

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
6TH ARF PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS' MEETING
BEIJING, CHINA, 15-17 OCTOBER 2013**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision by the Ministers at the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013, the 6th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting was held in Beijing, China, on 15-17 October 2013. Maj. Gen. Ker Savoeun, Director of International Relations, Cooperation, Peacekeeping and Legislation Department, Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia and Senior Colonel Zhang Li, Deputy Director-General of Peacekeeping Affairs Office, Ministry of National Defence of China co-chaired the Meeting.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF Participants except India, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.
3. The Theme of the Meeting was "Enhancing Pragmatic Cooperation: Improving Peacekeeping Training with Joint Efforts."

Opening Session

4. In his opening remarks, Admiral Sun Jianguo, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, welcomed all ARF participants and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. He acknowledged that the nature of modern peacekeeping operations have placed higher requirements on the part of the peacekeepers. He expressed hope that the Meeting under the theme of 'Enhancing Pragmatic Cooperation: Improving Peacekeeping Training with Joint Efforts' will give opportunities for the ARF participants to address the issues related to these requirements. He informed the Meeting the efforts by the People's Liberation Army on training for peacekeeping, including through regularly-conducted joint trainings with troops of other countries and participation in international trainings organised by other countries. As of today, China has deployed over 24,000 peacekeepers in 23 peacekeeping operations and is the largest troop contributing country for United Nations peacekeeping operations among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He recalled the positive remarks by United Nations Secretary-General commending the Chinese peacekeepers. He recognised that peacekeeping operations are facing more challenges, greater safety risks, more complex tasks, and higher requirements. He advocated the following initiatives: 1) The ARF participants should support the United Nations' undertaking, noted the limited resources and support to deploy peacekeepers; 2) The ARF participants should play coordination role in peacekeeping trainings, form teaching and training methods that are suitable for each nations. Sharing of experiences and joint capacity-building programmes to promote the development in peacekeeping operations was proposed; 3) The mutual learning process could help improve peacekeeping training. He reiterated that China will be ready to continue working with the ASEAN Member States in the area of peacekeeping and continue to contribute to the United Nations. The remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.
5. Maj. Gen. Ker Savoeun, Director of International Relations, Cooperation, Peacekeeping and Legislation Department, Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia,

extended his appreciation to China as Co-Chair for the 6th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting. He encouraged the ARF participants to address the challenges and identify gaps in peacekeeping efforts in the region, and to discover a new pathway of promoting peace and security through sharing experiences and best practices in peacekeeping operations. His keynote address appears as ANNEX 3.

6. Mr. Hervé Ladsous, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, presented his keynote address highlighting that in the past training for peacekeeping was the responsibility of the United Nations. As peacekeeping has grown to become more complex, peacekeepers are expected to fulfill more tasks. Early this year the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2086 which highlighted the importance of multidimensional peacekeeping and the relevant tasks for peacekeepers. He underscored that no single state or the United Nations alone can address the challenges of multidimensional peacekeeping. He also emphasised that joint trainings are important where ARF participants have the key role to play, as well as joint efforts to develop specialised training materials and modules based on the developments in the field. Since peacekeeping is not a static stage of affairs, peacekeeping training needs to be dynamic as well. He emphasised the importance of pre-deployment training and noted that there is still a significant number of peacekeepers who did not receive training prior to deployment. He touched on the upcoming annual conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres which will take place in Bangladesh on 28-31 October 2013. The keynote address appear as ANNEX 4.

7. Director-General Li Junhua from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, at the outset welcomed the ARF participants. He recalled the 65th anniversary of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and how peacekeeping operations have become an indispensable force for preserving international peace and security. He noted that the international peace and security are faced with various kinds of new threats. The size of United Nations peacekeeping operations has become larger, and the mandate more complex, multidimensional and robust. In order to ensure its effectiveness, the United Nations peacekeeping operations should stick to the principles formed in the long term practice and should be adaptive to the new dynamics and challenges through necessary adjustment and reform. He reiterated China's commitment on United Nations peacekeeping operations and willingness to actively participate in the discussions on how to reform and strengthen the peacekeeping operations. China is looking forward to the greater success by United Nations peacekeeping operations. He further noted that the ideas of comprehensive security, common security and cooperative security are becoming the consensus of the Asia-Pacific countries. More exchanges and cooperation on peacekeeping operations among them is not only a demonstration of support to the UN peacekeeping operations, but also a way to enhance mutual trust and nurture new concept of security in the region. He underscored how peacekeeping operations have been the focus of the ARF's agenda since early on, including the five ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting previously held. He hoped that the Meeting further promote pragmatic works in the area of peacekeeping and the network built through the Meeting contribute to the work of the peacekeeping force in the field.

