

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SEVENTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SECURITY
POLICY CONFERENCE
DA NANG, VIET NAM, 19 MAY 2010

1. The Seventh ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam on 19 May 2010. The Conference was chaired by Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh, Deputy Minister of National Defense of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.
2. All representatives from the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of all ARF participants, except Bangladesh and Mongolia attended the Meeting. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants is at **ANNEX A**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME REMARKS

3. In the welcome remarks, Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh highlighted the roles of ARF in promoting peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception in 2004, the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) has ushered an important contribution in coordinating dialogue on defence policy where officials exchanged views and experiences as well as lessons learned in dealing with non-traditional security challenges, such as terrorism, climate change, transnational crimes, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, energy and food security, financial crisis,...Such interactions among defense officials have further boosted confidence and trust among ARF participants. In the spirit of solidarity, friendship, understanding together with participation and responsibility of all participants, the Chair was confident that the Conference would be successful.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Meeting adopted the Agenda which is at **ANNEX B**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION AND VOLUNTARY BRIEFING ON THE SECURITY POLICY OF EACH PARTICIPANT

5. The Conference exchanged views on the various threats to the regional and global stability. Especially the emerging non-traditional security challenges such as economic crisis, maritime security, terrorism, natural disaster, piracy, safety of navigation, illicit drugs, trafficking and smuggling of people were identified as threats commonly faced by ARF countries. The Conference also mentioned the latest developments of security situation in the Korean Peninsula.

6. The Conference underlined the mentioned-above challenges have been increasingly complicated and transnational and no single country could afford to deal with these effectively. Therefore, the Conference was encouraged by ongoing efforts at the multilateral and bilateral level to address these non-traditional security challenges facing the region through building mutual trust and feasible mechanisms, including the Code of Conduct by the Parties in the East Sea (South China Sea) - COC. In this context, the Conference was of the view that ASEAN continues to be relevant in this changing environment and ASEAN as a central party could bring together and engage partners in the region, including the ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting – Plus (ADMM-Plus) as an example to work together to address these threats. The Conference also recognized the importance of close cooperation with international partners such as the United Nations and its agencies.
7. The Conference touched briefly the issue of regional security architecture. The Conference was of the view that new regional security architecture should promote peace and stability and manage potential conflicts and tensions. Further, the Conference viewed that cooperation among defence officials in the ARF should continue in the area of information sharing and adhere to the principle of respect of sovereignty.
8. The Conference took note of ARF participants' contributions in the international peacekeeping missions. In this context, some participants encouraged countries in the region to support the implementation of the United Nations Capstone Doctrine.

AGENDA ITEM 4: FURTHER EXPLOITING ARF PONTENTIALS IN DEALING WITH NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE REGION

9. The Conference viewed that the diverse characters of ARF participants have contributed to building strong pillar for the regional security cooperation. The Conference agreed that defense forces played important roles in coping with the regional challenges, which owed to the well equipped and trained nature of the forces. The Conference observed that ARF should focus its future cooperation on information sharing, including intelligence information, capacity building, exchange of experience and expertise through seminars and workshop, military training and education; military cultural exchange to promote trust and confidence that would lead to concrete joint military cooperation, interaction among non-government military experts, and table top and command joint exercise for readiness and rapid reaction in contingency situations.
10. The Conference reiterated that ARF has demonstrated its successful role in promoting cooperation in non-traditional security issues, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), counter-terrorism, maritime security and non-proliferation and disarmament. The Conference underlined that HADR has been the area where ARF has worked most effectively.

11. The Conference discussed how ARF could progress its efforts to address non-traditional security challenges. The Conference took note of the recommendations:

- Continuously focus on dealing with counter-terrorism with a view to tackling the radicalization;
- Strengthen the ARF, particularly in the areas of disaster relief, maritime security;
- Reinforce the ARF strategic guidance and encourage the discussion on strategic issues such as objectives and principles in non-traditional security cooperation;
- Strengthen ARF both internal and external relations;
- Deepen practical cooperation under its framework through personnel training, information sharing, desktop and field exercises in the manner of transparency and in close collaboration between military and civilian agencies;
- Adhere to the founding principles of ARF such as respect to national sovereignty and non-interference in addressing non-traditional security challenges.
- Strengthen the integration of defense agencies, taking into account the recent establishment of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus).

12. The Conference underscored the need for greater cooperation among the military such as through regular training and development of new multilateral cooperative facilities. The Conference commended the successful conduct of the ARF Virtual Demonstration of Response in Disaster Relief in the Philippines in 2009, the preparation of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) to be held in Indonesia in March 2011 and the development of the ARF Geospatial Disaster Relief Mapping Service by Singapore and Indonesia. The Conference encouraged ARF to use these initiatives as a model to consider future practical activities.

13. Viet Nam, European Union, United States, China, Australia, Singapore, India, New Zealand and Japan briefed the Conference. The briefing papers are at **ANNEXES C, D, E, F, G, H, I**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 4TH ASEAN DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING IN HANOI, VIET NAM

14. Viet Nam briefed the Conference on the outcomes of the 4th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) that was held in Ha Noi from 10-13 May 2010. The 4th ADMM has adopted the Papers on the ADMM-Plus, including "ADMM-Plus: Configuration and Composition" and "ADMM-Plus: Modalities and Procedures". The 4th ADMM also agreed to support Viet Nam to host the inaugural ADMM-Plus in October 2010 with the composition of ADMM+8 and composition of 10 ASEAN Member States and 8 Dialogue Partners of ASEAN (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States). In view of preparing the inaugural ADMM-Plus, the ADSOM Working Group for ADMM-Plus would convene in July 2010 and chaired by ADSOM Leader of Viet Nam. Viet

Nam underscored that ASEAN would continue to be the core of the ADMM-Plus process.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

15. China informed the Conference on convening of the 2nd ARF Seminar on Rules and Regulations in the International Disaster Relief by the Armed Forces to be co-chaired with Thailand in September 2010.
16. The Philippines expressed gratitude for the supports and contributions of ARF participants extended to the Philippines in the events of two typhoon disasters in 2009.
17. Democratic People Republic of Korea raised the issue of the Korean Agreement of 1953 and its proposal of the replacement of the Agreement with the Peace Treaty on the Korean Peninsula, thus contributing to the peace and stability of the region and of the world as well.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSING REMARKS

18. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed sincere thanks to the participants of the Conference for the frank and fruitful discussions, thus ensuring the success of the Conference. The Conference thanked the Ministry of National Defence of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality made for the Conference.
