

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Seminar on
“International Security Implications of Climate-Related Events and Trends”
Phnom Penh, 19 March 2009**

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on “International Security Implications of Climate-Related Events and Trends” was held on 19 March in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The seminar was organized by the Kingdom of Cambodia and the European Union. It was co-chaired by Mr. Cheth Naren, Acting Director-General for ASEAN, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Mr. Tomasz Kozloski, Principal Advisor, External Relations Directorate-General of the European Commission, representing the European Union (EU).
2. The Seminar was attended by delegates of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, People’s Republic of China, the EU, India, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, USA, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat and the International Organisation of Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, as well as several experts. The list of delegates is attached as **Annex 1**. The Seminar programme and agenda are attached as **Annex 2** and **Annex 3**, respectively.

Opening Session

3. At the Opening Session, the Cambodian and EU Co-Chairs delivered their respective Opening Addresses (attached as **Annex 4** and **Annex 5**, respectively). Subsequently, the agenda was adopted.
4. The opening session was concluded by a keynote address delivered by Cambodia, which is attached as **Annex 6**.

Session 1: Climate Change as Threat Multiplier

The global and regional perspectives:

5. The EU opened Session 1 by outlining the major findings of the EU Paper on climate change and international security, as well as the process how the EU Paper came about. The presentation is attached as **Annex 7**.
6. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Seminar on ASEAN's response to address climate change and highlighted the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and Environment of 2008 among others. The briefing also highlighted the various measures and initiatives to be undertaken in addressing climate change.
7. Japan briefed on climate change and human security. The presentation stressed among others issue of food and water availabilities as well disaster impacts, and outlined the vulnerabilities Asia may face regarding climate change. Japan

concluded the presentation with outlining the current activities of Japan and suggested further activities with the ASEAN Regional Forum. The presentation is attached as **Annex 8**.

8. Prof. Herman Kraft (Expert) of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) Philippines debriefed the participants on the latest CSCAP meeting on climate change and international security. He noted the establishment of a specific study group on climate change and international security, whose major objectives are twofold: First, examine the risks climate change poses for security of the Asia-Pacific; second, arriving at recommendations for governments in the region to avoid potential security crisis. His presentation is attached as **Annex 9**.
9. Prof. Wang Yizhou (Expert) spoke on climate change as threat multiplier. In his presentation, he stressed that climate change is mostly an environmental issue, which can become a security issue only in cases of inappropriate policy responses by governments and inadequate management of its challenges.
10. Following the presentations by the speakers, examples of local analysis were given by Vietnam, Malaysia and China. In Vietnam, climate change is most likely to significantly affect food security as well as coastal areas, which will potentially threaten the livelihoods of millions of citizens of Vietnam. The presentation closed with policy responses currently developed by Vietnam. The presentation is attached as **Annex 10**. Malaysia discussed the different perceptions on security regarding the impacts of the 2°C aim as well as the progress and issues related to the multilateral frameworks, particular since the Rio Summit and Kyoto, exist. Finally, China elaborated that it will be vulnerable particular to disasters and will need to build capacities for this. It called particular on developed countries, who are responsible for the historical build-up of green house gases, to support developing countries in building the necessary capacities to cope with the impacts of climate change..
11. Subsequently, the floor was opened for interventions by the audience. Interventions were made by the delegates from India, Australia, CSCAP, the European Union, Japan, USA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Cambodia. It was stressed in the discussion, that potential security implications of climate change are perceived differently due to the very different impacts climate change will have. Developing countries need to further develop to become capable as developed countries to cope with the challenges of climate change. Developed countries on the other hand, may have the capacity to cope with the direct impacts of climate change, but will not remain unaffected by climate change impacts elsewhere in the world. It was stressed that a common approach is needed to cope with the different but interdependent challenges of climate change.

Session 2: Building policy responses and action: comparing approaches

Presentations on existing policy responses and ways to cooperate at national, regional and global level.

Sub – session A:

12. Cambodia presented the climate change policy of Cambodia. He outlined in his presentation the likely impacts of climate change and the challenges Cambodia is facing. It also presented the current national adaptation plans of Cambodia on a

national level as well as within the wider multilateral frameworks on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The presentation is attached as **Annex 11**.

