

**ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Support Group
on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy
Seoul, Korea, 21-22 April 2009
Co-Chair's Summary Report**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 15th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Singapore on 24 July 2008, the second meeting of the Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD) for 2008-2009 was held in Seoul, Korea, on 21-22 April 2009. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Lee Yong-Joon, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Mr. Peter Ho, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF Members, except the DPRK, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and Mongolia. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat was also present, as were representatives from CSCAP and ASEAN ISIS. The ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue was held on 19-20 April 2009. The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as **ANNEX 1**, the Programme of Activities as **ANNEX 2**, and the List of Participants as **ANNEX 3**.

Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Security Situation, and Non-Traditional Security Issues

3. The Meeting discussed the overall regional security situation and assessed that the current situation in the Asia-Pacific region remains relatively positive and yet the region still faces uncertainties. Participants noted the increasingly constructive cooperation of major actors in the region. In particular, the Meeting noted with satisfaction the recent entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, marking a milestone for the eventual attainment of the ASEAN Community. The Meeting also noted the adoption of the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015) which commits ASEAN to implementing the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint by 2015. In addition, the Meeting acknowledged the recent process of the EU accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC). The Meeting further noted that the United States and Turkey indicated their interests to accede to the TAC. Still, a number of

traditional and non-traditional security issues such as global financial crisis, terrorism, transnational crime and people smuggling, climate change, food and energy security, and natural disasters continued to pose serious threats to regional and international security and required even more multinational cooperation. The Meeting reaffirmed that the ARF should continue to play a pivotal role in intensifying such cooperation and in taking concrete action.

4. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 13 April 2009 on the DPRK's launch of a long-range rocket, through which the international community sent its clear and unified message to the DPRK. A number of ARF Members expressed deep concern and regret that the DPRK announced to withdraw from the Six-Party talks and reactivate its nuclear facilities through a statement of its Foreign Ministry on 14 April, and expelled IAEA personnel and thus rejected the international community's unequivocal calls for the DPRK to abide by its obligations. The Meeting also urged the DPRK to fully comply with Security Council resolution 1718 and the recently adopted Presidential Statement and to promptly return to the Six-Party talks.

5. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of addressing humanitarian concerns of the international community.

6. A number of participants expressed concern about the situation in Myanmar. The Meeting expressed its strongest support for the continued engagement efforts of the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Professor Ibrahim Gambari and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council, Tomas Ojer Quintana, and welcomed the expression of trust and confidence by the Myanmar government in Gambari and its willingness to engage in active cooperation with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy as well as other UN agencies. The Meeting noted the briefing made by the Myanmar government on the recent political development in the implementation of the 7-step Roadmap to Democracy including the preparation of the general elections in 2010. Some members emphasized the need for a genuine dialogue between the Myanmar government and members of all the parties in advance of the 2010 elections.

7. Participants called upon the Myanmar government to release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and stressed the need for an inclusive process engaging all the parties leading to meaningful national reconciliation. Participants urged Myanmar to work with the international community to make meaningful and expeditious progress towards democratic reform and national reconciliation. The Meeting also underlined its support for the efforts to promote good governance, stability and reconstruction in Myanmar.

In addition, the Meeting appreciated the role of the Tripartite Core Group (TCG) in response to Cyclone Nargis and supported the continued work of the TCG in the Cyclone-Nargis afflicted areas.

8. The Meeting expressed its support for the on-going efforts of the Afghanistan government and the international community in building a more stable, prosperous, democratic, and self-sufficient Afghanistan, as demonstrated in the International Conference on Afghanistan in the Hague on 31 March 2009 and the Special Conference on Afghanistan hosted by SCO in Moscow on 27 March 2009. In addition, the Meeting noted the Strategic Review put forward by the United States that aims to address the problems of Afghanistan by adopting a regional approach and fostering socio-economic development in the country. Some participants noted the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan as a result of the resurgence of Taliban and Al Qaeda.

9. Pakistan briefed the Meeting on its security situation in the border area with Afghanistan and the results of the Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FoDP) and the Pakistan Donors Conference in Tokyo on 17 April 2009. The Meeting acknowledged that countering extremism and terrorism and maintaining stability in Pakistan are linked to the regional and international security.