Session Agenda Introduction

8. 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 outcomes of the previous ARF Peacekeeping

Experts' Meetings were discussed, including the suggestion for future peacekeeping-related activities under the ARF to be guided by the action lines of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement. The presentation appears as ANNEX 5.

Session One: Challenges with the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation

9. Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous, delivered a presentation on the evolving global context of peacekeeping. He underlined that United Nations peacekeeping is a cost-effective tool; although peacekeeping operations account for only 1% of the world's military expenditure, its contribution to international peace and security far outweigh the costs. He added that for the period of 2013-2014, the operational cost of conducting United Nations peacekeeping was 16% lower than the previous year. In the past two years, the United Nations has deployed peacekeeping missions to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Abyei, and Mali. He identified several challenges in conducting contemporary peacekeeping missions, namely 1) changes in the types of threats faced by peacekeepers, such as asymmetric threats from non-state actors, and the absence of legitimate status of peacekeeping to protect peacekeepers from these asymmetric threats; and 2) more diverse peacekeeping operations compared to traditional Chapter VI missions (cease-fire monitoring and observation) or multidimensional missions with complex tasks and responsibilities. He also touched on the growing role of the regional organisations such as the African Union in conducting peacekeeping operations. He encouraged the ARF participants to continue supporting the United Nations. A proposal for maritime peacekeeping operations was also mentioned, taking into account the experience in Somalia. He briefly discussed the need for advanced military technology and capability to support the peacekeeping to enable the operations and protect the peacekeepers. He also expected that the Director for Peacekeeping Operations will be appointed immediately. In summary, he suggested that the United Nations peacekeepers cannot work alone, therefore, partnership with individual countries, regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, and other United Nations agencies is essential. The presentation appears as ANNEX 6.

10. The Meeting discussed the issue of interventions by individual countries which bypass the United Nations' mandate. In this context, the United Nations viewed that certain political considerations might have created such situations. Nevertheless, the United Nations emphasised partnership between the United Nations peacekeeping missions with those undertaken by other regional and sub-regional organisations. The United Nations is ready to assist in training peacekeepers coordinated by these organisations.

11. The Meeting exchanged views on the United Nations' peacekeeping operations' capability in protection of the civilians. The United Nations acknowledged that the protection of the civilians is always on the list of United Nations peacekeeping missions' mandate. It is a matter of training, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, communication network to improve the troops' capability on protection of the civilians. The expectation of the United Nations Security Council and the media has triggered the peacekeeping missions to work its best.

12. The Meeting discussed the issues of non-traditional security challenges, maritime peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peace-building. As of now, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate the seamless transition from peacekeeping to peace-building.

Session Two: Experience in Training Enabling Units

13. Sr. Col. Lu Jianxin, Senior Instructor in Peacekeeping Centre of the Ministry of National Defence of China, presented on China's perspectives on the development and participation of force enablers for United Nations peacekeeping missions. He provided an overview of China's participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions which mostly consists of engineering, medical, and logistical units and a small contingent of military observers. He emphasised the importance of robust peacekeeping training through developing of training guidelines and materials, conducting training at different levels; intensifying training in weak areas such as language, and identifying training priorities. Sr. Col. Lu also informed the Meeting of the efforts by the Peacekeeping Training Centre of China to develop special skills of the Chinese peacekeepers. The Training Centre has also compiled best practices through doctrinal researches on several areas such as natural disasters, and disease outbreaks, identification of best practices, and conducting regular after-action reviews. The presentation appears as ANNEX 7.

14. Lt. Col. Nur Muhammad Arif, Staff of Peacekeeping Centre of the Ministry of Defence of Indonesia, presented on the Indonesian Armed Forces Engineering Company, the current and future activities of the Indonesian Peacekeeping Centre. Lt. Col. Arif explained on the stages of training conducted by the Indonesian Peacekeeping Centre and the key points of the training conducted. Several key points of training were highlighted, namely on managing cultural differences, on improving communication skills in foreign languages, and maintaining situational awareness through regular monitoring of news and updates. The presentation appears as ANNEX 8.

15. The Meeting raised the question on the optimal period for individual deployment. The Meeting noted that there is no fixed period for the tour of duty; such a decision depends on the individual countries. The Meeting exchanged experience on the allocation of personnel for peacekeeping mission. The question of deployment of reserved personnel was raised.

16. The Meeting noted that some ARF participants have adjusted the United Nations training materials to be adapted to the existing national military culture without necessarily amending the substantive materials.

