

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of  
the Seventh ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting  
on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime  
(Hanoi, Viet Nam, 4-7 May 2009)**

**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Singapore on 24 July 2008, the Seventh ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC) was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 4-7 May 2009. H.E. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Assistant Foreign Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. Yoon Lee, Director-General for Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea and H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al Sorcar, Director-General Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, co-chaired the Meeting.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants, except Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, and representatives from the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting. The Programme of Activities appears as **ANNEX A**, and the List of Participants as **ANNEX B**.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Session**

3. In his Welcome Remarks, H.E. Tran Dai Quang, the Deputy Minister of Public Security of the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam, acknowledged the progress achieved in ARF cooperation in combating terrorism and transnational crimes. Terrorism and transnational crimes should be dealt with in a cooperative manner, at both the bilateral and multilateral level, especially among the ARF participating countries. He underlined the challenges in addressing cyber financial-economic crimes and suggested some initiatives ARF could pursue to combat this threat. The Welcome Remarks appears as **ANNEX C**.
4. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, in his Co-chairs' remarks, stressed that terrorism and transnational crime have posed serious threats to stability and security in the region. He also noted that the ISM on CTTC has developed over the past years not only in the quantity but also the quality of cooperation activities. He further encouraged ARF participants to continue cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism and transnational crime.
5. Mr. Yoon Lee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Republic of Korea, reiterated that cooperation at the international and regional level are essential to address terrorism and transnational crimes. Along with the development of technology, the threat of cyber financial-economic scam is becoming more

serious. He expressed hope that the Meeting will contribute to the advancement of cooperation in this area.

6. Ambassador Maroof Zamam of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh called for the active participation and positive contribution of the ARF participants in the discussion in the ARF spirit of cooperation.
7. The remarks of the Co-chairs appear as **ANNEX D**.

## **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda**

8. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX E**.

### **Session 1:**

#### **Assessment of the Situation Pertaining to Terrorism and Transnational Crimes in the ARF Region**

9. The Meeting noted that terrorists continued their acts across borders and to spread their radical ideology. On this note, the Meeting underlined the need for a multifaceted and comprehensive strategy in counter-terrorism efforts and called for ARF to move forward with action-oriented approaches in addressing terrorism and transnational crimes. The Meeting agreed that ARF cooperation can complement ongoing activities in ASEAN and based on the ARF Work Plan on CTTC.
10. The Meeting took note of the concerns of the unstable situation in Afghanistan and for the country to be the safe havens of terrorist networks operating in Southeast Asia. In the Southeast Asian region, the threats from the Abu Sayaf and Jemaah Islamiyah groups remained despite the various approaches and measures employed to curb these groups. Some countries shared information on their respective involvements in development programmes in Afghanistan.
11. The Meeting recognized the urgency to implement a 'soft' approach and to involve the non-government entities in addressing terrorism and transnational crime. The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the ARF Conference on the Use of Terrorist Use of the Internet in Bali on 6-8 November 2008.
12. The Meeting recognized the importance of the ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint, ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism that has provided guidance for ASEAN and ARF efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crimes. The Meeting expressed support for the conclusion of a United Nations Comprehensive Convention on Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and looked forward to their implementation.
13. The Meeting took note of the recommendations to address terrorism which included re-education while implementing terrorist groups rehabilitation programmes, the promotion of inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, the

promotion of basic human rights, intelligent exchanges and information sharing, capacity building for law enforcement agencies, combating corruption, expansion of inter-governmental networks and strengthening of police, judicial and extradition cooperation.

14. The following interventions were delivered under this agenda item:
  - a. Indonesia - ... (**ANNEX ...**)
  - b. Australia – ... (**ANNEX ...**)
  - c. United States – (**ANNEX ...**)
  - d. Pakistan – (**ANNEX ...**)
  - e. Russia Federation - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - f. European Union - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - g. Thailand - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - h. Philippines - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - i. Republic of Korea - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - j. Lao PDR – (**ANNEX...**)

### **Review of the Implementation of ARF Decisions on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes**

15. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the highlights of recommendations of ARF decisions on counter-terrorism and transnational crimes. ARF Unit described that the themes of ARF ISM on CTTC in the past six years has shifted from technical issues to soft approaches in this area. The ARF Unit recalled the ARF Cooperation Framework on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes which records issues that ARF has addressed and may continue to deliberate on. The ARF Work Plan on CTTC and the development of the ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts on Cyber Security (VME) were also highlighted. The ARF Unit's information paper appears as **ANNEX .....**
16. Pursuant to the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the VME by the 15<sup>th</sup> ARF, ROK encouraged the ARF participants to join the VME.

