

Co-chairs' Summary Report of the 16th ARF Heads of Defense Universities/ Colleges/ Institutions Meeting

7 Nov. 2012

The 16th ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defense University/ Colleges/ Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM) was held in Beijing from 4th to 8th November 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by the National Defense University, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPLA), and the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies of Brunei. The theme was "the Education on National Security Strategy in a Changing World". 72 participants from 21 ARF participating countries attended the meeting. General Wang Xibin, President of National Defense University, CPLA, presided over the opening ceremony. Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the PLA, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. During the meeting, the participants visited the National Defense University and the 6th Armored Division of the PLA.

Three topics were discussed in the meeting, 9 participants from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, India, Myanmar, Mongolia, Pakistan and USA made presentations on the first topic--Beyond the Education on Military Sciences. It was generally believed that, as the traditional security threats and non-traditional security threats are intermingled with each other, the missions of armed forces are undergoing changes, the scope and contents of military education should be expanded. Firstly, the military education should be adapted to new changes and cultivate new security concept. Secondly, extensive cooperative partnership should be established to collect more social resources for national security strategy education. Moreover, some heuristic and innovative ideas were proposing: national security strategy education is a process of high practicality, which requires enhancing students' capability for solving strategic issues through various approaches including war games and field exercises; the sharing of education concept and ideas should be highlighted in national security strategy education.

On the second topic, "Non-Traditional Security and Evolving Roles of the Military",

6 participants from China, Japan, ROK, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam made presentations. It was agreed that the essence of strategy teaching is the process of strategic thinking with integration of theory and practice. It is imperative to change and transform the teaching and research of defense universities/colleges/institutions in light of the promotion of the education on military sciences. In terms of components of trainees, it is necessary to include non-military officials and create unity among leading executives from every sector. In terms of teaching and research contents, education on national defense strategy should go beyond traditional military education and embrace non-traditional issues. With regard to teaching modes, it is necessary to highlight shared-learning. Defense universities/colleges/institutions should go further to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in the teaching and research of non-traditional security issues and institutionalize non-traditional security cooperation.

On the third topic, “Multilateral Exchanges and Capacity Building of National Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions”, 5 participants from Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka made presentations. It was agreed that no country was able to cope with new threats and challenges independently. It is of vital importance to strengthen multilateral exchanges and cooperation and promote the capacity building of defense universities/colleges/institutions. Some specific means and approaches to strengthen intercollegiate cooperation were proposed, for example, to identify areas of security issues to which respective countries can best contribute, to carry out joint research and teaching and to establish networked learning and Defense Student Network, etc.

During the Meeting, participants conducted frank dialogues and discussions on the above topics and elaborated their in-depth perspectives on national security strategy education. They shared their thoughts and experiences on professional military education. Although some differences remain, consensus has been reached on many issues. It is firmly believed that continuous promotion of exchanges and cooperation under the auspice of ARF HDUCIM is very conducive to regional stability and world peace.

It is agreed that Brunei will hold the 17th ARF HDUCIM, co-chaired by the Republic of Korea.