10. Participants encouraged Iran to cooperate fully with the international community and to resolve all outstanding issues regarding its nuclear program by fully implementing the requirements of relevant IAEA and UNSC resolutions. Some participants expressed that Iran's continued defiance of relevant UNSC resolutions and lack of response to the international community's offer to start negotiations were not reassuring for the international community that Iran's nuclear power program is for purely peaceful purposes. As such, the Meeting expressed hope that Iran will work with the international community including the UNSC and IAEA towards a constructive, peaceful and sustainable long term solution to fulfill its international obligations, and to build much needed confidence regarding its nuclear program.

11. Some participants called on the resumption of the Israel-Palestine Peace Negotiation and hoped for the establishment of the peaceful co-existence of two-states.

12. India briefed the Meeting on the deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, which caused more than 160 deaths. ARF Members strongly denounced the heinous acts of terrorism, and called for early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

13. ARF Members expressed concern on the continuing challenge posed by terrorism in the Asia Pacific region. The Meeting stressed the importance of strengthening regional cooperation within the context of ARF to improve measures that would effectively combat the threats of terrorism in the Asia Pacific region. ARF Members also welcomed various counter-terrorism initiatives and programmes and reaffirmed the pivotal role of the ARF in the fight against terrorism in the region.

14. Some ARF Members noted with great concern that the number of terrorist acts has been increasing in recent years, and emphasized the importance of international and regional cooperation in combating these inhuman acts of terrorism. Fully aware of the brutality of terrorist acts on innocent civilians and the profound extent of the resultant human suffering, the Meeting also committed to further enhance joint efforts to prevent and eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motives.

15. The Meeting noted that adverse global climate change which may lead to huge natural disasters could have a serious impact on the security situation in the region, causing damages to infrastructure and lack of access to basic necessities. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the outcome of the ARF Seminar on International Security Implications of Climate-related Events and Trends in Phnom Penh held on 19-20 March 2009, co-chaired by Cambodia and the EU.

16. A number of ARF Members underlined that the region has experienced a number of natural disasters. In this regard, the ARF should continue to focus on strengthening cooperation on disaster management and the preparedness in dealing with natural disasters.

17. Some ARF Members expressed concern that the food crisis poses a great threat to human security and regional security by not only worsening poverty, disease, IDPs, and disasters, but also fostering environments conducive to terrorism and conflicts. The Meeting attached great importance to the concerted efforts of the international community in resolving the food crisis.

18. Some ARF Members raised the necessity to examine the broad impact of the global financial crisis on the security situation in the Asia Pacific region given its massive scale and speed with which the crisis spills over across the borders.

19. Some ARF Members expressed deep concern on the deteriorating situation in Fiji, and expressed deep concern with regard to the decision by the Fiji government to abrogate the Constitution, remove the judiciary, impose emergency rule and defer all elections until 2014. Some participants noted that

current circumstances in Fiji were not consistent with freedom, democracy, human rights or the rule of law, since they bring economic turmoil and isolation by the international community, thus affecting the people of Fiji adversely. The Meeting also urged that constitutional government should be peacefully restored in Fiji as soon as possible.

20. Some participants reaffirmed the continuing importance of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea of 2002 (DOC) which promotes the peace in the area. The Meeting encouraged the continued exercise of self-restraint by all the parties concerned and the promotion of confidence-building measures in this area and welcomed their commitment to resolving disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means.

21. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the ARF ISM on Maritime Security on 5-6 March 2009 in Surabaya, Indonesia. Members noted with satisfaction the decline in pirate activities in the Straits of Malacca, but expressed concerns at the growing incidence of piracy off the coast of Somalia. Members expressed their willingness to work together to find long term solutions to this security threat.

Briefing on the Outcome of the Defense Officials' Dialogue (DOD)

22. Mr. Cho Baek-Sang, Director General for International Policy Bureau of Korean Ministry of National Defense as ROK Co-Chair of the ARF Defense Dialogue briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD Defense Officials' Dialogue which was held on 19-20 April 2009. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Brigadier-General Gary Ang, Deputy Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Defense of Singapore. Participants shared views on military efforts to respond to cyber security threats, transnational threats and military's role, and maritime security as a key transnational security challenge in today's international environment. Attached as **ANNEX 4** is the Co-Chairs' Summary report of the DOD.

