

**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORK SHOP ON
"TRAINING FOR COOPERATIVE MARITIME
SECURITY"**

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

26 - 28 OCTOBER 2005

KOCHI, INDIA

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1. Pursuant to the decision reached at the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting held on 29 July 2005 at Vientiane, Laos, the ARF Workshop on *"Training for Cooperative Maritime Security"* was held from 26-28 October 2005 in Kochi, India. The Workshop was co-chaired by India and Malaysia.
2. Representatives from Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, and Vietnam participated in the workshop. Members of the ARF Unit were also in attendance. The adopted agenda and list of delegates are attached as ANNEXES 'A' and 'B' respectively.
3. The key note address by Vice Admiral SCS Bangara, PVSM, AVSM, Flag Officer **Commanding-in-Chief**, Southern Naval Command, Kochi, India is attached as ANNEX 'C'. The programme for the Workshop is attached as ANNEX 'D'.
4. On 27 October, 2005 the workshop divided into three separate syndicates to discuss in detail various aspects of training for maritime security.

SESSION I (AGENDA III): EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY FOR TRAINING IN MARITIME SECURITY.

5. The session was chaired by India and discussed papers presented by China, India and Singapore. The papers are attached as ANNEXES 'E', 'F' and 'G'.
6. Participants briefed the workshop on recent national efforts in enhancing capacity and improving practices for training in maritime security. The presentations highlighted country perspectives on training methodologies. It was noted that due to the transnational nature of the threats affecting maritime **security**, training methodologies required both **multi** agency collaboration within a country as well as cooperation between countries. These measures included training of various national agencies individually and also in coordination, such as by the respective **Navies/** Coast Guards or corresponding institutions and internal **training/** exercises. The usefulness and utility of bilateral/multilateral exercises between maritime security agencies was also highlighted as such exercises helped increase familiarity and interoperability.

7. There was general agreement and understanding among participants that while each country was focusing on its own **training**, no nation could surmount the challenges of maritime security by itself. While some states had more advanced training methodologies, this was **not** necessarily uniform. In this regard it was felt that bilateral and /or multilateral initiatives could provide a useful mechanism.

8. Presentations made at the session and the ensuing discussions brought forth the varying procedures being followed regarding legal aspects, law enforcement and the scope for learning from each other. Maritime training provided many benefits as it empowered maritime personnel with the knowledge and skills required to meet challenges. It was felt that greater cooperation in maritime training would improve coordination both at the national and international level. It would also act as an effective confidence building measure.

9. It was however noted that at present there was no comprehensive maritime security training curriculum, which could be used by all countries across the spectrum of maritime security. In this context, the idea of having a regional initiative such as a regional maritime training centre to provide maritime security training was also discussed.

SESSION II (AGENDA IV) : EMERGING MARITIME SECURITY THREATS AND THEIR IMPACT ON TRAINING.

10. The session was chaired by Malaysia and discussed papers presented by India, Thailand, United States of America and Malaysia. The papers are attached as ANNEXES 'H', 'J', 'K' and 'L'.

11. Participants generally agreed that maritime security threats were multifarious in nature encompassing terrorism, piracy, linkages between drug trafficking and terrorism, arms smuggling to environmental **protection**, pollution and illegal immigration. It was felt that a distinction needs to be made between piracy and terrorism on the one hand, and piracy and armed robbery on the other. Though threat perceptions varied among the countries, there was general agreement that prioritising these could enable focus on specific core areas of concern for further enhancing co-operation in the field of maritime training.

12. There was a general agreement and understanding among participants of the need for a database as a starting point, which could list the existing resources available with ARF participating states. Such a database could include, for example, an inventory of existing bilateral/multilateral **arrangements/**agreement among countries on issues related to maritime security. In the context of creating such an ARF database, mention was made of the existing databases with bodies like IMO and IMB.

13. Participants discussed means to effectively coordinate information exchange, identifying gaps in capacity and means to bridge them including **inter-alia** through training as well as other issues that would enhance the capacity of ARF participants in maritime **security**. In this context, the issue of a regional initiative for maritime security in terms of a regional maritime training centre was discussed again. Given the increasing focus on maritime security, it was felt that such an initiative would help in the future evolution of ARF as the only forum for deliberation of political and security issues in the region. It was also felt that the proposal for a regional maritime training centre could be further discussed by future ARF meetings to further examine and develop it.