Session Three: Experience in Training Infantry Units

17. Maj. Gen. Tariq Javed, Director of General Personnel Administration of the Pakistani General Headquarters, presented on Pakistan's experience in training infantry units for peacekeeping missions. He emphasised the importance of sufficiently understanding, among others, the host country's culture, languages, political climate, literacy rate, religions, infrastructure, warring factions and their characteristics, availability of weapons, knowledge of legal aspects and legal requirements, and the attitude towards the United Nations peacekeeping mission and the peacekeepers themselves. He touched on situation-oriented training in which the troops are trained for demobilisation, disarmament and rehabilitation as well as monitoring the conduct of elections. The importance of training for media handling by peacekeeping troops was also suggested. The presentation appears as ANNEX 9.

18. The Meeting exchanged views on the need for the ARF to conduct joint exercises in the format of table-top (TTX) and field training (FTX). The Meeting was of the view that the ARF should take advantage of its existing framework to move the cooperation towards practical cooperation such as the joint exercises. Such exercises will help troops from ARF participants to familiarise themselves with the practices and procedures of their counterparts, thus easing the adjustment during the actual peacekeeping missions.

Session Four: Experience in Training UNMO and SO

19. Maj. Eric Cottenoir, Directorate of Military Training and Cooperation of the Department of National Defence of Canada, elaborated on the Canadian Armed Forces' approach to training staff officers (SOs) in contemporary multidimensional peacekeeping missions. He described Canada's current training resources at the domestic and international level, the specialised training modules such as the UN Staff Officer Specialized Training Material (UN SO STM), and the development of specific training modules based on the needs of the mission. He underlined several elements of Canada's Staff Officer Course, namely 1) mission environment and doctrine; 2) contemporary issues in peace support operations; 3) mission components; and 4) operations and planning in mission environment. The presentation is attached as ANNEX 10.

Session Five: Best Practices and Lessons Learned in UN

20. Pol. Supervisor Wang Xiaochen, Deputy Director of the Peacekeeping Police Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Public Security of China, elaborated on China's experience in police peacekeeping force deployment since the year 2000. She explained the organisational structure and responsibility of police peacekeeping affairs under the Ministry of Public Security of China, the selection and recruitment of police peacekeepers, pre-deployment procedure and the pre-deployment course. The Formed Police Unit (FPU) training is held in two phases which cover theoretical and operational process. The China Peacekeeping Police Training Centre was established in March 2001, located in the Chinese People's Armed Police Academy in Lang Fang, 50 kilometer south of Beijing, with the investment of \$ 25 million. The Training Centre sends trainers to join the missions, invites experts from the United Nations and other countries, host seminars and workshops to exchange information and invites police officers with experience in peacekeeping missions to conduct training as part-time trainers. Her presentation appears as ANNEX 11.

21. Col. Tan Boon Ann, Head of Current Operations Group, Ministry of Defence of Singapore, shared his views on the Singapore Armed Forces' approach to peacekeeping and the best practices and lessons learned in the United Nations peacekeeping training. Singapore has been participating in the United Nations peacekeeping missions since 1989, with the longest and largest missions to Uganda and Timor Leste, respectively. He also explained the best practices of force preparation system under the Singapore Armed Forces, which is conducted through a six-stage system. He emphasised the importance of after action reviews that could then be fed back to the force preparation stage. Several lessons learned from the peacekeeping operations were highlighted, including cultural sensitivities of the host nation as well as the partner nations, integrated planning and coordination, importance of dialogue and negotiations, force preparation and strategic 'corporal'. His presentation appears as ANNEX 12.

22. Maj. Gen. Ker Savoeun, Director of International Relations, Cooperation, Peacekeeping and Legislation, Ministry of National Defense of Cambodia, presented on the National Centre for Peacekeeping and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance of Cambodia (NPMEC), describing its roles, participation United Nations peacekeeping missions, human resources trainings, participation in multinational exercises abroad as well as trainings supported by partner nations. He also shared with the Meeting the lessons learnt from the previous missions, namely, strengthening the United Nations Code of Conduct and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF)'s discipline, unity among all armed forces personnel at missions, in-depth knowledge about the United Nations peacekeeping concept of Operations, respect of sovereignty, integrity and culture of the host nation, and maintain good relationship and outstanding cooperation with all the participating nations in the field. He emphasised that good planning and preparation has enabled the Cambodian peacekeepers to conduct safe missions. He informed the Meeting that in the past nine years, Cambodia has sent over 1,600 personnel with no casualties. He also identified several challenges faced by Cambodia, including foreign language proficiency, difficulty in selecting the right person for the right job, stress built-up among soldiers from long-term mission commitments, command and control issues, and information technology. His presentation is attached as **ANNEX 13**.

