

**REPORT
OF
THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE**

**22 JULY 2009
PHUKET, THAILAND**

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF DoD) was held on 22 July 2009 in Phuket, Thailand. The Meeting was chaired by General Vaipot Srinual, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence, Kingdom of Thailand.

2. The Meeting was attended by ARF participants from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States, Viet Nam as well as the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX A**.

Item 1: Welcome Remarks

3. The Chair welcomed and expressed his gratitude to all the delegates attending the ARF DoD. The Chair recalled that the previous ARF DoD, held in May 2009, in Phuket, Thailand, had explored two important topics in today's world, namely "Military Response to Non-Traditional Security Threats" and "Optimising Defence Capability in response to Non-Traditional Security Threats during the Global Economic Crisis." The previous ARF DoD shared the views that, despite the economic downturn, security challenges continued to be at the core of defence policies and that effective international coordination and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific served as a critical contribution to addressing non-traditional security threats.

4. The Chair elaborated that this Meeting would discuss two equally important topics, namely "A New Security Paradigm for the Asia Pacific Countries" and "Recent Counter-Terrorism Experience in the Asia-Pacific." With the commitment and the spirit the participation of the ARF defence establishments, the Chair anticipated that this Meeting would produce fruitful and extensive discussions. The ARF would continue to play a significant role in contributing to harmony and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

5. The Chair conveyed deepest condolences to the Indonesian delegation and the Government of Indonesia as well as the victims and their families for the loss and sufferings caused by the Jakarta bombings on 17 July 2009. On behalf of the ARF defence establishments, the Chair joined the international community in condemning terrorism which could not and would not be tolerated.

Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

6. The Meeting adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX B.**

Item 3: A New Security Paradigm for the Asia-Pacific Countries

7. The Meeting underlined that globalisation has two-fold implications, the good and the bad. On the one hand the Asia-Pacific countries could enjoy greater prosperity across borders, on the other hand we had to endure non-traditional security threats, namely, terrorism, transnational crime, piracy, weapon proliferations, cyber crimes, climate change, large-scale natural disasters, and pandemic diseases. These threats had increased in magnitude and required coordinated and cooperative approaches. The Meeting also recognised that all Major Powers and all the Asia-Pacific countries were crucial elements for maintaining regional peace and stability.

8. The Meeting took note of Malaysia's briefing that some of the challenges raised were basically not new while some were. The link between economic progress and security called for combined and total efforts of various players besides the government agencies and defence forces, namely, regional institutions, international organisations, civil society, and multinational coalitions. Malaysia suggested that the Asia-Pacific countries might not necessarily need to create a new paradigm but it could be more effective if they were undertaken in a new manner.

The presentation given by Malaysia is at **ANNEX C.**

9. China briefed the Meeting that regional security had become more comprehensive, interconnected and integrated. Building a harmonious regional security environment was the foundation for the sustainable economic development. Within this respect, China proposed a few approaches included peaceful settlement of international disputes, comprehensively promotion of mutual trust and confidence building, strengthening of regional security cooperation, and active pursuit of common security based on an equal footing and mutual respect. The presentation given by China is at **ANNEX D.**

10. The Meeting took note of Australia's emphasis that the Asia-Pacific countries needed to support a rules-based international order with the United Nations and its Charter being the central. In this realm, military transparency was a key to trust and confidence building amongst the international community. Effective mechanisms that can foster practical and closer cooperation were what we needed when considering a new security paradigm. Within this respect, both the ARF and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) could facilitate results-oriented activities and contribute to the region's security architecture. The presentation given by Australia is at **ANNEX E.**

11. The Meeting took note of Cambodia's emphasis on the difficulties and challenges that the Asia-Pacific region was facing. Cambodia also underlined that traditional and non-traditional security threats are intertwined. Within this respect, regional security mechanisms as well as cooperation between all Major Powers and

all the Asia-Pacific countries are crucial for maintaining regional peace and stability. The presentation given by Cambodia is at **ANNEX F.**

