

ASEAN Regional Forum
Seminar on Enhancing Cooperation
in the Field of Non-traditional Security Issues
7-8 March 2005, Sanya, China

Chair's Summary Report

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), China hosted the ARF Seminar on Enhancing Cooperation in the field of Non-traditional Security Issues in Sanya from 7 to 8 March 2005.

2. Delegates from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, DPRK, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Vietnam and the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Seminar. The agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2.

Session I: Non-traditional Security Threats in the Asia Pacific Region

3. Participants from various countries briefed the meeting on the non-traditional security threats facing their respective countries.

4. The meeting recognized that while the regional security situation remained generally stable, the region was still faced with a number of security challenges and threats. Terrorism and other non-traditional security issues such as illicit drugs, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, people smuggling and human trafficking, corruption, money laundering, cyber crime, piracy, environmental degradation, corruption and illegal logging have, in varying degrees, posed threats to the stability and

development of the Asia-Pacific region.

5. Participants exchanged views on possible causes for the increase of non-traditional security threats. They emphasized that non-traditional security issues are products of interwoven political, economic, ethnic, religious and other factors and have emerged against diverse historical and cultural backgrounds. They were more diversified and had both intrastate and interstate implications and propagated more rapidly than traditional ones and their effects were increasingly complex.

6. Participants emphasized that countries in the region should avoid linking non-traditional security threats including terrorism to any specific religion, race and culture.

Session II: Addressing Non-traditional Security Issues

7. Participants shared their best practices and experiences in coping with non-traditional threats such as terrorism, illicit drugs, piracy, smuggling and HIV/AIDS, corruption, illegal logging.

8. The meeting acknowledged that a holistic and comprehensive approach is needed to address non-traditional security issues. Participants emphasized the importance to identify and address both the symptoms and root causes of these threats.

9. Participants agreed that non-traditional security issues are transnational and trans-regional in nature, which requires regional and international cooperation that involve a more diverse set of actors. Participants concurred that ARF participants shared common responsibility to address non-traditional security threats at national, regional and international levels. It was agreed that the ARF should continue to play an important role in promoting regional non-traditional security cooperation. Participants underscored the need to develop procedures, processes, cooperative activities and possible decision-making structures to facilitate broader cooperation. Some participants suggested that other relevant international and regional fora should also

be used to address these issues. Some participants pointed out that duplication should also be avoided in regional and international cooperation.

10. The meeting agreed that regional non-traditional security cooperation should abide by the principles of the UN Charter and commonly recognized international laws and conventions and observe the basic principles such as mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference into each other's internal affairs. Some participants pointed out international humanitarian, human rights and refugee laws should also be observed in response to non-traditional issues.

Session III: Non-traditional Security Cooperation and Regional Development

11. Participants discussed the correlation between non-traditional security issues and regional development. The meeting noted that terrorism, drug smuggling, environment deterioration and other non-traditional security issues have adversely affected the development of regional countries and would go against the long-term growth of the region as a whole. The meeting agreed that strengthening non-traditional security cooperation was, therefore, conducive to the regional development.

12. Participants also recognized that poverty, illiteracy and underdevelopment were negative elements contributing to non-traditional security issues. The meeting emphasized that programs aiming at promoting sustainable development both in economic and social dimensions were essential in the prevention and mitigation of non-traditional security threats; however, near-term actions were also necessary to meet immediate threats.

Session IV: Enhancing Non-traditional Security Cooperation Within the ARF

13. The meeting agreed that effective actions and concrete progress were important in dealing with non-traditional security issues. In this regard,

participants discussed actions that could be taken within the framework of ARF.

14. Participants made the following recommendations:

- Encourage prompt, accurate and effective exchange of intelligence and information on non-traditional security issues among ARF participants.
- Strengthen intra-agency and inter-agency cooperation and coordination.
- Develop plans of action to implement relevant ARF statements on non-traditional security issues. It was suggested that the ARF unit could play a coordinating role in this regard.
- Enhance capacity building cooperation and assistance.
- Establish early warning mechanisms particularly in the area of major natural disasters and infectious diseases.
- Enhance contacts, exchanges and personnel training and share best practices and experiences on a regular basis through bilateral and regional channels such as Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the International Law Enforcement Academy (Bangkok), and Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter Terrorism in Kuala Lumpur.
- Conduct in-depth studies on non-traditional security issues. Encourage ARF Experts and Eminent Persons to contribute in this regard to the ARF cooperation in non-traditional security areas.
- Enhance public awareness, preparedness and participation in the process of combating non-traditional security threats.
- Initiate an ARF annual report of Non-traditional Security Outlook or incorporate a special section on non-traditional security issues in the

existing Annual Security Outlook.

15.Participants agreed that the Seminar was an important confidence-building measure within the ARF framework. The Chair's Summary Report and the recommendations contained within will be submitted to the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting to be held in Vientiane in May 2005 for information. Participants expressed their appreciation to China for hosting the Seminar.

(end)

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Annotated Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda

2. Business Arrangements

3. Discussion on Non-traditional Security Cooperation

3.1 (Session 1): Non-Traditional Security Threats in the Asia Pacific Region

- Participants are invited to exchange information on non-traditional security threats facing individual members and explore, on this basis, the similarities and differences of these threats.
- Participants may focus discussion on the impacts of non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, transnational crimes, energy crisis, infectious diseases, environmental degradation and natural disaster on regional security.

3.2 (Session 2): Addressing Non-traditional Security Issues

- Participants are invited to share experiences and policies in addressing non-traditional security threats.
- Participants may also wish to explore the differences of modalities in dealing with traditional and non-traditional security issues.

3.3 (Session 3): Non-traditional Security Cooperation and Regional Development

- Participants may wish to review the impacts of mounting non-traditional security threats on regional development.

- Discussion will be focused on how to prevent and eliminate non-traditional security threats, terrorism in particular, by addressing both symptoms and root causes and through promoting regional development.

3.4 (Session 4): Enhancing Non-traditional Security Cooperation Within the ARF

- Participants will identify possible areas for future dialogue and cooperation within the ARF.
- Participants will also be encouraged to make recommendations on specific measures for strengthening such cooperation.

4. Other Matters

5. Adoption of Summary Report