

**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETING ON
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
(ARF ISG ON CBMs)**

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY
REPORT**

**21-23 February 2005
Berlin/Potsdam, Germany**

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ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP
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INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Indonesia on 2 July 2004, the second meeting of the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs) for the 2004-2005 inter-sessional year was held in Germany. The Meeting took place on 21 - 23 February 2005 in Berlin/Potsdam. It was co-chaired by the European Union and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

2. Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, the United States of America, Viet Nam and the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting. The South-East Asian Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) was also invited to the Meeting. The Defence Officials' Dialogue was held on 21 February 2005. The Meeting also included a field trip to the German Expertise Center for early warning and disaster reduction/Potsdam (GeoForschungszentrum). The Agenda of the ARF ISG on CBMs meeting is attached as **Annex 1**, the Programme of Activities as **Annex 2** and the list of Participants as **Annex 3**.

Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Situation

3. The Meeting had a comprehensive exchange of views on the Tsunami crisis and follow-up. It expressed its sympathy and solidarity to all those affected by the earthquake and the tsunami in Asia and the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004. It welcomed the Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting in Jakarta on 6 January

2005 and its Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention (Annex 4). It looked forward to the expeditious establishment of regional mechanisms on disaster prevention and mitigation.

4. The Meeting further welcomed the decision of the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, 18-22 January 2005, (Annex 5) to establish an effective and durable tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean, under the co-ordination of the UN and tailored to the specific circumstances of the Indian Ocean and the individual requirements of countries. The Meeting emphasised the importance of regional co-operation and co-ordination in disaster reduction and the need to co-ordinate and examine the various proposals made in Kobe and Phuket. In this respect, it welcomed the results of the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Co-operation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, held in Thailand on 28 and 29 January 2005 (Annex 6) as well as efforts and initiatives by ARF partners in the field of early warning and disaster reduction. Russia, New Zealand, Singapore and India presented written contributions (Annexes 7 – 10).

5. The Meeting expressed its appreciation and continued support for the efforts of the UN in its role as co-ordinator of international assistance at the emergency relief phase and welcomed the idea of stand-by arrangements for disaster relief. The Meeting expressed the commitment of its participants to assist the affected countries and their peoples in order to fully recover from the catastrophic and traumatic effects of the disaster, including in their mid and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Participants underlined their interest in addressing expeditiously and as appropriate collectively the political and security-related lessons of the disaster and its aftermath. The meeting agreed that it would be useful to revive the ARF ISM on disaster relief and related issues, and looked forward to the ARF Ministerial Meeting in July 2005 for further discussions.

6. The Meeting was briefed by Myanmar on recent developments in that country. The meeting noted the resumption of the National Convention on 17

February 2005 and recalled that the National Convention should be a forum for genuine open debate with the participation of all political and ethnic groups. Several ARF participants expressed concern about increased restrictions on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and urged her release and the release of all remaining political prisoners, including Hkun Htun Oo, president of the Shan National League Democracy Party.

7. Deep concern was expressed on the DPRK's statement on 10th February of its possession of nuclear weapons and indefinite suspension of participation in the Six Party Talks. The participants agreed on the importance of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and on the resolution of the nuclear issue through peaceful diplomatic means. Most delegations who spoke called for the early resumption of the Six Party Talks. Several delegations pointed to the Talks as the way forward for the DPRK to address international community concerns about its nuclear programmes. Some delegations stressed the need for flexibility of all concerned parties. The DPRK stressed that the right conditions and atmosphere should be created for its participation in the Six Party Talks. (The DPRK's presentation appears as Annex 11.) The participants also expressed support for exchange, co-operation and dialogue between the ROK and the DPRK.

8. The Meeting welcomed and encouraged efforts by ASEAN and China to implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. They emphasized the importance of confidence building and the need to explore ways and means to cooperative activities among the parties concerned in accordance with the underlying spirit and principles of the DOC.

9. Some participants mentioned the recent developments in the Middle East and stressed the need to carry out the road map and the relevant UNSC Resolutions to achieve durable peace in that region with the realization of the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side, in peace within the secured and recognized borders. The Meeting welcomed Iraqi and Palestinian elections.

Voluntary Background Briefings

10. The Meeting expressed its support for the intensification of regional co-operation and dialogue. It welcomed the briefing by Laos as the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee on recent developments within ASEAN (Annex 12), in particular on the Vientiane Action Programme, as well as information provided by Indonesia on the ASEAN Security Community (Annex 13). The Meeting also noted the accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, as well as the plans to convene the first East Asia Summit and an ASEAN-Russia Summit in Malaysia in December 2005.

