



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

17th ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM HEADS OF DEFENCE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS MEETING (17th ARF HDUCIM)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

11-14th NOVEMBER 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. The 17th ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions Meeting (17th ARF HDUCIM) was successfully held on Monday, 11th November until Thursday, 14 November 2013 at the Rizqun International Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan. The 17th ARF HDUCIM was co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Korea.

FRAMEWORK OF MEETING

3. The meeting focused on a common theme and this theme covers three different sub-topics. The meeting included topic presentations, bilateral meetings and covers visits to various tourist attractions and cultural sites of the host country to foster stronger ties and cooperation between the participating countries.

4. The meeting were co-chaired by representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam and a representative from the Korean National Defence University (KNDU).

5. Annexed with this Report are the List of Participants (Annex A) and Point of Contacts list (Annex B).

ATTENDANCE

5. A total of 25 out of 27 ARF participants (ASEAN members and dialogue partners) attended this meeting. There were two non-attendees, which was North Korea and Sri Lanka. Observers from local government agencies as well as The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were also present during the meeting.

THEMATIC FOCUS

6. The enduring theme for the 17th ARF HDUCIM was “**Cooperation in Research and Academic Curricula on the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE)**”. This theme serves as an avenue for ARF members to share the best practices for information and capability sharing in education, training and research in order to better prepare for the current security issues at large. In total, there were 17 presentations all together for the 17th ARF HDUCIM. The three topics developed to support the theme are as follows:

- a. Topic One: ‘**Academic Research and Curriculum Relating to COE**’
- b. Topic Two: ‘**Physical and Other Training Modules Relevant to the COE**’
- c. Topic Three: ‘**Other Tools and Collaboration Efforts in Addressing the COE**’.

PRESENTATIONS

7. The presentation title for topic one was ‘Academic Research and Curriculum Relating to COE’. There were 8 presentations on this topic and the countries who presented were Brunei, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, China, United States and Indonesia.

8. The key findings for this topic were:
- a. Many participants place much emphasis on improving their academic curriculum, research methods and practices. For example, Singapore, Thailand and China have spoken about establishing academic curriculum and research, through understanding research cycles, reforming their teaching methods and by exercising critical reflection and long-range thinking.
 - b. Many have mentioned about integrating research with teaching and revising their current curriculum in order to keep up with the current security issues. For example, Thailand and Vietnam spoke about the evolution and transformation of threat and how this may have produce different responses towards COE.
9. The titles of the various presentations and the countries that have presented are as follows:
- a. Paper 1 presented by Brunei Darussalam: **“RBAF CSC Curriculum and Pedagogical Approach”**
 - b. Paper 2 presented by Japan: **“NIDS Education in a Complex Operation Environment (COE)”**
 - c. Paper 3 presented by Singapore: **“Academic Research and Curriculum that relates to COE: The Safti MI experience”**
 - d. Paper 4 presented by Vietnam: **“Academic Research and Curriculum that relates to COE: Vietnam’s viewpoint”**
 - e. Paper 5 presented by Thailand: **“2013-2014 NDC Curriculum”**
 - f. Paper 6 presented by China: **“Academic Research and Curriculum that relates to COE: China National Defence University”**
 - g. Paper 7 presented by the United States of America: **“National Security Education in an Austere Fiscal Environment”**
 - h. Paper 8 presented by Indonesia: **“Indonesian Defence University (IDU) perspective on academic research and curricula”**

10. The presentation title for topic two was 'Physical and Other Training Modules Relevant to the COE'. There were 5 presentations on this topic from Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Myanmar, Canada and New Zealand.

11. The key findings for this topic was that many have shared their current teaching programmes of their respective institutions and in order to progress, participants have recognised the ever-changing security issues and the constraints it may have with regards to training.

12. The titles of the various presentations and the countries that have presented are as follows:

- a. Paper 1 presented by Republic of Korea: **"COE Training Program: A Preliminary Design"**
- b. Paper 2 presented by Cambodia: **"Physical and Other Training Modules Relevant to the COE: Cambodian Perspective"**
- c. Paper 3 presented by Myanmar: **"Training systems of Myanmar's Armed Forces"**
- d. Paper 4 presented by Canada: **"Individual Training & Education Modernisation: The CAF Campus Operational Concept"**
- e. Paper 5 presented by New Zealand: **"The NZDF approach to preparing personnel to deal with the complexity of the COE"**

13. The presentation title for topic three was 'Other Tools and Collaboration Efforts in Addressing the COE'. There were 4 presentations on this topic from Malaysia, the Philippines, India and ICRC.