Review and Consideration of Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy

23. The Meeting noted a list of ARF activities undertaken since the Singapore ISG in October 2008:

- a. 12th ARF Heads of Defense/Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM) in Islamabad, 21-23 October 2008

- b. ARF Conference on Terrorist Use of the Internet in Bali, 6-8 November 2008
- c. 3rd ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting in Beijing, 13-15 November 2008
- d. Advanced Maritime Security Training Programme for ARF Member States in Chennai, 17-22 November 2008
- e. 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief in Banda Aceh, 5-6 December 2008
- f. 1st ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in Surabaya, 5-6 March 2009
- g. ARF Seminar on International Security Implications of Climate-Related Events and Trends, 19-20 March 2009

24. The Meeting noted a list of remaining activities for the inter-sessional year 2008-2009, to be implemented before the July 2009 Ministerial Meeting, as below. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the reports of the ARF activities taking place after the ARF SOM should be submitted intersessionally to the ARF SOM leader in due course before the ARF Ministerial Meeting takes place. The Meeting also suggested to India to adjust the schedule of its proposed activities in accordance with the ARF calendar of activities in 2009 and to partner it with one ASEAN country in the co-chairmanship format.

- ◆ ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces in Beijing, 22-25 April 2009
- ◆ 7th ARF ISM on CTTC in Hanoi, 4-6 May 2009
- ◆ ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response (VDR) on Disaster Relief in Central Luzon, 4-8 May 2009
- ◆ Peacekeeping Course for ARF Member Countries in New Delhi, 18-22 May 2009
- ◆ ARF Senior Officials Meeting in Bangkok, 19-20 May 2009
- ◆ ARF Workshop on Laboratory Bio-Safety and Bio-Security, mid-June 2009

- ◆ Inaugural Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, TBA, late June/early July 2009

Report of the 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief

25. Indonesia and the EU briefed on the outcome of the 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) in Banda Aceh, 5-6 December 2008, co-chaired by Indonesia and the EU. The ISM on DR focused on recent cases of disaster relief operations in the region, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation on disaster relief, recovery and risk reduction in the region. The ISM also exchanged views on the ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and the draft ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. Australia asked for any further comments on the Strategic Guidance by 8 May 2009. Attached as **ANNEX 5** is the Co-Chairs' Summary report of the ISM on DR.

Report of the 1st ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security

26. Indonesia, New Zealand and Japan briefed on the outcome of the 1st ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM on MS) in Surabaya, 5-6 March 2009, which was co-chaired by Indonesia, Japan and New Zealand. The ISM on MS reviewed the previous discussions on maritime security issues in the ARF, and shared the view to build common perceptions on threats and challenges in maritime security of the region. The ISM also agreed to utilize the outcome of the ARF Roundtable Discussion on the Stocktaking of the Maritime Security, together with the Matrix of the progress of discussion, to develop the basic ARF cooperation framework on maritime security including a work plan. Attached as **ANNEX 6** is the Co-Chairs' Summary report of the ISM on MS.

Report of the ARF Conference on Terrorists' Use of Internet

27. Australia and Indonesia briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF Conference on Terrorists' Use of Internet in Bali, 6-8 November 2008. Attached as **ANNEX 7** is the Co-Chairs' Summary of the Conference.

Other ARF Activities (workshops, courses and seminars)

28. China briefed about the ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulations on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces in Beijing, 22-25 April 2009. India briefed the Meeting on the Advanced Maritime Security Training Programme for ARF Member States in Chennai, 17-22 November 2008. China briefed the Meeting on the 3rd ARF Experts and Eminent Persons Meeting

in Beijing, 13-15 November 2008. Pakistan briefed the Meeting on the 12th ARF Heads of Defense/Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM) in Islamabad, 21-23 October 2008. The EU briefed on the outcome of the ARF Seminar on International Security Implications of Climate-Related Events and Trends, 19-20 March 2009 in Phnom Penh.

Briefing by Track II

29. Mr. Ralph Cossa, Co-Chair of the CSCAP, briefed the Meeting on its ARF related activities. (ANNEX 8) Dr. Caroline Hernandez, Chair of the ASEAN ISIS also briefed the participants on “Track II Activities in East Asia: ASEAN ISIS Since October 2008.” (ANNEX 9) The Meeting expressed appreciation to their reports and recommendations as important inputs for the ARF and encouraged them for further contribution. A country made a statement where it said that it cannot accept a CSCAP draft Memorandum on managing trade of strategic goods, because it did not take into account its concerns earlier delivered to the CSCAP. This country suggested that the issue concerning the Memorandum should be debated at the Track I, possibly at the ARF ISM on Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

Voluntary Background Briefings

30. The Meeting took note of Russia’s briefing on the outcome of the Special Conference on Afghanistan under the aegis of the SCO in Moscow, 27 March 2009, as attached at ANNEX 10.

