

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE 5TH ARF PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS' MEETING
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA, 27-28 AUGUST 2012**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision by the Ministers at the 19th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 12 July 2012, the 5th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 27-28 August 2012. Mr. Wisnu Edi Pratigny, Assistant Deputy for ASEAN Cooperation Affairs, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia and Mr. Isheekhuu Batbold, Chief of Foreign Cooperation Department, Ministry of Defence of Mongolia co-chaired the Meeting.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF Participants, except Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat was also present. The List of Participants appears as ANNEX 1.
3. The Theme of the Meeting was "Cooperation of Regional Peacekeeping Centers and Challenges in the Peacekeepers Training."

Opening Session

4. In his Welcoming Remarks, Mr. Badamdorj Batkhishig, State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SOM Leader of Mongolia underscored that the ARF gives us the opportunity to pull our collective efforts to the causes of peace and security in the region. He commended the fact that the ARF is becoming an effective mechanism for developing and implementing joint practical measures to address disaster relief, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, transnational crimes and piracy, which are common to all the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. He cited the concepts of Mongolian National Security and Foreign Policy which have provisions asserting as "...optimizing Mongolia's participation in the international organizations and maximizing its contribution to the solution of the world's challenging issues", and in this regard, Mongolia shall "participate in the UN's and international peacekeeping, peace-building, and peacekeeping efforts". Building on the previous ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meetings, he elaborated that the objectives of the Meeting was to highlight the positive role of better networking of peacekeeping centres and peace-building supports at large. He hoped that the Meeting would give a fruitful contribution to the future ARF deliberation on peacekeeping matters. The Remarks appear as ANNEX 2.
5. Mr. Wisnu Edi Pratigny, Assistant Deputy for ASEAN Cooperation Affairs, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia welcomed all ARF participants to the Meeting and expressed gratitude to the Government of Mongolia for the warm hospitality extended to all participants. He recalled that the ARF participants have contributed more than 40,000 peacekeepers out of the overall United Nations peacekeepers. The presence of peacekeepers gives hope for people in conflict areas for a better future. With the changing nature of peacekeeping operations, the peacekeepers should be more equipped to conduct other tasks in addition to the military mission such as disaster relief. There is a need to enhance better cooperation between military with the police and civilian components of peacekeeping in the peace-building operations. He underlined Indonesia's full support to the establishment of a Peacekeeping Centres network in the region in accordance with the

APSC Blueprint and ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan. He also informed that Indonesia has established the Indonesian Peacekeeping Operation Centre in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. He recognised the importance of synergising ARF initiatives with those undertaken by other fora. He encouraged the Meeting to discuss ways the ARF could complement those initiatives through partnership with other organisations including with the United Nations. His remarks appear as ANNEX 3.

6. Major General Byambasuren Bayarmagnai, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Mongolian Armed Forces of Mongolia, in his opening remarks shared with the Meeting the contributions of Mongolian peacekeepers in United Nations peacekeeping operations including in South Sudan and Afghanistan. He recognised that ARF cooperation in peacekeeping has contributed to the improvement the capacity of the armed forces to contribute to the United Nations peacekeeping missions. He also recalled the assistance by the United States in providing trainings for the Mongolian peacekeepers. The Remarks appear as ANNEX 4.

Introduction by ASEAN Secretariat

7. The ASEAN Secretariat presented an overview on ASEAN cooperation in peacekeeping operations under the framework of the ARF, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus. The issues of ways to synergise initiatives by all existing fora in peacekeeping were discussed. The presentation appears as ANNEX 5.

Session One: Peacekeepers' Training and Its Challenges

8. The Meeting discussed the current challenges facing peacekeeping training in the realm of modern peacekeeping operations. The following challenges were identified: 1) transforming soldiers from a coalition outfit to the peacekeepers, 2) standardising peacekeeping trainings; 3) developing a coherent training syllabus and conduct structured programmes; 4) focusing on the peacekeeping operations environment; 5) high cost of trainings which hinder peacekeeping trainings; 5) high cost of multinational exercises to complement national trainings; 6) availability of ready and capable troops to meet the request by the United Nations and the Standby Force;

9. The Meeting observed that modern day peacekeeping operations is multidimensional in nature involving aspects of political, economic, social and cultural. In carrying out their tasks, peacekeepers must display their military skills in a calm and diplomatic way in neutral and impartial manners. They need to have understanding of social and psychological aspects of the society in the conflict situation. Against this background, the Meeting viewed that the United Nations training standards is no longer suffice to face the current challenges.

10. The Meeting noted that ARF needs to develop more comprehensive training syllabi which look at the commonalities rather than the distinctiveness of each peacekeeping component. The Meeting suggested that it is pertinent to create a pool of expert trainers, both retired and serving, and to conduct exchange of trainers among training institutes. Development of doctrines, trainings and education on peacekeeping operations based on valid standards and rules was also mentioned as one of the measures to improve the preparedness of national peacekeepers.

11. The Meeting welcomed the launching of the Indonesia Peace and Security Centre in Bogor, Indonesia on 19 December 2011. The Centre houses training grounds for counter-terrorism, standby force, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, Indonesia Defence University, military game committee and language centre. The largest area and facilities of the Centre are dedicated for peacekeeping training. The Centre is open for training of ASEAN and United Nations peacekeeping troops.

12. The Meeting addressed the issue of participation of civilian agencies, i.e. the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the way to ensure complementarity between the military and the NGOs. The Meeting observed that the NGOs often operate based on its own mission which might not be in line with the military operations. Clear lines of mandates should be drawn between the military and the NGOs.