23. Some participants shared their national experience on the relationship between the police peacekeepers and other section of the police. The Meeting also exchanged views on cooperation between the police and military in the training of police peacekeepers. In some ARF participants, decision for deployment of police peacekeepers is made by State Council, Central Party and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

24. The Meeting also discussed the equipment of the police peacekeepers. The equipments of used by the police peacekeepers are procured by the force police unit according to the United Nations standard and its cost is reimbursed by the United Nations.

Wrap-up Session: “Ways to Enhance the Cooperation of the Regional Peacekeeping Training

25. In this session the Meeting noted the outcomes of the breakout group discussions and the recommendations for future ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meetings.

26. Group A discussed the challenges faced in the peacekeeping missions, which included the agreement with the conflicting parties, the United Nations Security Council mandate and rules of engagement and coordination between troops contributing countries and the United Nations. Group A suggested that infantry and enabling units should be combined. The combined unit could be deployed far from the battalion headquarters. Group A also noted the challenge in identifying priority that requires trainings. Coordination between specialist units from different troops contributing countries to save the cost of the operations was mentioned. Group A recommended that there should be a list of courses run by troops contributing countries open to peacekeepers from other countries and that the next ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting could include simulation to table-top exercises. Group A also suggested that information sharing portal and database on trainings and best practices could be developed. The outcome of discussion of Group A appears as **ANNEX 14**.

27. Group B noted several general observations on peacekeeping operations, namely, the differences between training of female soldiers of Asian and western countries, the need for joint exercises, particularly pre-deployment training and the realisation that fighting is the last

resort for peacekeepers. Group B recommended that there should be improvement in training to better execute United Nations resolutions on gender equality, standardization for engineering equipment and skill set from different troops contributing countries and guiding manuals for engineering units. Better coordination between military and civilian components as well as mutual understanding between military and police units were suggested. Group B identified the need for clearer mandate for each contingent, minimum period of tenure for contingents and coordination in rotations for contingents from different countries. Regular joint training, rehearsals and exercises between military and police components was proposed. Group B emphasised the importance for coordination between the ADMM and the ARF in the cooperation in peacekeeping area. Group B underlined that recommendations from the ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting should be shared to other fora and the United Nations Headquarters. The outcome of discussion of Group B appears as ANNEX 15.

28. Group C discussed the protection of engineering company in mission area and viewed that the responsibility to protect the engineering company rest in the respective sector commanders. The role of civilians in the peacekeeping missions, including the experts in legal and justice reform, rehabilitation and corrections, and psychological operations. Group C also pointed out that communication between military and civilian components is important to deliver services more effectively. On this note, Group C recommended that training could be conducted involving civilian and military for both elements to gain a better understanding of each other's roles in peacekeeping missions. Good coordination between the civilian components, i.e. non-government organisations (NGO) and international NGO (INGO) and the military components in mission areas should be conducted at the level of mission headquarters. Group C pointed out that as of now there are no pre-deployment trainings for INGO and NGOs and proposed that such trainings should be conducted. Group C also recalled the action lines of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement on holding ARF joint training and planning activities, including desktop exercises. Group C considered that it was time for the ARF to follow up the discussions of the six meetings of ARF peacekeeping experts by conducting practical activities as prescribed by the Hanoi Plan of Action. The outcome of the discussion of Group C appears as ANNEX 16.

29. The Meeting noted that the Co-Chairs for the next ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting will be decided in due course.

Closing Remarks

30. In his closing remarks, Sr. Col. Zhang Li commended on the candid and fruitful discussion by the ARF participants. The exchange of ideas has expanded the views of all ARF participants. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of all ARF participants and the ASEAN Secretariat in the Meeting. He recalled this year marks the 65th Anniversary of the United Nations peacekeeping operations that was inaugurated in 1948. United Nations peacekeeping operations have evolved into one of the major tools of maintaining international peace and stability and most recently in the protection of civilians. He viewed that the ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting has served as a platform for confidence-building, capacity expanding, intelligence gathering, and resource utilising among the peacekeepers. The contribution of the ARF participants counts for more than half of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. He summarised the discussion of the Meeting and highlighted that the ARF's supporting role in peacekeeping operations is expected and should be brought into play, incremental role of the peacekeeping operations is necessary, regional

peacekeeping training centres should cooperate to enhance regional capacity. His closing remarks appear as ANNEX 17.

31. Maj. Gen. Ker Savoeun presented a memento to Sr. Col. Zhang Li for the cooperation as Co-Chairs.

Acknowledgement

32. The Co-Chairs extended their sincere appreciation to all the participants for the fruitful discussion. The Meeting expressed gratitude to Cambodia and China for effective co-chairmanship and to the Government of the People's Republic of China for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.