13. Indonesia addressed the contribution of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process in bringing the positive implication to climate security. She noted that the UNFCCC process is best suited to cope with the mitigation and adaptation challenges of climate change, but should focus primarily on issues of sustainable development.
14. The EU delegation presented the EU roadmap on climate change and security. The EU highlighted the process which has been established within the EU to take up the security-related challenges of climate change as well the strategic and operative framework the EU is developing in response to climate change. The presentation is attached as **Annex 12**.
15. Prof. Karl Hallding (Expert) of CSCAP Europe outlined existing and potential policy responses. He drew the conclusion that climate change may ultimately fundamentally change the world's strategic security environment, requiring a new global order of cooperation to cope with the security implications of climate change. His presentation is attached as **Annex 13**.
16. Representatives of India and the Republic of Korea (ROK) served as discussants to the presentations. India highlighted that many linked to climate change such as migration have for long existed and are not new or need to be framed with a security perspective. India stressed the importance to see climate change impacts through a development lens and not a security lens, as the instruments of the latter are unable to overcome the challenges of climate change. ROK highlighted the importance of standing together and collaborate on issues related to climate change.

Sub – session B:

17. Alain Lambert of UNDP spoke on the potential of development cooperation as booster for adaptation to security threats. He stressed the role of climate change as peace multiplier instead of a threat multiplier. He furthermore outlined the ways UNDP is addressing and mainstreaming climate change and its implications into the operations of UNDP, as well as remaining challenges. His presentation is attached as **Annex 14**.
18. Dr. Rabab Fatima of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) related to climate change, environmental degradation and the population nexus, providing an overview to a scenario for South Asia and policy responses. She presented the state of knowledge on interlinkages between climate change, security, displacement and migration, highlighting trends on the global level as well as in Asia. Her presentation is attached as **Annex 15**.
19. Hendricus Verbeek of UNEP spoke on climate change and its impacts on environment and security. In his presentation he focused on the approach of UNEP to address issues of environment and security, stressing the role of environmental management in prevention, risk reduction and confidence building via regional cooperation.
20. During the question and answer session, interventions were made by the delegates from the EU, UNDP, India and China. It was mentioned in the discussion, that 2009 will be a crucial year due to the role of the Copenhagen conference and the need by countries to act jointly and progressively to address

the challenge of climate change. Also, it was highlighted in the discussion to keep in mind that climate change as such is a non-traditional security threat, meaning that traditional instruments of security may be inappropriate. Finally, the EU outlined how the roadmap on climate change and security was developed involving EU Member States as well as civil society organizations.

Session 3: Conclusions and recommendations: reinforcing climate security after Copenhagen.

21. Co-Chairs briefly summed up the discussion that took place at the Seminar outlined potential next steps. A draft Co-Chair's Seminar Report was circulated for participant's comments.

Conclusions and Next Steps

22. In conclusion, the Co-Chair of the EU drew the following main conclusions and outlined potential next steps:
 - a. It has been demonstrated during the Seminar, that there are potential implications for security, in all its non-traditional aspects, arising from climate change which merit further deliberations. These include very direct impacts of climate change such as disasters and potential shortages in food and water, as well as potential socio-economic stress factors developing and further cascading effects. Also, it has been outlined, that climate change is not only a threat multiplier but could also very well act as peace multiplier by catalyzing cooperation and joint efforts to take the challenges of climate change and to build the necessary capacity to adapt.
 - b. The security implications of climate-related events and trends are not yet fully clear. A high level of uncertainty remains, particularly on the indirect or potential cascading impacts of climate change. Further knowledge is needed to assess, how and where impacts of climate change may produce instability and affect security issues including human security.
 - c. A first step could be developing regional scenarios and studies, ranging from the regional to the national and the local level, which could serve as input for further deliberations and developing potential policy responses at global, regional and national level. The main emphasis of the studies needs to develop suggestions and recommendations for follow-up actions. The output of the studies should be subjected to consultations with relevant stakeholders to assure validity and reliability as well as ownership.
 - d. A second step could be translating the outcome of the studies into concrete actions through the tools at disposal which include among others international and regional cooperation, policy dialogue and ongoing coordination and communication through relevant international fora. A key underlying aim may be to develop objectives for taking up the challenge of climate change.
 - e. Following the preceding two steps, a third step might be to develop an adequate monitoring process which allow on the one hand to assess progress regarding implementing findings of studies and consultations, as well as continuously serving for information exchange and updating policy responses and measures where new information becomes available.

- f. Finally, it is suggested to continue the discussion on the potential security-related implications of climate-related trends and events within the context of the ASEAN Regional Forum.