14. Some delegates also suggested, in this context that the meeting of ARF Defence Officials should involve other law enforcement officials, especially in the context of discussions on maritime security.

SESSION III (AGENDA V) PERSPECTIVE ON REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MARITIME TRAINING

15. The session was chaired by India and discussed papers presented by Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and USA. The papers are attached as ANNEXES 'M', 'N', 'P' and 'Q'.

16. The participants highlighted the perspectives of their respective countries in regional cooperation in maritime training. These presentations clearly brought out that there were existing mechanisms for cooperation between the countries of the region, though not involving all ARF participants. These were mostly of a bilateral/multilateral nature. Such initiatives facilitated the exchange of information, cooperation in enforcement and capacity building. It was also a general understanding that while such bilateral/multilateral initiatives served a useful purpose, there was at the same time a need for greater regional cooperation. The US delegation presented a possible template for cooperation in maritime training based on their experiences in disaster management during the Tsunami in Asia.

17. The Japanese delegation briefed the meeting about the ARF workshop on "Capacity Building of Maritime **Security**", which it will co-host with Indonesia. The workshop will be held on 19-20 December 2005, in Tokyo

SESSION V (AGENDA VII): REPORT OF THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

18. The session was chaired by India. A fictional scenario based on an anti shipping incident in international waters was presented to the workshop participants for facilitating discussions on various aspects related to cooperative training for maritime security. The participants were divided into three groups to

examine issues related to (a) Personnel Training (b) Capacity Building and (c) Importance of Regional Cooperation in Training.

BREAKOUT SESSION I: PERSONNEL TRAINING

19. The group categorized training requirement at the Strategic, Operational and Tactical levels. It highlighted that there was a need to train both the military and para-military forces to equip them to handle a wide range of situations. In this regard the group noted that common terminologies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Command & Control procedures and common methods to transfer information, were areas which required co-ordinated and standardized training. Training was required to be imparted to the personnel on legal aspects related to maritime security, including rights and obligations pertaining to boarding of vessels. The outcome of the deliberations of the Group is at ANNEX 'R'.

BREAKOUT SESSION II: CAPACITY BUILDING

20. The group noted that there were existing robust international procedures, protocols and mechanisms to deal with certain kinds of situations, for example those related to search and rescue and the best method to build capacity in this area was to carry out joint exercises at the multi-agency and multi-national levels. However even in these cases there was a need to create greater awareness about the existence of such mechanisms as well as training to use them effectively. There was consensus in the areas where capacity building efforts could be focused and these included information sharing, creating common communication procedures, better understanding of legal issues, improved responsive actions, ISPS implementation and compliance and creating better situation awareness including investigation of incidents. The outcome of the group's deliberations is at ANNEX 'S'.

BREAKOUT SESSION III: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MARITIME SECURITY

21. The group noted that participants may consider using existing mechanisms such as national maritime enforcement centres and international agreements, to create a network of maritime security cooperation, which could include information sharing, law enforcement, and capacity building. Capacity building could include training on communications, maritime surveillance, risk assessment, interdiction, search and seizure, boarding and consequence management. There was also an agreement on the need to arrive at a common approach to address various maritime security situations which were required to be integrated in the maritime training programs. The outcome of the group's deliberations is at ANNEX 'T'.

22. In conclusion the co-chairs summarized the following points of convergence as possible follow-up actions:

- a) Need to move from words to action based on the ARF tradition of incremental progress and movement at a pace comfortable to all.
- b) Making an inventory of resources available currently with the ARF participants to deal with the issue of maritime security with a view to identifying the existing gaps.
- c) Examining the possibility of establishing a database of agencies dealing with various facets of maritime security and establishing points of contacts among the ARF participants.
- d) Development of mechanisms for better information exchange and sharing.
- e) Capacity Building - the need to provide requisite capacity, in terms of technology, assets and development of human resources to effectively meet the challenges of maritime security.
- f) Examining and further developing the possibility of establishing a regional training centre to coordinate collaborative efforts as listed at (b), (c), (d), (e) above.
- g) Examining the possibility of involving other law enforcement officials in the ARF Defence **Officials'** Dialogue.