11. The Meeting heard voluntary background briefings by:

- i. Japan on "The New National Defense Program Guideline", "The 4th Tokyo Defense Subcommittee Summary by the Chair", the "10th Tokyo Defense Forum" and "Japan's International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation" (Annex 14),
- ii. Malaysia on "International Peace Monitoring Team in the Mindanao peace process" (Annex 15)
- iii. SEARCCT on "Malaysia's effort and views in combating terrorism" (Annex 15),
- iv. Australia on "Strengthening Australia's Offshore Maritime Security" (Annex 16),
- v. India on a "First India-ASEAN Car Rally" and "India's contribution to UN Peace Keeping Operations" (Annex 17),
- vi. the Philippines on progress of the peace talks between the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (Annex 18).

12. The Meeting was also briefed by the EU on the concept and recent developments in the European Security and Defence Policy and the EU-ALTHEA operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Non-traditional Security Issues

13. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing practical co-operation and co-ordination both within the ARF and with other regional and international

organisations in addressing non-traditional security issues, including terrorism, WMD proliferation, people smuggling and trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, cyber crime, sea piracy, counterfeiting, arms smuggling and smuggling of goods.

14. The Meeting discussed options for greater cooperation, co-ordination and exchange of information among ARF participants on non-traditional security issues. The growing impact of non-traditional security issues highlights the need for enhanced practical and pragmatic co-operation, including the effective and timely exchange of information, among ARF participants and with other international organisations.

15. The Meeting was briefed by the representative of OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), Vienna, on the OSCE's work on anti-terrorism. It welcomed the involvement of the OSCE and looked forward to continuing dialogue and increasing co-operation with the OSCE on this and other issues.

16. India briefed the Meeting on the first meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime held in New Delhi on 9-10 December 2004 (Annex 19).

17. The Meeting agreed that the spread of infectious diseases is a subject that requires high political attention. It was briefed by the EU on the ASEM expert meeting that will be called by Vietnam and a number of EU-member-states to strengthen the capacity of the participating countries to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and to cope with its impact (Annex 20).

18. The Meeting discussed the arrangements for the next Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), to be held in Bangkok on 6-8 April 2005 under Thai/Canadian co-chairmanship (**Annex 32**). The Meeting also saw merit in institutionalizing the ISM on CTTC. China offered to co-chair the 4th ISM on CTTC in 2006.

19. The Meeting agreed that ARF participants will submit an updated version of their Points of Contact for Disaster Relief to the ARF unit.

20. Singapore invited participants to update their inputs to the register of points of contact for consequence management of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism (Annex 21).

Consideration of CBMs

21. The Meeting agreed that the implementation of various CBMs has contributed significantly to an improvement in the level of confidence and trust among the ARF participants. The Meeting also acknowledged the need to make full use of the results of ARF meetings and to carry out a regular review of action taken to follow up the recommendations of CBMs.

22. The Meeting discussed the results of the following CBMs:

- i. The Meeting noted the report of the meeting of Heads of Defence Colleges in Singapore, 1-3 September 2004 and agreed on the importance of continuing this type of CBM on a yearly basis.
- ii. The Meeting discussed the results of the ARF Workshop on Maritime Security that was held in Kuala Lumpur on 22-24 September 2004 and recommended that the next ARF-workshop would build upon its recommendations. Several participants acknowledged that increased maritime situational awareness, inter-agency and international information sharing and cooperation, responsive decision-making structures, and effective interception skills are key elements of the effort to enhance maritime security capacity. They also noted the importance of empowering legal and other arrangements to enhance international information sharing and operational cooperation.
- iii. The Meeting discussed the outcome of the ARF Seminar on Cyber Terrorism (Republic of Korea; 13-15 October 2004) and agreed on the importance of dealing with this issue in the ARF framework.
- iv. Referring to the ARF Workshop on Alternative Development (Kunming/China 7-8 September 2004), China offered to host a second Workshop on the same issue in the first semester of 2006.

23. The Meeting welcomed the following new CBMs that will be implemented in this inter-sessional year:

- i. ARF CBM on "Regional Cooperation in Maritime Security, 2-4 March 2005 (Singapore and the United States, Annex 22).
- ii. ARF Seminar on Enhancing cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues, 7-8 March 2005 (China).
- iii. ARF Workshop on Peace Arrangements Ensuring Stability and Security in the Region, including Civil-Military Co-operation, 22-23 March 2005 (Japan).
- iv. 2nd track Workshop on Changes in the Security Perceptions and Military Doctrines of ARF Members, Ulaanbaatar, 21-22 June 2005 (Mongolia, Viet Nam, and EU).
- v. ARF Seminar on Cyber Terrorism, Cebu, Philippines, 23-25 June 2005 (Philippines and Republic of Korea).

