

**REPORT ON THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SECURITY POLICY CONFERENCE**

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam  
23 May 2013

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**Introduction**

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Security Policy Conference (ASPC) was convened in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 23 May 2013. The Conference was chaired by Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Azmansham Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development), Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam. Representatives from the Ministry of Defence of all ARF participants, except India, New Zealand, Russia and Sri Lanka, attended the Conference. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX A**.

**Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks**

2. In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed all delegates to Brunei Darussalam. He underscored that in the ARF's endeavour for peace and security, the ASPC has been a venue to maintain dialogue. He recalled that the ARF has made good progress in enhancing confidence-building among the ARF participants, and the ASPC has provided a catalyst for the development of cooperation among the ARF participants as well as the political support necessary for its effective implementation. The ARF has helped foster the habit of cooperation, played an important role in reducing misunderstanding and contributed to the enhancement of cooperation. In highlighting the agenda of the Conference, he was of the view that the exchange of views on regional and international security issues would contribute further to ARF's security cooperation in the future. He also mentioned that the ASPC would deliberate upon the issue of cyber security, which is now an emerging key issue in the region. He looked forward to a productive discussion.

**Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda**

3. The Conference adopted the agenda as at **ANNEX B**.

**Agenda Item 3: Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Situation**

4. The Conference viewed that, on the whole, the regional security outlook in the Asia-Pacific has been dynamic and encouraging. Most countries in the Asia-Pacific region are expected to have strong economic growth despite

- the downturn experienced in other parts of the world. The Conference also recognised that the international security outlook has been experiencing profound and complex changes and continues to develop towards multipolarity in more globalised way.
5. The Conference acknowledged that the prevailing security challenges in the region emanated from the long historical disputes arising from the overlapping territorial claims and the local conflicts. In addition, the region is also facing challenges from non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, natural disasters, infectious diseases, energy security, cyber security and maritime security. The Conference noted the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) from past conflicts in a number of countries in Southeast Asia, the risks posed by these ordnances, and the regional efforts to address this issue. The establishment of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) in Cambodia was welcomed in this context. The Conference expressed condolence to the victims of the recent tornado in Oklahoma City, USA.
  6. The Conference viewed that the ASPC has played a role in working out differences among the ARF participants, and enjoying strong bonds of friendship and regional sense of belonging as well as promoting the culture of trust. The culture of trust has contributed to the peace and security of the region and subsequently supported the ARF's efforts towards implementing preventive diplomacy. The Conference acknowledged that mutual trust and accommodating each other's concerns are the foundation of confidence-building. The Conference suggested that cooperation on concrete areas would advance cooperation within the defence and military establishment. The Conference also underscored that consultation and dialogues are the key elements to managing crisis and dissolve conflicts progressively.
  7. The Conference discussed the evolution of the multilateral defence and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region since the time of the Cold War. The Conference viewed that regional flashpoints and disputes should not undo the progress that has been made in the ARF's defence and security cooperation through the ARF DOD and the ASPC. In this regard, the Conference took note of several principles to help cement this progress, namely: 1) platforms for defence cooperation and security exchanges should continue to be open and inclusive, while maintaining ASEAN centrality; 2) disagreements between participants should continue to adhere to the rule of law; and 3) focus on delivering concrete results.
  8. The Conference noted the progress of cooperation in the five priority areas of cooperation of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Conference welcomed the preparation for the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine

Exercise (ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex) to take place in Brunei Darussalam on 17 – 20 June 2013. The promotion of synergy between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus was mentioned in this context. The Conference welcomed the recommendation of the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD) for the compilation of joint ARF and ADMM-Plus calendar of activities and its circulation at the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD.

9. The Conference exchanged views on the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula. The Conference recognised the need for addressing the core issues that have instigated tensions in the region. The Conference noted concerns expressed by some participants on the development of the nuclear capability of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the humanitarian situation in the country. The Conference reaffirmed that the peaceful solution to the tensions in the Korean Peninsula is in the interest of all countries in the region. The Conference called for the ARF to exert its influence to avert open conflict in the Korean Peninsula and for all concerned parties to exercise self-restraint and return to the negotiation table. Improvement and normalisation of relations among parties concerned in the Korean Peninsula were highlighted as the important step in leading towards resumption of the negotiation in the Six-Party Talks. The Conference noted the development of the national strategy of DPRK, which will put more effort into economic growth without increasing defence expenditure.
10. The Conference discussed the issue of the developments in the South China Sea. The Conference emphasised its support to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the efforts of ASEAN and China to work towards the development of the code of conduct (COC). The Conference noted existing mechanisms in place to work towards the settlement of the disputes, namely the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 2002 Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the 2011 Guidelines on the Implementation of the DOC, and the 2012 ASEAN Six-Point Principles of the South China Sea. The Conference noted the views expressed by some ASEAN Member States on the importance of diplomatic efforts and multilateral approach to seek lasting solution in this respect.
11. The Conference touched on the issue of the importance of people-to-people interaction among the ARF participants, in particular among the defence and military establishments of the ARF participants. Such people-to-people interactions through cultural activities and other affordable measures could be initiated in the ARF.

