

**CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY
OF THE SECOND ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE
VIENTIANE, 19 MAY 2005**

1. As endorsed by the 11th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Jakarta on 02 July 2004 and in pursuance of the recommendation of the 1st ARF Security Policy Conference (Beijing, 4-6 November 2004), the Second ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) was held in Vientiane on 19 May 2005. The Conference was chaired by Lieutenant General Ay SOULIYASENG, Deputy Minister of National Defense of the Lao PDR.

2. The Conference was attended by representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, DPR Korea, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Viet Nam, and the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX A**.

3. In his Opening Remarks, the Chair welcomed the **participants** to the Conference. He outlined the objectives of the Conference as follows: to promote mutual understanding, exchange of information and data among the ARF participants with a view to ensuring regional and international peace and security; and to contribute to enhancing exchange of views among the ARF participants.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Conference considered and adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX B**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

5. The Conference was held in Plenary. The Programmed of Activities appears as **ANNEX C**.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL
SECURITY SITUATION, INCLUDING VOLUNTARY
BRIEFING ON THE SECURITY POLICY OF
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

6. The Conference exchanged views on major regional and international issues that had an impact on the security situation in the

Asia Pacific region. The Conference shared the view that, on the whole, the security situation in the region is positive and stable and that dialogue and cooperation are the mainstream trends. At the same time, the Conference acknowledged the existence or emergence of some threats to peace in the form of both traditional and non-traditional issues. These include proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms, territorial disputes, and various forms of transnational crime and international terrorism.

7. The Meeting exchanged views on the role of the Major Powers in regional security and its security implications in the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference also reiterated the importance of encouraging the major powers to continue their dialogue and cooperation to ensure peace and security in the region.

8. The Conference agreed that terrorism remained a serious and present danger to peace and security not only in the region but also in other parts of the world. The Conference agreed that it required collective and multilateral response from all countries concerned. The Conference agreed that, in addition to operational military and law enforcement measures, there was a need to address all form of terrorism.

9. While recognizing the primary role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Conference agreed that regional arrangements, such as the ARF could play an important role in addressing these various forms of threats and problems.

10. The Conference noted that the link between terrorism and the proliferation of WMD represented a great security challenge in the world today. The Conference reaffirmed the call on all ARF participants to implement effective export controls and enforcement measures to control the transfer of materials, technology and expertise that can contribute to the design, development, production or use of WMD and their means of delivery.

11. The Conference discussed maritime security issues and urged ARF member countries to enhance close cooperation in this regard.

12. Views were expressed on the need to preserve the prevailing stability through cooperation, maintenance of the status quo on the South China Sea and respect for internationally recognized Conventions, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

13. The participants exchanged views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and expressed their hope that all parties concerned would continue their efforts to peaceful solution to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and called for early resumption of the Six-Party Talks on the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty and

equality.

14. Number of participants briefed the Conference on their respective security and defense policies. Some briefing papers appear as **ANNEX D**,

AGENDA ITEM 4: THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN DISASTER RELIEF

15. The participants exchanged views on the role of the armed forces in disaster relief and consequence management, particularly in light of the recent tsunami and Earthquake in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004.

16. The Conference noted that the existing regional dialogue and cooperation provided an effective foundation for the multinational humanitarian response to the tsunami disaster.

17. The Conference noted a wide range of activities that the military could contribute to disaster relief and consequence management, among others, search and rescue, medical assistance, evacuation, transportation, engineering, planning, and command and control.

18. The Conference identified the following lessons learned from the 26 December 2004 Tsunami disaster and response from the international community:

- Early warning is very important;
- A fast response is essential to save lives, minimize effects, protect public health and safety, and limit damage to the environment.
- The need for timely sharing of information;
- Better civil-military coordination
- The need for effective national coordination mechanism;
- The importance of cooperative relations and framework among countries, particularly of the defense agencies;
- The need for standard operating procedures in multinational disaster relief operations;
- Careful planning to ensure that response, management, and support teams are knowledgeable, trained, equipped, and ready for the unique challenges presented by a disaster.
- Setting up of or designation of first responders
- Forces involved in an initial response need to be self-sufficient;
- Effective command and control system
- Interoperability of defense assets

19. Based on the above lessons, the Conference agreed on the following:

- To continue to exchange of views on disaster preparedness and relief operations, sharing lessons learnt among nations, studying lessons carefully, identifying lessons to enhance ability to manage the results of a disaster;
- To promote joint capacity building in consequence management, including in having common definitions;
- To organize seminars to discuss organization for command and control, contribution of facilities/forces and liaison between/transition to civilian relief.
- To adhere to the existing UN^{and} OSCO guidelines on the use of civilian and military assets in humanitarian assistance to avoid competition, duplication and waste of resources.

20. Number of participants gave comprehensive presentations on the role of their respective armed forces in disaster relief, especially in the Tsunami and Earthquake in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004; their national experiences and national delivery mechanisms for dealing with natural and man-made disasters. Some presentations appear as **ANNEX E**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: MANAGEMENT OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

21. The Conference agreed that as non-traditional security issues are trans-national and trans-regional in nature, it is important to address them through an integrated use of political, economic, diplomatic, legal, scientific, and technological means and through cooperation in all possible forms.

22. The meeting acknowledged that a holistic and comprehensive approach is needed to address non-traditional security issues. Participants exchanged views on the importance of strong coordination, better integration and effective action of all concerned agencies in managing non-traditional security.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

23. The Conference agreed that Malaysia would be the next Chairman of the ASPC in 2006.

24. Viet Nam informed the Conference of its preparation for the 9th Meeting of the Heads of ASEAN Defense University/Institutions, which would be held on 10 -13 October 2005 in Hanoi.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

25. The Conference expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the people and Government of the Lao PDR for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference and for the hospitality extended to the Participants.

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