13. The Meeting discussed the issue of response to United Nations short notice request for troop deployment to uncommon environment. The Meeting suggested that troops returned from the peacekeeping serve as trainers for the troops to be deployed to the next missions.

14. The Meeting exchanged experiences on the standby force. Some participants shared that in the case where there is no request for new mission, the standby force will be deployed for rotation in the existing missions.

15. The Meeting noted the presentations by Mongolia and Indonesia, which appear as **ANNEXES 6 and 7**.

Session Two: Enhancing the Training of Peacekeepers

16. The Meeting touched on the United Nations New Horizon Initiative. The Meeting viewed that the ASEAN region has the significant capacity for peacekeeping deployment. In this context, if the ARF and the ADMM/ADMM-Plus continue to focus on activities that ultimately help deployments and deploying peacekeepers or help regional peacekeeping capacity building efforts in general, it will provide a boost to the capacity of the multilateral peacekeeping missions.

17. The Meeting discussed several aspects of peacekeeping trainings including training design, focus on performance-oriented trainings which include relevant scenarios and realism, priority on human rights and protection of civilian and conduct of after action review of all trainings to systematically incorporate and store best practices and lessons learnt for all ranges of deployment.

18. The Meeting viewed that the United Nations should improve its standards for the military skills in peacekeeping operations. It is underscored that assessment of the performance of a mission is only legitimate if it is based on a certain standards. The assessment should not only be based on military capability standards. The standards should encompass all components of the missions.

19. The Meeting discussed how country should overcome the situation where the military capabilities cannot meet standards by the United Nations and whether it will hinder the country to participate in the mission. The principle of meeting standards should continue be maintained, all countries should meet the United Nations standards to send their peacekeeping missions. The Meeting requested countries which have met the United Nations

Standards to extend assistance to countries which are willing to learn. The Meeting noted that the United Nations' budget for improving training standards for peacekeeping troops is drawn from extra budgetary allocation.

20. The Meeting raised the issue of standards for intangible aspects of peacekeeping missions, such as leadership, morale, and religions. The Meeting underscored the critical importance of leadership in peacekeeping mission. Leadership was recognised as the key in the success of a mission, it is more important than doctrine, materials and principles of the peacekeeping mission.

21. The Meeting noted the presentation by the United States, which appears as **ANNEX 8**.

Session Three: Networking of Training Centres

22. The Meeting discussed ways to improve networking of peacekeeping training centres. The Meeting noted that there are pools of experiences from peacekeeping troops in the Asia Pacific region. Expertise gained from the peacekeeping missions could be used to improve the capacity of the regional peacekeeping training centres.

23. The Meeting looked at the opportunities available to share best practices and experiences in peacekeeping. Some participant pointed out the need for a lead organisation to coordinate the networking of peacekeeping training centres. Such an organisation will be responsible for the follow of information and update of the progress.

24. The Meeting emphasised the importance of promoting networking among peacekeeping training centres. The Meeting noted the ongoing efforts in building ASEAN peacekeeping centres network. Several challenges in promoting networks among peacekeeping centres were raised, namely the presence of peacekeeping network support – that is the person in charge of coordination of the networks among training centres, the exchange of training curriculum among peacekeeping centres,

25. Thailand informed the Meeting of the convening of the 1st Meeting of the Establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network in Bangkok on 4-7 September 2012 under the ADMM framework.

26. The Meeting discussed the question of ARF's objective in its cooperation on peacekeeping operations. The ASEAN Secretariat pointed out that the Hanoi Plan of Actions to Implement the ARF Vision Statement should serve as the guiding principles of the ARF in moving forward the cooperation in peacekeeping operations. At this stage, three of the five action plans has been progressing, namely the compilation of a list of peacekeeping best practices and lessons learned, update on a regular basis the list of ARF peacekeeping contact points to facilitate information sharing, and support the convening of the ARF Peacekeeping Experts Meetings or other mutually agreed modalities on a regular basis. ARF could now look at the remaining two action plans, namely promoting networking among ARF participants' peacekeeping centres to encourage cooperation among them in such areas as trainings and seminars and holding ARF joint training and planning activities including desk-top and scenario-based planning exercises.

27. The Meeting noted the presentations by Indonesia and Mongolia, which appear as **ANNEXES 9 and 10**.

Session Four: Standby Fund and Standby Force Mechanism for Rapidly Deployable Peacekeeping Operations: Challenges and Best Practices

28. The Meeting identified challenges and noted best practices in establishing the standby fund and standby force mechanism for rapidly deployable peacekeeping operations. Among the challenges in deployment to respond to specific request included the absence of specialised unit to meet the requirements of the peacekeeping operations in terms of personnel, equipment and training, the absence of standby force in place by the time of the request, and the absence of framework for civilian experts training.

29. The Meeting noted conditions stipulated in the national laws which could limit the level of participation in military-related activities of the peacekeeping force during missions. In some countries, the delay in responding the request for peacekeeping force is caused by the lengthy bureaucratic and legal processes at the national level. In order to get around this hindrance, some countries redeploy their peacekeeping force in other missions.

30. Given the above-mentioned limitations, the Meeting suggested that the countries could share their specialised skills to peacekeeping forces of others. The Meeting exchanged views on whether standby force deployable for peacekeeping operations is also equipped with the skills to be deployed in the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Other Matters

31. The Meeting took note the offer by China to co-chair the 6th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting in the inter-sessional year 2012-2013. The ASEAN Co-Chair for the meeting will be confirmed in due course.

Closing Remarks

32. The Co-Chairs extended sincere appreciation to all the participants for the fruitful discussion. The Meeting expressed gratitude to Indonesia and Mongolia for effective co-chairmanship and to the Government of Mongolia for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.