### **Session II**

#### **Exchange of Views on Cyber Financial-Economic Scam Situation in Each Country**

17. The presentations in this session aimed to identify common purposes and measures in addressing cyber crimes, and keep ARF region a competitive business area with a secure environment for transactions.
18. The Meeting shared the view that cyber scam is one of the negative implications of the use of the Internet. The advancement of Internet technology continues to be misused to spread wrong information that leads to various forms of crime. The Meeting identified the *modus operandi* of cyber scams which included illegal lottery on the Internet, misrepresentation in offering merchandise for sale, credit card fraud, stealing of information, carrying out unauthorized money transfer order and spreading wrong information in order to cheat potential investors.

19. The Meeting took note of the following recommendations:

- a. Develop cooperation in investigating cyber financial-economic scam;
- b. Conduct preventive programmes, such as public education and awareness-building;
- c. Conduct capacity building programmes for agencies dealing with cyber crime.

### **Sharing of Experiences on Countering Cyber Financial-Economic Scam in Each Country and Region**

20. The Meeting discussed the strategies implemented at the national level to combat terrorist use of the internet which included:

- a. A hard-line strategy namely to block the website and arrest the webmaster;
- b. A 'soft' approach namely to encourage the promotion of tolerance on websites as a counter-narrative to violent extremist websites.
- c. An intelligence-based strategy

21. The Meeting shared experience on national policies and responses to terrorist use of the internet. Some participants viewed that a 'soft' strategy was the most effective way to address cyber terrorism. Nevertheless, the Meeting agreed that there is no one-size fits all approach to this problem. The biggest challenge is to balance the freedom of the use of the Internet and the prevention of abuse of the Internet.

22. The Meeting observed the following challenges for ensuring cyber security:

- a. An insufficient legal frameworks;
- b. The absence of cooperative mechanisms; and
- c. The inadequate infrastructure for information technology and lack of human resources.

23. The following were among the policy recommendations proposed by the participants:

- a. Recognize the trade-off of 'hard' and 'soft'- line strategies;
- b. The establishment of inter-agency task-forces which include security stakeholders such as community leaders and religious leaders;
- c. National information centers in each country to share information with each other;
- d. Exchange of information on the *modus operandi* of the criminals;
- e. Enhance international legal assistance among ARF participants;
- f. The development of an assigned website for information on legal frameworks;
- g. Exchange of expertise in technology and financial support;
- h. Conduct trainings or workshops to build up the capacity of law enforcement officers.

### **Opportunities for ARF Cooperation on Countering Cyber Financial-Economic Scam**

24. The Meeting took note of the ongoing cooperation among ASEAN and China, India, the RoK, Japan and the EU (Norway) in the ASEAN CERT Incident Drill (ACID) that has been conducted in 2007 and 2008.
25. The Meeting viewed the need to have common terminologies in tackling cyber security that are shared among the ARF participants. The Meeting was also briefed on the current ongoing initiatives under the ASEAN and ARF framework in the area of cyber security. The Meeting also noted the operations of a 24/7 Network participated in by some of the ARF participants.
26. The following presentations were delivered during this session:
  - a. Indonesia - Anti Cyber Financial-Economic Scam, Indonesian Perspective (**ANNEX ..**)
  - b. Australia - Internet Radicalization: Development of Radical and Extremist Websites in Southeast Asia (**ANNEX ...**)
  - c. Viet Nam – Prevention and Combat of Cyber Financial-Economic Scam in Viet Nam (**ANNEX ...**)
  - d. RoK – Challenges and Responses to Cyber Security Issues (**ANNEX ...**)
  - e. Thailand – (**ANNEX ...**)
  - f. Russia Federation - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - g. European Union - (**ANNEX ...**)
  - h. United States - (**ANNEX ...**)