12. The Conference welcomed the release of the Defence White Papers by Australia and China, which contribute to the promotion of transparency in the defence and military cooperation in Asia-Pacific region.
13. Australia, Brunei Darussalam, China, the DPRK, the EU, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Timor-Leste and the US presented their views on the regional and international security situation.

**Agenda Item 4: Regional and International Efforts Towards Enhancing Cyber-Security**

14. The Conference exchanged views and experiences in enhancing cyber security cooperation. The Conference viewed that the exponential growth of Internet and smartphone usage has increased dependence on cyberspace as well as increased the potential for cyber attacks. While cyber security is not an area that the defence and military establishment is directly involved, the Conference acknowledged the importance of developing and strengthening the capacity to protect and defend critical information and communication system (ICT) infrastructure from cyber attacks. The rapid technological advancement requires effective international cooperation in view of building the capabilities and strengthening security cooperation in the region. Regional and multilateral cooperation initiatives were referred to as the way forward in managing the cyber security threats.
15. The Conference discussed the role of States in maintaining the security of cyberspace. The importance of public education in preventing the spread of cyber attacks was highlighted. Some participants viewed that the ARF participants have the right to develop their own national cyber laws and regulations according to their needs and national development. Concerns on the possible infringements of national cyberspace by other countries through the implementation of common cyberspace international regulations were expressed.
16. The Conference underscored that cyber security is a shared responsibility. The Conference viewed that dialogue and consultation among countries in the region are critical in advancing the global efforts in tackling cyber security challenges. Some participants suggested measures to promote collaborative efforts, such as establishing cooperation between countries in the field of cyber crime, conducting collaborative research and developments and training related to cyber security, and establishing regional/international networks for sharing information. The Conference expressed hope that the exchange of experiences among the ARF participants could be translated into practical activities in the future.

17. The Conference exchanged views on CBMs in cyber security. Several strategies were suggested in this respect, namely sharing and exchanging information on cyber security strategies, contact points, and protocols; conducting cooperative efforts to address common cyber security problems; and developing specific cyber security measures to reduce the potential of conflicts.
18. The Conference noted that Australia, Malaysia and Russia as lead countries in the priority area of cyber security and cyber terrorism of the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, and further welcomed their role in spearheading the ongoing process of developing the ARF Work Plan on Cyber Security. The Work Plan will be developed in line with the recommendations of outlined in the ARF Statement by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> ARF on 12 July 2012. The Conference noted the proposal by Australia to co-chair the ARF Workshop on Cyber Confidence-Building Measures with an ASEAN Member State, to be held in the first half of 2014. The Conference also noted the ARF Workshop on Measures to Enhance Cyber Security - Legal and Cultural Aspects to be held in August 2013, and co-chaired by Malaysia and China.
19. Australia, China, the EU, Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the US briefed the Conference. The presentations appear as **ANNEX C**.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Other Matters**

20. Brunei Darussalam briefed the Conference on the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), which was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 7 May 2013. The Conference noted that the 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM discussed a wide range of regional and international security and defence issues and expressed commitment to work together on these issues. The 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM also reiterated the full support to the ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Ex to be held in Brunei Darussalam on 17 – 20 June 2013. The ASEAN Defence Ministers also adopted four concept papers, namely Establishing ASEAN Defence Interaction Programmes, Establishment of Logistics Support Framework, Establishment of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action and Transition of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group Co-Chairmanship. The presentation appears as **ANNEX D**.
21. The Conference noted the briefing by Thailand on the outcomes of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) 2013, which was conducted in Cha-am/Hua Hin, Thailand, on 7 – 11 May 2013, co-chaired by Thailand and the Republic of Korea. The ARF DiREx 2013 consisted of the Table-

Top Exercise (TTX), the field training exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR). The presentation appears as **ANNEX E**.

22. The Conference noted the briefing by Timor Leste on the latest development in the country after the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping mission, and the convening of their national elections in 2012. Timor Leste has assigned its defence attaché in Indonesia and Portugal and will assign a defence attaché in Australia next year. The Conference welcomed the establishment of an ARF unit between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste to facilitate smooth communications between the two ministries.
23. The Conference noted the briefing by the EU on its assumption of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group on the Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPS) for 2014 – 2016.

**Agenda Item 6: Closing Remarks**

24. In his closing remarks, the Chair highlighted the outcomes of the discussion, which transpired throughout the Conference. He observed that the discussion of the ASPC has built confidence among the ARF participants. As the challenges are becoming more complex and cross-cutting, it is appreciated that the ARF has provided opportunities for the participants to establish dialogue with partners around the region. He reiterated that dialogue and consultation are the building blocks of confidence-building measures. He expressed appreciation to all ARF participants for the sharing of national experiences on issues deliberated in the Conference.
25. The Conference commended on the frank and fruitful discussion and thanked the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality made for the Conference.