

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ARF DEFENSE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE

**20 APRIL 2009
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Defence Officials' Dialogue was held in Seoul on 20 April 2009, in conjunction with the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD. The Meeting was co-chaired by Cho, Baek Sang, Director General for International Policy Bureau, Ministry of National Defense, Republic of Korea and Brigadier-General Gary Ang, Deputy Secretary (Policy), Ministry of Defence, Singapore.

2. The Meeting was attended by ARF members from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People' Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, the United States and Vietnam as well as the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of delegates is at [Annex A](#).

Item 1: Welcome Remarks

3. In his opening remarks, The ROK Co-Chair Director General Cho, Baek Sang welcomed the participants to the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue and expressed ROK's pleasure in co-hosting the Meeting with Singapore. He noted that non-traditional and transnational threats including terrorism, piracy, disaster, diseases were on the rise these days. In order to effectively respond to such threats, he emphasized that not only individual nations' efforts but also regional and international close cooperations are needed. He stressed that as the multilateral security consultation body, ARF DOD has become an important forum to jointly address the common security threats and provided good opportunities to enhance peace and stability in the region as well as around the world.

The Singapore Co-Chair BG Ang expressed Singapore's honour in co-hosting the Meeting with the Republic of Korea. He noted that the ARF DOD had provided a good opportunity for the defence officials to discuss security issues of common interest. BG Ang expressed support for greater defence involvement within the ARF, and highlighted the importance of the open and inclusive membership of the ARF in facilitating constructive dialogue and practical cooperation on current and emerging security issues.

Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

4. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda, which is at **Annex B**.

Item 3: Military Efforts to Respond to Cyber Security Threats

5. The Meeting thanked India, the United States, Indonesia, Japan, and Canada for sharing their efforts in dealing with Cyber security threats. The briefings are attached as **Annexes C, D, E, F, and G**.

6. The Meeting recognized that the cyber threats were invisible, anonymous, multiple actors-driven. The Meeting acknowledged that the cyber threats were real ones that all the member states are currently facing. The Meeting agreed that the cyber threat was launched mainly using the computer network. The range of the damage has impacts not only domestically but also globally, and it is also extensive and simultaneous. The Meeting emphasized the need to strengthen the protection of information and network in order to respond to the cyber threats.

7. The Meeting recognized that inter-governmental, inter-regional, and international cooperation were necessary, while fostering national capabilities in order to address the cyber threats. The Meeting identified the importance of systematic response such as prevention, detection, reaction and response. The Meeting understood the need for combined efforts of the civil, the military and the government, and stressed the need of all-out response such as fostering excellent personnel, assets, and information capabilities in order to get rid of root causes.

8. The Meeting understood that the cyber space has the double aspects that it facilitates our life to be convenient, while it causes a great deal of damage such as cyber crimes and cyber terrorism. The Meeting introduced various efforts of the member states including laws, systems, and policies to respond to the cyber threats and recognized that member states need to share information and best practices. In particular, the Meeting noted that the role of the military can be further expanded since the cyber security was becoming one of main tasks in the military of the member states.

9. The Meeting recognized that cyber threats have evolved as information technology advances. The Meeting understood that more efforts and better technology are required to address such threats and stressed that all the domestic areas including communications, financial system, emergency system, and

government system are vulnerable to the cyber threats, which can be a serious threat by which the foundation of the nation can be destroyed at one time. In this regard, the Meeting agreed that the cyber security was the urgent issue that member states should cooperate with each other.

10. The Meeting acknowledged that member states needed to establish cooperation networks and to share information in order to effectively respond to the cyber threats. The Meeting recognized the need to hold regular workshops and seminars that policymakers and experts in various fields could participate in. The Meeting further noted the need for mock exercises to respond to the cyber threats at the regional and international level.

Item 4: Transnational Threats and Military's Role

11. The Meeting thanked the lead discussants Thailand, Malaysia, Australia and Singapore for sharing their experiences in addressing transitional security threats and the roles that militaries could play. The presentation papers are attached as **Annexes H, I, J, and K.**

12. The Meeting recognised that while the Asia-Pacific region was relatively stable, it continued to face a range traditional and non-traditional as well as transnational security challenges including terrorism, piracy, natural disasters, epidemics, environmental degradation, energy security and food security.

13. The Meeting noted that some countries in the world had been badly affected by the threat of terrorism and reaffirmed its commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms as no country could be free from the threat of terrorism. The Meeting also noted the importance of adopting a holistic approach, and pointed to the need to address the root causes or conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. There was a need for close international cooperation and some participants suggested the need to develop institutionalised mechanisms to better counter the threat of terrorism.

14. The Meeting also discussed maritime security as a key transnational security challenge given that we continue to rely heavily on strategic sea lines of communication, including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and the Gulf of Aden for the transport of goods and energy supplies. The Meeting noted that multilateral arrangements like the Malacca Strait Patrols which was responsible for Strait security, Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 and EU Ops Atalanta that were set

up to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia, and naval ships sent by ARF member countries, had enhanced maritime security. The Meeting further noted that apart from piracy, some of the regional waters also witnessed cross-border illegal activities, such as the smuggling of immigrants and drugs, as well as the trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

15. The Meeting recognised that the military may not always have a direct role to play in addressing transnational security challenges. The military also may not always have ready solutions to some of these security challenges. Notwithstanding this, the Meeting acknowledged that the military was undoubtedly in a good position to do so whenever new types of situation or transnational threats appear. This was evidently shown in the militaries' response to the piracy situation in the Gulf of Aden. This was because the military, by virtue of its training, disciplined organisation and preparedness, could be activated and deployed more rapidly than their civilian counterparts to respond to some of these transnational security challenges.

16. The Meeting also acknowledged the importance of continued cooperation and collaboration between armed forces in attempting to resolve some of the transnational security threats facing the region. The Meeting noted that militaries need to promote multinational combined exercises to enhance inter-operability so that we can strengthen the regional capacities and capabilities to deal with these security challenges.

Item 5: Any Other Matters

17. The Meeting was informed by Japan regarding the 8th subcommittee of the Tokyo Defense Forum that will be held by the Japanese Ministry of Defense from 13-17 July. The reports are as **Annex L**.

18. Bangladesh delegation stated that Bangladesh ratified all the UN Security Council conventions regarding counter-terrorism and also stressed that all the member states of ARF should jointly respond to terrorism.

Item 6: Closing Remarks

19. In his closing remarks, DG Cho expressed his appreciation to all the delegations that actively participated in the discussion and to BG Gary Ang who co-pressed over the meeting. He evaluated that there were very fruitful discussions with regard

to the various transnational threats, including the cyber security, the efforts of member states to respond to such threats, and the cooperation among nations. He stressed that the role of defense officials is very significant in resolving many issues discussed in ARF and hoped for the further development of ARF DOD.

20. The Meeting thanked the ROK government for the excellent preparation for the ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue and the warm hospitality.

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