

**UN Peacekeeping Course
for ARF Member States
New Delhi, India, 18-22 May 2009**

Modern peacekeeping operations under the aegis of the United Nations face complex challenges in a rapidly changing international security environment. These multinational, multicultural and multi-dimensional peace operations normally take place in difficult political, security, economic and humanitarian environments and therefore require effective cooperation and cooperation. Appropriate education and training of peacekeeping operations personnel – military, police, civilian - are critical for reasons of both operational effectiveness and personal and collective safety and security.

India has a unique combination of commitment to peacekeeping and of knowledge and of experience of peacekeeping. It has been an active participant in peacekeeping and has, over the past five decades, contributed more than 100,000 peacekeepers to 40 UN operations. It continues to provide troops and policemen to the most difficult operations that the UN conducts.

Peacekeeping has always been a matter of great interest for ARF Member States and several activities are organized in the area of peacekeeping within the ARF. Keeping the enduring interest of ARF Members in peacekeeping, during the 14th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting, External Affairs Minister of India announced that India would be conducting a training programme on UN peacekeeping specifically for ARF Member States. Consequently, a UN Peacekeeping Course was held in New Delhi during 18-22 May 2009.

The Course was conducted by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), New Delhi. Ministry of External Affairs played a coordinating role. CUNPK was established with the aim of conducting UN related training requirements and to promote comprehensive exchange and research. The Centre has vast experience in training officials both from India and abroad. It has also organized activities on peacekeeping for participants from ARF Member States in the past.

The Course was aimed at enhancing the understanding of middle-level officers in the nuances of UN peacekeeping and peace building. The training was multidisciplinary, with streamlined syllabi through development of Standardized Generic Training Modules (SGTMs) and the Standard Training Modules (STMs). It covered *inter alia* the following themes: Legal Framework; Rules of Engagement; Safety & Security; Code of Conduct; International Humanitarian Law; Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Child Protection; Cross-Cultural Issues; Inter-Operability Challenges.

The CUNPK Course provided an opportunity to the participants to learn and exchange views on cooperation and coordination in peacekeeping in a multidisciplinary and multinational setting. Officials/Academics from India, Australia, Russia and Sri Lanka participated in the course. The list of participants is attached.
