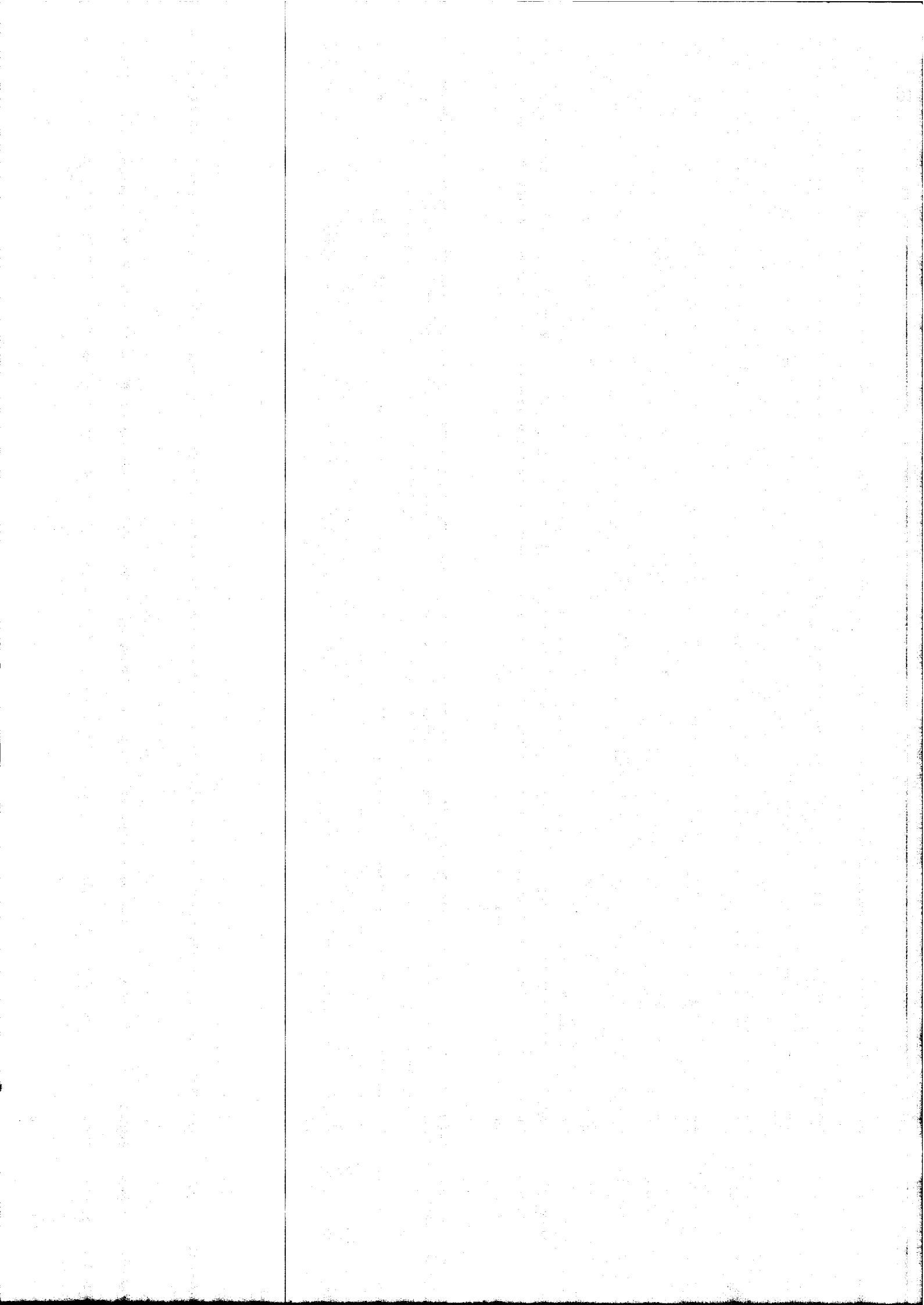




**CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY REPORT
ARF DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE**

Karambunai, Sabah, Malaysia, 17 MAY 2006



**CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY
ARF DEFENSE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE
KARAMBUNAI, SABAH, MALAYSIA, 17 MAY 2006**