14. The key findings for this topic was participants have used their comparative studies to highlight growing civil-military relations with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) evidenced by the increasing cooperation amongst information and capability sharing, disaster relief risk management and setting out threat spectrums and their threat measures.

15. The titles of the various presentations and the countries that have presented are as follows:

- a. Paper 1 presented by Malaysia: **“Collaboration and Networking with Non-Governmental Organisations – The Way Forward”**
- b. Paper 2 presented by The Philippines: **“Some tools and initiatives in anticipating risks in a Complex Operations Environment (COE): Focus on the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management”**
- c. Paper 3 presented by India: **“Strategic gaming exercise as a tool for training in decision-making in Complex Operating Environment”**
- d. Paper 4 presented by ICRC: **“The relevance of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to defence training institutions”**

16. All full texts of the respective presentations have been compiled. This would also include additional papers submitted by the European Union and Laos as they did not present during the meeting.

KEY FINDINGS

17. The key findings of the presentations and general consensus from discussions during the meeting saw many participants agree that the ARF HDUCIM have played an instrumental role in ensuring the success and implementation of their policies and objectives. From all the presentations that have been presented for the 17th ARF HDUCIM, there were several key findings namely:

- a. **Common Understanding of COE.** Most participants share and utilise similar definitions of COE, which allows for better understanding and easy contextual usage of the term. With an agreed definition, it would be feasible to create Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) all can refer to.
- b. **Information-sharing and communications.** Information shared by all participating countries has been valuable and certainly has added value to our objectives. Many have placed emphasis on improving information-sharing measures as well as establishing better communication protocols.

c. **Transparency.** The level of openness and sharing are appreciated, as it enables participants to draw valuable lessons from the experiences shared. For efficient and easy exchanges of information, all parties must practice transparency to ensure checks and balances.

d. **Enhancement of capacity-building measures.** Complex missions undertaken by many states today also require meticulous coordination from all parties involved. Capacity-building measures are pivotal to ensure that a solid foundation is created in order to provide for the needs of the civil society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Upon hearing various inputs from the participants, the Chair has several recommendations made during the 17th ARF HDCUIM and they are as follows:

a. **Duration of the meeting.** The two-day meeting was inadequate to cater for all presentations and discussions of interest as such many participants have voiced out their suggestions to prolong the duration of the meeting in order to allow more comprehensive and detailed discussions and exchange of information. The co-chairs proposed and the Meeting agreed that the meeting may be extended for three to four days.

b. **Point of Contacts.** In order to promote better networking amongst the participants and as a way forward, the secretariat of the 17th ARF HDUCIM has compiled a point of contacts list which has all the details of the participants for feasible information-sharing.

c. **Bilateral Meetings.** A number of bilateral meetings were held during the course of the meeting. It has been viewed as efforts to maintain good relations and allow discussions outside of the ARF HDUCIM theme and presentations.

CONCLUSION

19. To conclude, the co-chairs expressed their sincere appreciation and thanked all delegates for making the meeting a great success. The meeting signifies the continuing commitment of the ARF members as well as dialogue partners in making the ARF vision a reality. Moreover, the quality of the presentations and discussions generated during the meeting were indications of the members maintaining high standards of the meeting itself. The meeting would not have materialised without the hard work, commitments and cooperation from all the officers and staffs involved.

20. Nonetheless, with the highest number of presentations to date, the theme of the 17th ARF HDUCIM was successful in assisting the military institutions in enhancing cooperation amongst each other through information-sharing and Confidence - Building Measures.

21. The co-chairs expressed their condolences to The Philippines for the recent national tragedy and reiterated that natural disasters, enormous in scope and magnitude, necessitate trans-national coordination and responses. Thus, the meeting also presented an opportunity to discuss the plight of those affected by typhoon *Haiyan* in the Philippines.

22. The 18th ARF HDUCIM will be held at South Korea with the date and place yet to be confirmed.