### **Session III**

#### **Future Directions of ARF ISM on CTTC**

27. The Meeting agreed that on the following recommendations:
  - The ARF ISM on CTTC should begin the implementation of the ARF CTTC Work Plan which is envisaged to have a long term-strategy that will help ARF participants meet their CTTC-related national, regional and international commitments;
  - To focus on capacity building and greater information exchange;
  - Intensify coordination of respective Financial Intelligence Units to track suspected transactions and cross-boundary movement of funds;
  - Emphasize the need for greater cooperation and better information sharing on transboundary law enforcement agencies;
  - Where applicable, set up the SOP for intelligence sharing and regular information exchange particularly among the ARF members, for hunting down suspects.
28. Russia proposed that the next ARF ISM on CTTC in 2010 focus on international information security and the protection of critical infrastructure.
29. With a view to align the co-chairmanship procedures of the ARF ISM on CTTC with the other ARF ISMs, Indonesia proposed a continuous chairmanship of the ARF ISM on CTTC and proposed that this to be discussed for further consideration by ARF senior officials. On this note, the ARF Unit informed the Meeting of the ISM co-chairmanship procedures outlined in the Improving ARF

Working Methods paper being considered by the ARF ISG for the consideration of the ARF SOM. The ARF Unit underlined that ARF participants viewed that the co-chairmanship of the ARF ISMs should be implemented in a flexible manner.

30. Russia informed the Meeting on the SCO Special Conference on Afghanistan.

31. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. Bangladesh - ... (**ANNEX ...**)
- b. Viet Nam .. – (**ANNEX ...**)

### **ARF Work Plan on CTTC**

32. ARF Unit briefed the Meeting on the main points of the ARF Work Plan on CTTC and the progress of the implementation of the Work Plan thus far. ARF Unit sought the attention of the ARF participants to submit nomination of lead countries and project proposals in view of the Work Plan implementation.

33. Thailand informed the Meeting of its interest to be a lead country in the priority area of illicit drugs and a possible cooperation activity in the training on “Safe Handling and Disposal of Seized Chemicals”. Thailand noted that ARF participants may consider exploring further cooperation in the area of border and transport security, indicated in the Draft Work Plan under possible, future priority areas, as these two issues could help countries deal more effectively with the problems of terrorism and transnational crimes at the same time.

34. The United States informed the Meeting that it would take the lead in the area of bioterrorism and bio-security. The United States is inviting an ASEAN partner country to lead in this priority area. The United States also informed the Meeting that it would co-host with the Philippines the ARF Workshop on Bio-Terrorism and Bio-Security in Manila on 10-11 June 2009.

35. Viet Nam informed the Meeting that it would submit a proposal for a 15-day training workshop on enhancing cooperation in fighting the cyber financial-economic scam. The training workshop is aimed to meet the need for fighting cyber security, identify best practices and develop a standard operating procedure to respond to cyber financial-economic scam. On this note, Viet Nam submitted a project proposal which appears as **ANNEX...**

36. The Meeting noted the proposal by Indonesia to include the issue of trafficking in persons as an additional priority area of the Work Plan and agreed to submit this proposal to ARF senior officials.

37. The Meeting welcomed Russia's interest to co-chair, with one ASEAN Member State, the next ARF ISM on CTTC in 2010.

38. The following presentations were delivered under this agenda item:

- a. .. - ... (**ANNEX ...**)
- b. .. - ... (**ANNEX ...**)
- c. .. – (**ANNEX ...**)

d. .. – (**ANNEX ...**)

### **Closing**

39. The Co-Chairs thanked the active participation, cooperation and views expressed in the open and frank discussion, noting the better understanding on counter-terrorism among the ARF participants.
40. The Meeting expressed gratitude to the Viet Nam, Bangladesh and Republic of Korea Co-Chairs for effective co-chairmanship and to the Government of the Viet Nam for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the ARF ISM on CTTC.