

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT OF ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM**  
**DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE**  
**DA NANG, VIET NAM, 18 MAY 2010**

1. The third ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam on 18 May 2010. The Dialogue was chaired by Senior Colonel Vu Tien Trong, Director of Institute for International Relations, Ministry of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and attended by ARF participants, except Bangladesh and Mongolia. Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat was also present. The list of participants is at **ANNEX A**.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME REMARKS**

2. In his welcome remarks, Senior Colonel Vu Tien Trong highlighted that in the rapid and complicated changes of international situation, although peace remained the mainstream, non-traditional and transnational issues such as climate change, terrorism, natural disasters, pandemic diseases, financial crisis were emerging and having impacts on stability, security and development of each country as well as of the entire region. The Chair stressed that these challenges were not of a single country's concern but transnational, regional, inter-regional and international issues and needed close cooperation and collaboration, mobilization of resources and expertise from every country as well as assistance from international community in dealing with these challenges effectively. The Chair also acknowledged the increase and expanse of military cooperation in various forms among ARF countries in recent years. These interactions among defence officials have built confidence, solidarity, and friendship among ARF participants. Under Viet Nam's chairmanship of ARF, two ARF Defence Officials' Dialogues were held in New Delhi and Nha Trang. These played important foundations to further boost and deepen cooperation of ARF militaries in the time to come in addressing the mentioned-above challenges, contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The Chair expressed hope that the Dialogue would produce fruitful discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3. The Dialogue adopted the Agenda which is at **ANNEX B**.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: ARF DEFENCE COOPERATION IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

4. Senior Colonel Vu Tien Trong opened the Dialogue by reaffirming that we have seen the heavy impacts of climate change such as natural disasters, infectious diseases,...etc and no single country could afford to deal with these. Therefore,

multilateral cooperation among ARF militaries was needed for the collective solution in responding to the climate change.

5. The Dialogue comprised of the following country presentations:

- a. Viet Nam – (ANNEX C)
- b. United States – (ANNEX D)
- c. Singapore – (ANNEX E)
- d. Malaysia – (ANNEX F)
- e. Australia – (ANNEX G)

with concurrent discussions and further comments from Thailand, Pakistan, India, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, China, and Papua New Guinea.

6. The Dialogue was of the view that climate change was an emerging security challenge with a long term security implications for Asia-Pacific region. The Dialogue also recognized climate change has been on the top of the international security agenda such as the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in 2009, the 16<sup>th</sup> ARF in 2009 and the 16<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2010. The Dialogue shared that climate change has posed serious threats to human security, national development, stability and prosperity of the region and the world with the consequences of global warming, rise of sea level, food and water shortage, and other forms of natural disasters.

7. The Dialogue viewed that the armed forces had played crucial role with its better trained personnel and more advanced equipment in responding climate change, especially in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operation. The Dialogue noted that under the ASEAN framework, the defence sector has launched important initiatives such as the Use of ASEAN military assets and capacities in HADR by Indonesia, Workshop on ASEAN defence establishments and civil society organizations cooperation on non-traditional security, including HADR by Thailand in 2010, the first table-top exercise on HADR to be co-hosted by Indonesia and Singapore in 2011 and the ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medical Corps Meeting to be hosted by Viet Nam in 2010.

8. The Dialogue also observed that the impacts of climate change have not fully permeated in the minds of the population. Therefore, the Dialogue underscored the urgent need to create awareness of the global repercussions of climate change. The dialogue viewed that developing capacities of potential affected nations was essential.

9. The Dialogue discussed possible roles the ARF could contribute in addressing the effects of climate change. In view of to promoting military cooperation in responding to climate change, the Dialogue considered the followings:

- Strengthen cooperation in training of skills and professionalism as well as joint exercises, especially in search and rescue, military medical work to prepare for the military participation in regional joint efforts.