12. Singapore briefed the Meeting that the array of security challenges called for a common, comprehensive, and cooperative approach. Singapore underlined that the Asia-Pacific countries needed to renew, review, and refresh the security paradigm which built upon the current foundations, enhanced the strengths and expanded the linkages to ensure the relevant and robust security paradigm. The regional security architecture needed to be open and inclusive, but at the same time, being flexible enough to respond effectively to a security environment. ASEAN could actively contribute to the building of regional security architecture. The presentation given by Singapore is at **ANNEX G.**

13. Vietnam shared the views on ASEAN's new security paradigm and the areas of relations between major powers that changed the tendency of international relations. Vietnam also expressed that the ARF and its driving mechanism had become an important international forum where defence and security issues could be openly discussed. The paper given by Viet Nam is at **ANNEX H.**

14. The Meeting agreed that the Asia-Pacific countries were facing with complex security challenges, which were non-traditional and transnational in nature and required multilateral and multi-layered cooperation. Within This respect, the Meeting underlined the need to adopt common and comprehensive approaches and also agreed that the region should work together more closely in order to deal with non-traditional security issues effectively.

15. The Meeting noted that a new security paradigm had to shy away from the Cold War mentality which was usually based on a zero-sum game and military-to-military conflicts. Instead, a new security paradigm involved mutually beneficial relationships based on common concerns.

16. The Meeting, however, took note of the view that the Asia-Pacific might not need a new security paradigm, but rather a renewed and reviewed security paradigm. Within this respect, certain practical suggestions, some of which were in fact being undertaken could be more effective if they were to be undertaken in a new manner.

17. The Meeting also noted that the recent emergence of the international financial crisis and other non-traditional security challenges had shown that one set of rules could not, within themselves, produce a comprehensive approach to address the problems. In some cases, the Asia-Pacific countries might have to be open-minded when it came to new ideas and initiatives.

Item 4: Recent Counter-Terrorism Experience in the Asia-Pacific

18. The Meeting expressed deep sympathies over the recent terrorist attacks in Jakarta and condemned all forms of terrorism.

19. The Meeting took note of a briefing on Sri Lanka's counter-terrorism experience. The importance of international cooperation to crack down on the global network of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was underlined. The military defeat of the LTTE was a combination of a well-coordinated politico-military strategy, cohesive and collective decision-making, lessons learnt from past experiences, and a strong campaign of national will and motivation. Sri Lanka's innovative military tactics relied heavily on strong leadership at all levels, small group operations, deep penetration strikes, increased night-fighting capability as well as timely, accurate, and reliable intelligence. The presentation given by Sri Lanka is at **ANNEX I.**

20. The Meeting took note of a briefing on Pakistan's counter-terrorism experience. Pakistan had adopted an overarching strategy aiming at containing, isolating, and neutralising or decimating the Al-Qaeda and Taliban networks as well as the indigenous militant elements. Pakistan's experience on counter-terrorism included military measures, non-military measures, and international cooperation. Amongst Pakistan's lessons learnt were the need to defeat the ideology of hate with ideology of hope as well as to resort to the judicious use of force to create the enabling environment for comprehensive solution through a socio-political approach for winning the hearts and minds. The presentation given by Pakistan is at **ANNEX J.**

21. The Meeting took note of a briefing on the United States' counter-terrorism experience in the Asia-Pacific. The United States identified three categories of terrorism: violent separatism, Islamic fundamentalism, and terrorism in areas of communal conflict. The briefing underlined the need for a whole-of-government approach in counter-terrorism efforts including economic development, a fair and effective judicial system, counter-radicalization efforts, well-coordinated military power and police work. Conditions in the Asia-Pacific were not conducive to unilateral action. Instead what was required was a multilateral approach focusing on global and regional information/intelligence sharing, regional disaster relief exercises, and capacity-building in under-governed spaces. The presentation given by the United States is at **ANNEX K.**

