative of the Head of State.

### 24. Tour of the Grand Palace and Visit to Defence & Security 2009 Exhibition

Also in the afternoon of 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, some of the Delegates were taken for a tour of the Grand Palace. The objective of this visit was to share with member countries some of the major tourist attractions in Bangkok. Other Delegates visited the Defence & Security 2009 Exhibition at Impact Hall, Muangthong Thani.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

25. The Meeting expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Thailand, to the Ministry of Defence, and to the National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces in particular for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants. The Meeting was unanimous in showing appreciation for the excellent accommodation and arrangements as well as hospitality provided by the Host country.

## CONCLUSION

26. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman expressed his heartfelt appreciation and thanked all Delegates for their presence and participation, and for making this Meeting altogether a great success. He mentioned that their presence and contributions is a reflection of the commitment placed by member countries in making this forum a tremendous achievement. The quality of presentation and the discussion generated is a clear indication of dedication by Delegates present to ensure productive efforts are made to maintain the high standards of this Meeting. All these efforts have contributed towards meeting the objectives of this forum.

27. The Chairman reiterated that the essence of any international gathering, such as this, is the sharing of norms, values, intellectual knowledge and in-depth experiences. With that in mind, we could all rest assured that with member countries participating actively, we have indeed achieved that aim. Such diverse experiences under our military framework have contributed to creative thinking, useful guidelines development, and better understandings between members.

28. The Chairman accentuated that the good intention and the will to understand, and respect for one another can solve any problems. This Meeting has had a great success, and therefore all Delegates should try to make use of what was achieved at this meeting as much as possible.

29. The Chairman called to everyone's attention to remember at all times that any problems could be effectively solved through dialogues.

30. On behalf of National Defence Studies Institute of Thailand, the Chairman thanked all Delegates for their contribution, and wished the Host for the next Meeting a great success.

31. The Chairman handed over the Host of the Meeting to the USA's Head of Delegates, and adjourned the Meeting at 1015 hrs. on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

32. The Chairman wished everyone a safe journey back to their respective countries and reminded everyone to convey the outcomes of this Meeting to their appropriate authorities.

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