- Continue working on exchange of views and sharing of information, including through exchange of military delegations, meetings, and seminars.
  - Promote collaboration among early warning centers in view of information sharing.
  - Develop more comprehensive principles and guidelines to facilitate cooperation between relevant local, national, regional and international parties both public and private in this respect.
  - Conduct joint assessment to identify needs for military capability development in responding to the damages caused by climate change.
  - Promote cooperation between regional organizations such as ASEAN and SAARC including interactions among militaries from both regions.
10. The Dialogue touched on the relevance of ARF in addressing transnational security challenges. The Dialogue recalled the ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response 2009 as a positive example of ARF important initiative in promoting cooperation among the armed forces in humanitarian operations. The Dialogue welcomed the preparation for the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) to be conducted in Indonesia in March 2011 and the ARF Seminar on Security Implications of Climate Change to propose by the European Union. The Dialogue also took note of the latest status of development of the ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service initiated by Singapore and Australia.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: MEASURES TO ENHANCE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONGST ARF MILITARIES**

11. Senior Colonel Vu Tien Trong opened the discussions by highlighting the ARF's important role in the international security, especially in the shift changing security environment with the emergence of non-traditional security challenges which are more complicated, unpredictable, and transnational in nature. In order to handle them, it was an urgent need to have a more comprehensive approach to cooperation focusing on effectiveness and efficiency.
12. The Dialogue comprised of the following country presentations:
- a. Japan – (ANNEX H)
  - b. China - (ANNEX I)
  - c. Indonesia – (ANNEX J)
  - d. India – (ANNEX K)
  - e. New Zealand - (ANNEX L)
- with concurrent discussions and further comments from Australia, Republic of Korea, and Malaysia.
13. The Dialogue reviewed the current security cooperation in the ARF and how it could be taken progress in the future. Some participants viewed that the area of

disaster relief cooperation has been progressing most significantly among other areas in ARF. Other potential areas which might also develop at a rapid pace are maritime security and peacekeeping. In this regard, the Dialogue viewed joint exercises and capacity building should be the focus of cooperation in the future.

14. The Dialogue exchanged views on possible ways to enhance military role in the ARF. The Dialogue took note of the recommendations proposed, among others:

- Prioritize coordination and cooperation among the ARF participants' military forces on non-traditional security issues. Some participants proposed that cooperation and coordination among military in the area of HADR should be given considerable attention.
- Promote participation of defense officials in the ARF. The ARF Security Policy Conference should be given a role and the existing mechanisms for defense officials' dialogue should be strengthened.
- Implementing concert and collective efforts from civilian and military or government and non-government organizations.
- Promote open cooperation among armed forces of ARF participants. ARF can play the more proactive role in further the cooperation in non-traditional security. In the future, non-traditional security cooperation among ARF participants could be more open to observers from other relevant countries beyond the ARF in view of promoting mutual trust, build confidence as well as mobilizing experience and expertise.
- Organize more practical field-oriented activities in which defense officials are involved, in view of following up of recommendations made in the ARF DOD deliberation.
- Set up ARF DOD working groups on issues of common concerns in the ARF with the purpose of improving cooperation.
- Maintain close interaction among the ARF DOD with other mechanisms such as the ISG and SOM.
- Set up a Standard Operating Procedure and Command – Control System in cooperative humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- ASEAN Secretariat to circulate a register of ARF proposed activities at the ISG meetings to ensure full participation of all ARF participants.

15. The Dialogue touched on the issues of coordination in the HADR and reconstruction operation. The Dialogue took note of the suggestion for ARF to conduct regular exercises such as table top exercises or computer simulation exercises in these areas.

16. The dialogue took note of Japan's proposal to develop the ARF Disaster Relief Registration Scheme with the main functions of voluntary and non-binding registration of civilian and military capability for disaster relief, information sharing, maintenance and update of database of disaster relief capability.

Australia informed the Dialogue on the recently established Asia Pacific Civil – Military Center of Excellence.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS**

17. No delegation raised any other issue at the Dialogue.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING REMARKS**

18. The Dialogue expressed sincere thanks to the Ministry of Defence of Viet Nam for the hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Dialogue and traveling of the delegations. The Dialogue also commended Viet Nam schedule to host the next ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue in Ha Noi in July 2010.

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