31. The Meeting took note of Indonesia’s briefing on the outcome of the 3rd Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and Related Transnational Crimes in Bali, 14-15 April 2009, as attached at ANNEX 11.

Future Direction of the ARF

Follow-up to the Paper on the Review of the ARF

32. The Meeting called on the ARF Chair, ARF Unit and all ARF members to continue efforts in implementing recommendations in the ARF Review Paper as adopted during the 15th ARF.

ASO Standardized Format

33. The ARF Unit updated the Meeting on the progress of their work pertaining to the draft ASO standardized Format. The ARF Unit had received a draft format from Track II experts but noted that the draft was far too detailed and needed to be further streamlined. As such, the Meeting agreed with the ARF Unit's proposal that they would fine-tune the draft format and present a revised draft format at the next ISG for further consideration. The Meeting also agreed with Thailand's proposal that while the draft ASO standardized format is still being developed, submissions for the 2008-2009 ASO should be sent in under the following three broad headings: namely (a) security perceptions of the member country, (b) contributions made to peace and stability in the region, and (c) national defense budget, and should be made by the end of May 2009, to be published in conjunction with the 16th ARF in July 2009.

ARF Working Methods

34. The ARF Unit submitted the document on improving ARF Working Methods. The draft appears as **ANNEX 12**. Some delegations expressed more details should be included in the paper on guidelines on the level of participation at the various ARF meetings, as well as guidelines for Track II participation in the ARF. Some delegations also suggested the possibility of having an overlapping co-chairmanship system in the ISMs to facilitate continuity. The ARF Unit requested all ARF participants to submit written recommendations on the draft paper by 30 April 2009. Thereafter, a final draft of the text would be submitted to the ARF SOM in May 2009 for consideration and approval.

ARF Vision Statement

35. Thailand briefed the Meeting on the development of the draft ARF Vision Statement which benefitted from the comments of most ARF Participants (**ANNEX 13**). Some delegations expressed their view that the Vision Statement should be a strong statement focusing on what sort of entity we wanted the ARF to develop into, rather than a declaration of ARF general principles. It was also noted that the Vision Statement should focus more on concrete initiatives that ARF should undertake in order to fulfill its vision by 2020. Some members noted that the Vision Statement should reflect the views of as many ARF participants as possible and should thus strike a balance between a declaration of ARF principles and specific action lines on what sort of entity the ARF should develop into by 2020, and should be concise, visionary and not a plan of action. Taking note of the discussion, the Thai ARF Chair requested all ARF participants to submit written comments on the Vision Statement by 30 April 2009. The Thai ARF Chair would then submit a new draft Vision Statement taking into

account the written comments by 10 May 2009, whereupon delegations could discuss and finalize the draft Vision Statement at the ARF SOM in May 2009.

ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan

36. The ARF Unit briefed on the progress on the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan. The ARF Unit noted that the 15th ARF directed Senior Officials to study the recommendations of the “Joint Study on Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Preventive Diplomacy” (PD study). In view of this, ARF Unit had studied the recommendations of the PD study and prepared a table (**ANNEX 14**) listing out the key recommendations of the PD study that would be relevant in the ARF context. The ARF Unit proposed that delegations consider this table and provide written comments by 30 April 2009. The ARF Unit would then revise the table and the revised table of relevant PD recommendations would be submitted to the ARF SOM in May 2009 for consideration. The Meeting agreed with the ARF Unit’s proposal and noted that using the table of key recommendations of the PD study as a basis, the ARF SOM could consider recommending to the Ministers at the 16th ARF that a Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy be developed. If the Ministers endorsed this recommendation, proper work could begin on a PD Work Plan. This PD Work Plan could include, but not necessarily be limited to, the recommendations of the PD study. Reference could also be made to relevant ARF documents such as the “ARF Concept Paper” and the “ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy Paper”.

37. Separately, the Meeting agreed that if the Ministers mandated the preparation of a PD Work Plan, the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) should be tasked to provide their views on the elements of an ARF PD Work Plan bearing in mind the PD study, the ARF Concept Paper and the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy Paper.

