

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE
TOKYO, JAPAN, 7 MAY 2015**

1. The ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was convened in Tokyo on 7 May 2015. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Mr. Ahmad Nadzri bin Mohd Hassan, Undersecretary, Policy & Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Defence of Malaysia and Mr. Kengo Sato, Director, Office of International Security Policy, Bureau of Defense Policy, Ministry of Defense of Japan.

2. Representatives from the Ministries of Defence of all ARF participants except Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Pakistan attended the Dialogue. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Kengo Sato welcomed all delegations to the ARF DOD and expressed hope that the Dialogue would generate fruitful and meaningful discussions amongst the participants.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ahmad Nadzri bin Mohd Hassan underscored that the region continues to face traditional and non-traditional security issues which demand more proactive and coordinated cooperation. He emphasised the value of the ARF DOD as a useful platform to address these issues.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. The Dialogue adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: TOPIC A – STREAMLINING ARF DOD MEETINGS

6. The Co-Chairs recalled the discussions of the previous ARF DOD in Melaka on streamlining the ARF DOD meetings as recommended by the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs. Several options to streamline the ARF DOD were suggested, namely: 1) to reduce the frequency of the ARF DOD from three to two including retaining the ARF DOD held back-to-back with the ARF ISG on CBMs PD; 2) to reduce the frequency from three to one while retaining the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC); and 3) to align the number of the ARF DOD with the number of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD. The Dialogue noted the Co-Chairs' suggestion to reduce the ARF DOD from three to two and the ASPC should be maintained due to its importance. However, the timing of convening the two ARF DODs would be determined only after the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD has conducted its deliberations on the number of ISGs to be held in a year.

7. The Dialogue exchanged views on the need to streamline the ARF DOD in light of the growing number of ASEAN defence-related meetings and activities particularly under the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The proliferation of defence-related meetings and activities has created additional burdens on financial and personnel resources of both ARF and ADMM-Plus participating countries. The Dialogue recalled the decision of the ASEAN Defence Ministers at the 9th ADMM in Langkawi on 16 March 2015 to streamline and improve the work processes of different security platforms for more economical and efficient outcomes.

8. The Dialogue was of the view that both the ARF and the ADMM-Plus have distinct advantages and potentials. The ARF should continue to facilitate more inclusive dialogue on policy matters as well as promote civil-military cooperation while the ADMM-Plus should continue to promote and conduct military-to-military dialogue and practical cooperation. In this regard, the Dialogue noted several suggestions to enhance the work of the ARF DOD and to avoid duplication between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, including:

- The ARF DOD could propose concrete programmes and activities for the endorsement of the ARF SOM;
- The role of the ASEAN Chair in ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts in the ARF and the ADMM Plus and in developing constructive communication channels between both mechanisms particularly in the development of the ARF and ADMM-Plus agendas;
- The role of the ASEAN Secretariat in facilitating information-sharing between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus; and
- The need for ARF and the ADMM-Plus to enhance coordination and arrangements particularly on issues of common concern. For example, ARF and ADMM-Plus meetings on similar topics could be convened back-to-back in the same venue.

9. The Dialogue was of the view that the current cross-briefings between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus on similar topics have enabled both fora to benefit from each other in addressing security issues of common concern. In this context, continued cross-briefings would enable the ARF DOD to maintain its level of engagement despite the reduction of frequency. The Dialogue also noted the suggestion for the ARF DOD to complement the ADMM-Plus especially in strengthening civil-military coordination and enhancing multi-agency coordination.

10. The Dialogue recognised that not all ARF participants are members of the ADMM-Plus and that for these participants the ARF DOD is the only venue for sharing defence and security experiences. In light of the increased cooperation in this context, some participants commented that further streamlining of the ARF DOD from three to two could very well undermine the cooperative efforts achieved so far.

11. Malaysia, China, European Union, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand presented their views to the Dialogue. Their interventions appear as **ANNEXES 3 and 4**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: TOPIC B – GLOBAL TERRORISM

12. The Dialogue expressed serious concern over the rapid rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and the security risks it poses to countries in the Asia Pacific region. The Dialogue looked into the aims and objectives of ISIS and noted that globalisation and advancements in information technology have contributed to disseminating ISIS' ideology world-wide. In this regard, the Dialogue noted that the number of foreigners who were influenced and left their home countries to join the ranks of ISIS has increased in recent months. Several participants highlighted their attempts in discouraging their citizens to join ISIS, including through rehabilitation, reintegration and counter radicalisation efforts.

13. The Dialogue recognised the critical importance of cooperation among countries in the region in combating the rise of extremist groups. The Dialogue noted the work of the military Special Operations Forces in counter-terrorism operations around the world, including against the ISIS, the Al-Shabaab group, etc. The Dialogue, however, recognised that counter-terrorism response must be multi-faceted and not rely solely on military solutions.

14. The Dialogue welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the 26th Summit in Kuala Lumpur to address the growing threat of radicalisation and violent extremism including through strengthening the Global Movement of Moderates, and the decision of the ASEAN Defence Ministers at the 9th ADMM in Langkawi to strengthen cooperation to counter the imminent threat of terrorist/extremist organisations and radical groups through, among others, promoting awareness among the public about the threat of radicalism. On this note, the Meeting welcomed the convening of the East Asia Summit Symposium on Religious Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration in Singapore on 16-17 April 2015.

15. The United States, Indonesia, Canada, Singapore, Pakistan, the European Union, China, India, Sri Lanka and the ASEAN Secretariat presented their views to the Dialogue. Their interventions appear as **ANNEXES 5 and 6**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS

5.1 VOLUNTARY BRIEFINGS

16. The Dialogue noted the briefing on the European Union's Common and Security Defence Policy (CSDP). The Dialogue noted that currently there are 10 civilian missions and 6 military operations around the world. The briefing highlighted that 15 partner countries also take part in some of the missions alongside EU Member States. The briefing is attached as **ANNEX 7**.

17. The Dialogue commended the current counter-piracy operations under EUNAVFOR Atlanta and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) has noted the success in reducing the number of piracy incidents.

18. The Dialogue noted the briefing on the Moscow International Security Conference convened on 16-17 April 2015. The main topic for this year's Conference was the deployment of missile defence systems in Europe and Asia. The Conference also discussed counter-terrorism operations and agreed that cooperation is essential in conducting these operations.

5.2 DATE AND VENUE OF DOD/ASPC

19. Malaysia informed the Dialogue that the next ARF DOD and the 12th ASPC will take place in Kuching, Sarawak on 8-9 June 2015, back-to-back with the ARF SOM. The invitation package for the meetings will be conveyed to all ARF participants in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING REMARKS

20. In their closing remarks, the Co-Chairs summarised the discussions of the Dialogue and thanked all participants for their frank and constructive contributions to the discussions.

21. The Dialogue expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to all ARF participants.

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