24. The Meeting further welcomed information and draft concept papers on the following proposed Basket I CBMs:

- i. Seminar on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) by the Kingdom of Cambodia and the EU for autumn 2005 in Phnom Penh (Annex 23).
- ii. 9th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges/Institutions in September 2005 (Viet Nam).
- iii. ARF Seminar on Civil Military Operations, Manila 11-14 September 2005 (Philippines).
- iv. Concept Paper on ARF Export Licensing Experts' Meeting, Singapore, 17-19 November 2005 (Singapore and Canada) (Annex 24).
- v. ARF Workshop on Capacity Building of Maritime Security to be hosted by Japan in Autumn 2005 (Annex 25).
- vi. Concept Paper on a workshop on cyber security in August/September 2005 (India) (Annex 26) .
- vii. Concept Paper on Workshop for Training for Maritime Security (India) (Annex 27).
- viii. Concept Paper on Seminar on Missile Defense, Bangkok, autumn 2005, to be co-hosted by the US and Thailand (Annex 28).
- ix. Seminar on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction which will be co-chaired by the US, China and Singapore in spring 2006, based on the Concept Paper tabled by the US during the last ISG in Phnom Penh.

25. The Meeting welcomed the intention of the ARF Secretariat to maintain an inventory of actions, measures and recommendations agreed at ARF meetings and to circulate updates regularly to ARF participants.

26. The meeting took note with interest of the results of the 4th Subcommittee of the Tokyo Defence Forum and welcomed the fact that the 10th Tokyo Defense Forum that will be held in June 2005 in Tokyo will discuss lessons learned during the ongoing disaster relief efforts and discuss measures to enhance the effectiveness of such efforts.

Future Direction of the ARF

27. The Meeting agreed on the need to reinforce the ARF, particularly by moving further towards preventive diplomacy while continuing with confidence-building activities. Given that, the Meeting strongly recommended to reflect this in the title of the future ISG's, i.e. "ISG on PD" or "ISG on CBMs and PD".

28. The Meeting also agreed to strengthen linkage between Track I and Track II in the ARF process. Several participants suggested for that purpose that the chair of CSCAP will be invited at the next ISG to give a short presentation on Track II activities.

29. The Meeting noted the important role being played by various regional mechanisms, such as the ARF, ASEAN Plus Three process, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Asia Cooperation Dialogue and the Asia Europe Meeting.

(i). Enhanced Role of the ARF Chair

30. The Meeting reviewed the implementation of the measures taken to enhance the ARF Chair's role and welcomed the efforts made in this respect. Participants agreed that efforts to strengthen cooperation between the ARF and other regional organisations should be continued. The Meeting agreed that the ARF Chair, with the support of the ARF Unit, should seek to further identify and

develop such contacts on a practical basis. The Meeting also agreed that it would be useful to continue to consider other ways to enhance the role of the Chair including by exploring the "Friends of the Chair" in the concept.

(ii) ARF Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat

31. The Meeting welcomed the useful role the ARF-Unit plays on the basis of the Terms of Reference established by ASEAN on 26 June 2004. The Meeting agreed that full implementation of the role and functions of the ARF-Unit would require active cooperation of all ARF participating states.

32. The Meeting agreed to forward the draft Terms of Reference of the ARF Fund (Annex 29) to the ARF SOM for adoption by the 12th ARF. It took note of the EU's non-paper on enhancing the role of the ARF Unit (Annex 30).

Participants agreed on the benefit of developing contacts between the ARF Unit and other regional and international organisations. The Meeting agreed that the ARF Unit should focus such efforts in the short-term on developing contacts with ARF partner/participant organisations. In this respect, the Meeting welcomed the EU invitation to the ARF Unit to visit the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU in Brussels. The meeting also welcomed the willingness of participants to contribute to the work of the ARF Unit i.a. to help to set up data base and other practical ways as agreed with the ARF Unit.

(iii) **Expert/Eminent Persons (EEPs)**

33. The meeting discussed the implementation of the ARF EEPs following the adoption of the Guidelines for the Operation of ARF EEPs by the 11th ARF FMM, and endorsed ROK's proposal for an EEP trial meeting.

(iv) Annual Security Outlook

34. The meeting welcomed the submission by ARF participants of their Annual Security Outlook and encouraged participants that had not yet done so, to submit their inputs to the ARF Chair for compilation before the ARF SOM in May 2005.

Preparations for the next intersessional year 2005/2006 and ARF ISG on CBMs meeting

35. The Philippines proposed to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the 2005-2006 inter-sessional year. The other Co-chair will be announced at the ARF SOM.

Other Matters

36. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the Defense Officials' Dialogue, which was held on 21 February 2005, and which appears in Annex **31**.

37. The Meeting was briefed by Laos on the arrangements for the upcoming ARF Security Policy Conference and ARF SOM, which will take place in Vientiane in May 2005. Laos informed the Meeting of ASEAN's intention to propose Timor-Leste's participation in ARF at the Vientiane SOM.

38. The participants expressed their appreciation to the EU for the excellent arrangements in hosting the Meeting and thanked Cambodia as the Co-Chair for its valuable contribution.

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