ARF Work Plan on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime

38. The United States and the ARF Unit briefed on the implementation of the Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), focusing on the immediate next steps in the implementation of the Work Plan, as attached at **ANNEX 15**. The Meeting viewed the Work Plan on CTTC as a positive move in strengthening CTTC cooperation among ARF member countries. The Meeting noted that the Work Plan would be further discussed at the ARF ISM on CTTC in Hanoi, Vietnam, 4-7 May 2009. The Meeting agreed that the list of lead countries for priority ideas identified in the Work Plan on CTTC should be finalized by the 16th ARF.

ARF Work Plan for Disaster Relief

39. The EU and the ARF Unit briefed on the draft Work Plan for Disaster Relief as attached at **ANNEX 16**. The Meeting noted that the Work Plan Concept Paper will be proposed for endorsement at the 16th ARF, while the Implementation Annex is a living document, which could be updated when necessary. The EU briefed the Meeting that the EU was in the process of developing a concept for a training course on post-disaster need assessment. The training programme will be open to all ARF participants.

40. The ARF Unit requested for any further comments to be submitted in the form of written submissions by 30 April 2009. A final draft of the text would be submitted to the ARF SOM in May 2009 for consideration and approval.

ARF Voluntary Demonstration of Response on Disaster Relief

41. Philippines briefed to the Meeting on the preparations for the Voluntary Demonstration of Response (VDR) Exercise. The Presentation on the VDR Exercise is attached at **ANNEX 17**. The VDR Exercise will be a civilian-led, military-supported event. The exercise would be hosted by Philippines, and co-chaired by the US in Luzon, Philippines, 4-8 May 2009. Japan briefed the Meeting on its contributions of the VDR, which appears as **ANNEX 18**. The Meeting took a positive view of the upcoming VDR Exercise as it is aligned with the ARF's move towards more concrete and practical cooperation. The Meeting agreed that future VDRs could be more comprehensive in scope and should test the ARF's ability to work together as a group in an actual disaster relief exercise scenario.

ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts on Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism

42. The ROK briefed the Meeting on the progress of the ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts (VME) on Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism. The paper appears as **ANNEX 19**. The Meeting recognized that Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism are serious global risks and expressed strong support for the VME. The Meeting also encouraged ARF participants to actively take part in the VME. Participants hoped that the VME should be included as an initiative to be covered in the Work Plan on CTTC. This issue would be further taken up at the upcoming ISM on CTTC in Hanoi, 4-7 May 2009.

Other ARF Activities to be conducted before the next ARF Ministerial Meeting

43. The Vietnam briefed on its preparation for the 7th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, which will be co-

chaired by Vietnam, ROK and Bangladesh (**ANNEX 20**). The Meeting would be held in Hanoi, 4-7 May 2009.

44. China briefed on its preparation for the Inaugural ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which will be co-chaired by the United States and Singapore. The co-chairs were currently consulting on a date for the ISM and would revert in due course, possibly in late June/early July 2009.

45. The Meeting also took note of the following:

- 3rd Peacekeeping Experts Meeting co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan
- Peacekeeping Course for ARF Member Countries in New Delhi, 18-22 May 2009 hosted by India
- Australia's new proposal to set up a geospatial database for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support on which comments were sought by 8 May 2009
- ARF Workshop on Laboratory Bio-Safety and Bio-Security
- The United States and Thailand taking over the co-chairmanship of the ISM on Disaster Relief
- EU's plan to hold a seminar on International Security Implications of Climate Change
- ARF Seminar on Legal Aspects of Maritime Security proposed by the EU and Indonesia

46. The United States briefed the Meeting on the development of the Model Arrangement on the Use of Military and Civilian Defense Asset (MCDA) in Disaster Relief, as attached at **ANNEX 21**. Indonesia underscored the importance to develop a MCDA in the region and pointed out that such document will serve as voluntary guideline and reference for the ARF participants in providing emergency response in natural disaster.

Other Matters

47. Japan gave a short briefing on the 8th Tokyo Defense Forum Sub-Committee Meeting.

48. Thailand briefed the Meeting on preparations for the ARF SOM that will be held on 19-20 May 2009 in Bangkok and the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting that will be held on 23 July 2009 in Bangkok.

49. The Meeting agreed that Co-chairs, the date, and venue for the next round of ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will be decided during the ARF SOM in Bangkok

on 19-20 May 2009.

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