22. The Meeting took note of a briefing on the Philippines' counter-terrorism experience including both what was described as a left-hand approach focusing on socio-economic development assistance and a right-hand response on counter-terrorism campaign in Mindanao focusing on the application of military and police power. The Anti-Terrorism Council, a multi-agency body created by the virtue of the Human Security Act (HSA 2007), was established to formulate and adopt comprehensive, adequate, effective plans and programs as well as countermeasures to suppress and eradicate terrorism. The presentation given by the Philippines is at **ANNEX L.**

23. The Meeting noted the briefing by Myanmar that terrorism had multiple dimensions, manifestations, and causes. It was a complex phenomenon and respected no national boundaries. Combating terrorism enquired a comprehensive

approach and unprecedented international cooperation including exchange of information and capacity building. The paper given by the Myanmar is at **ANNEX M.**

24. The Chair thanked the lead discussants for sharing first-hand experiences in counter-terrorism and underlined the apparent need to tackle international terrorism as terrorism, no matter in which part of the world it happened, had a great impact on all countries. A series of terrorist attacks throughout the world highlighted that regardless of the ongoing global efforts to combat terrorism, terrorists still existed and remained an imminent threat across the Asia-Pacific region.

25. The Meeting recognised the need to identify and examine a possible link between terrorism and other non-traditional security threats. The growing transnational security challenges such as maritime security, human trafficking, and cyber attack, lend urgency to international efforts on counter-terrorism. This underlined the importance of the international community's fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. The Meeting also noted that a series of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks needed international attention to address the cyber terrorism threat.

26. The Meeting recognised that counter-terrorism measures involved both hard and soft powers, including both military and non-military measures. The Meeting agreed on the importance of a comprehensive, multi-layered, and long-term response in combating terrorism. International efforts to counter terrorism elaborated during the Meeting included a whole-government-approach that incorporated enhancing capacity-building programs and cooperation among law enforcement agencies. Counter-terrorism needed to be done nationally, regionally, and globally ranging from the tactical to the strategic levels.

27. The Meeting further took note of some suggestions and initiatives, which included Australia's forthcoming white paper focusing exclusively on counter-terrorism. Other suggestions included establishing an early-warning system to detect the threats more quickly, as well as coordinating security, economic, and social/cultural pillars.

28. The Meeting recognised that there were a number of multilateral frameworks in the region, within which preventive diplomacy or network diplomacy needed to be used properly, and the Asia-Pacific countries needed to establish and promote close coordination amongst these crossed tracks. Within this respect, Russia expressed hope for closer cooperation between ASEAN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the area of counter-terrorism and transnational crime.

29. The Meeting was also informed that Russia and Brunei would co-chair the 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (8th ARF ISM on CTTC) in Brunei in 2010.

Item 5: Other Matters

30. The Meeting was informed by the United States of the 9th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ARF ISM-DR) to be co-chaired by Thailand and the United States in Honolulu, Hawaii, during 16-18 September 2009. The ISM-DR would focus primarily on two agenda items: advancing ARF's ongoing work on disaster relief cooperation and discussing civil-military coordination issues.

31. The Meeting was informed by Viet Nam, the next host of the ARF DoD, that Viet Nam was currently making preparation for the role as the Chair of ASEAN and the ARF in 2010 and further welcomed the ARF participating countries to visit Viet Nam for the next ARF DoD. The Chair thanked Viet Nam for the assuring words concerning the Chairmanship of Viet Nam.

Item 6: Closing Remarks

32. The Chair expressed his appreciation to the participants for their active contribution to the Meeting which had led to extensive and productive discussions. The Chair noted with satisfaction that the atmosphere of the Meeting truly reflected the nature of our ARF community. The Chair also reiterated the importance of the defence track within the ARF framework, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation to promote peace, security and stability in the region. The Meeting thanked the Ministry of Defence, Kingdom of Thailand, for the excellent arrangements made for the ARF DoD.