1. The ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue was held in Karambunai, Sabah, Malaysia, on 17 May 2006. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Hj. Ismail bin Hj. Ahmad, Undersecretary (Policy) of the Ministry of Defense of Malaysia. All representatives from the Ministry of Defence of all ARF participants except Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Mongolia and Myanmar attended the Meeting. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX A**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS

2. In his opening statement, the Chairman emphasised the importance of sharing perspectives on transnational crime (TNC) as they continue to pose some real challenges to peace and stability. The opening statement appears as **ANNEX B**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. The Meeting adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX C**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

4. The Meeting exchanged views on some recent developments with regard to combating TNC. The Meeting agreed that combating TNC required strategic actions as well as sustained regional and international cooperation. The Meeting identified types of TNC that have posed serious threats to the region. Among others, they include terrorism, piracy, arms smuggling, money laundering, drugs trafficking, illegal migrations, illegal fishing and illegal logging.
5. The Meeting discussed the following aspects of TNC:
 - 5.1. The nature, typology, trends and common problems faced when dealing with TNC.
 - 5.2. Some members pointed out the role of the Proliferation of Security Initiative (PSI) in preventing acquisition of WMD by non-state actors.
 - 5.3. The role of the military in fighting TNC.
 - 5.4. Importance of enhancing regional efforts in fighting TNC.

- 5.5. The need to consider the importance of understanding different situations and promoting trust among the members of the society in addressing TNC.
- 5.6. The urgent need to find principles to bridge the gap between national and international laws.
- 5.7. Avoid double standards in addressing TNC.
- 5.8. Efforts to combat TNC should consider the issues of national sovereignty.
- 5.9. The roles of civilian authorities in dealing with TNC.
6. The Meeting agreed on the following.
 - 6.1. Efforts to combat TNC must involve both defence and law enforcement agencies.
 - 6.2. New regional strategies to combat TNC would be required.
 - 6.3. The ARF evolutionary approach of confidence building measures, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution could be used in developing responses to TNC.
 - 6.4. Militaries can play a supportive role in addressing the issue of TNC.
 - 6.5. Build political strategies based on agreed UN principles and international laws.
 - 6.6. ARF participants should share the responsibilities of reducing and preventing TNC as it is difficult to completely eradicate it.
 - 6.7. ARF should support international efforts and foster closer cooperation among participants to combat TNC.
7. A copy of the papers distributed by Malaysia, Lao PDR and Republic of Korea are attached as **ANNEXES D, E and F**.
8. Singapore briefed the Meeting on its revised concept paper on ARF Maritime Security Capacity Building Exercise. The exercise would be conducted over two days in Singapore. It would be done using a fictitious scenario and a fictitious map with an exercise area that falls within international waters which will not infringe on the territorial sovereignty of any country. The shore exercise will be held in the Republic of Singapore Navy's Tactical Training Centre. A copy of Singapore's paper appears as **ANNEX G**.

9. The Meeting agreed that the proposal by Singapore be tabled at the ARF SOM on 19 May 2006 for consideration. The meeting supported Singapore's proposal and suggested that Singapore take into consideration the reservations expressed by a participant.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PREPARATION FOR THE 3RD ARF SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE (ASPC)

10. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on preparations for the 3rd ASPC to be held on 18 May 2006.
11. Australia announced a proposal, to co-host with Malaysia, an ARF Conference of Peacekeeping Experts in the first half of 2007. Australia would submit this proposal to the 3rd ASPC.

AGENDA ITEM 5: ARF DEFENSE OFFICIALS' MEETING ON 27 JULY 2006 IN KUALA LUMPUR

12. Malaysia briefed the Meeting on the preparation for the ARF Defense Officials' Meeting on 27 July 2006. Participants were invited to suggest possible topics for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

13. The Philippines, as the next host of the ARF DOD, expressed appreciation, on behalf of all the participants, for Malaysia's hospitality and excellent arrangements of the meeting

AGENDA ITEM 7: CLOSING REMARKS

14. The chairman thanked all the participants for sharing their views and perceptions on TNC as well as for providing constructive ideas in facing the challenges posed by TNC.

