

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SEMINAR ON SEA LINES OF
COMMUNICATION (SLOCS) SECURITY
BEIJING, CHINA, 8-9 DECEMBER 2014

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 21st Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 10 August 2014, the ARF Seminar on Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCS) Security was held in Beijing, China, on 8-9 December 2014. The workshop was co-chaired by Major General Xiao Tianliang, Director of Strategic Studies Department, Chinese National Defence University, PLA (CNDU), and Major General Syaiful Anwar, Dean of Defence Strategy Faculty, Indonesia Defense University. All ARF participants except Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Timor Leste were present. Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.
2. The aim of the seminar is to strengthen the maritime cooperation and coordination among regional countries, in an effort to fully exert the current multilateral framework and enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation, and elevating the capacity building of littoral countries along the SLOCs.

Welcoming Ceremony

3. RADM Li Ji, Deputy Chief, Foreign Affairs Office, Ministry of National Defence, People's Republic of China, welcomed all the participants to the seminar. In his speech, he emphasized that 90% of China's foreign trade, 95% oil and gas, and 98% iron ore are all dependent on maritime transportation, therefore SLOCs security is extremely important for China. As a result, the PLA Navy has been actively participating in safeguarding important world SLOCs, such as the escort mission at the Gulf of Aden. China has been earnestly cooperating with other militaries to maintain the safety and SLOCs. Li Ji noted that 2015 was set as the China-ASEAN maritime cooperation year, which will add more value and momentum for China-ASEAN strategic partnership. Also, he mentioned that President Xi Jinping have declared the strategic steps of building "21st Century Maritime Silk Road", which will not only push forward the prosperity and development for states, but will contribute greatly to regional peace and stability.

4. Indonesian co-chair, Major General Syaiful Anwar, in his opening remarks informed that the 21st century has been called Asia-Pacific Century, and the political and economic interaction has become the center of international relations. However, the maritime security challenges and threats are becoming so increasingly complicated that they have exceeded an individual nation's capability, and call for concerted efforts from all regional countries. He emphasized that in peace time, every nation should seize the opportunity and promote maritime cooperation, so as to enhance the good maritime governance. He also recognized that the trade volume passing through the SLOCs in Asia-Pacific region has surpassed one third of the world trade volume. He noted that the large number of ships passing through South China Sea, East China Sea, Malacca Strait and Indian Ocean demonstrate the busy transaction of Asia-Pacific SLOCs.

Opening Ceremony

5. Air Marshal Liu Yazhou, Political Commissar of CNDU, recognized that as Asia-Pacific is becoming the most important engine for world economy, the SLOCs in Asia-Pacific is undertaking greater pressure, demanding closer coordination and cooperation between regional states. For China, SLOCs remains the main channel for China's foreign trade and imported energies, safeguarding the security of SLOCs is vital for China's interest. Liu also emphasized that to realize the goal of win-win situation, multilateral mechanisms should be fully exploited for nations to exchange their views on issues of common concern. Though common efforts, the seas is hopefully become "sea of peace", "sea of friendship" and "sea of cooperation".
6. Mr Zhang Kunsheng, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, emphasized the common responsibility and obligation, and common interest of maintaining the SLOCs security for all regional countries. He also proposed four suggestions, namely, strengthening non-traditional security cooperation, enhancing the capacity building of safeguarding SLOCs security, improving codes of conduct at sea, and handling maritime disputes properly to create an enabling political environment for better maritime security cooperation.

Session I: Evaluation of the Current SLOCs Security in Asia-Pacific Region

7. Sr. Col. Zhou Bo , Director of Centre for International Security Cooperation, Foreign Affairs Office, Ministry of National Defense, China, informed in his presentation that China has become the world second importer and No.1 exporter. Now China has tremendous interest overseas, including foreign investment and overseas workers. He noted one of

China's main vulnerabilities: China's economy is heavily dependent on the security of international sea lines, but none of the major choke points are controlled by China. Zhou also noted that 50% of world seas have not been demarcated, which contributed to many maritime disputes. China has made multiple proposals in resolving maritime disputes, in which the most important principle is mutual understanding. Zhou talked about China's maritime strategy, which he concluded as the strategy of maritime cooperation. He emphasized that China's only and best choice is cooperation, for China's maritime trade does not face imminent threat, and China would pay high cost by employing the strategy of confrontation. He mentioned that China has participated in a number of multiple maritime cooperation mechanisms, such as WPNS, ReCAAP, ARF, ADMM-PLUS, EAMF, CSCAP, and has initiated multiple maritime CBMs. Zhou also briefly discusses the PLAN escort mission in Gulf of Aden. PLA troops there have provided security guarantee for 5825 business ships, half of them are foreign vessels, and have provided protection for UN World Food Program ships. By implementing the missions, China has also developed friendship with other countries and regions. Finally he concluded that the security of SLOCs is in the interests of all nations, and China would stand ready to cooperate with all other navies to safeguard China's national interest and fulfill its international obligations.

8. FADM Eko Susilo Hadi, Head for Centre of Information, Legal and Cooperation, Indonesian Maritime Security Coordinating Board (IMSCB) portrayed in his presentation Indonesia's perspectives toward the security of SLOCs. He firstly listed the three common concerns for SLOCs security, namely non-traditional security issues such as piracy, armed robbery, marine pollution, the safety of navigation or hazards to navigation, and other illegal activities using the sea as its medium. He pointed out that four out of nine choke points in the world is under Indonesia's jurisdiction, including Malacca Straits, Sunda Straits, Makassar Straits and Lombok Strait. Therefore, Indonesia has the responsibility to protect its sovereignty within its jurisdiction as well as to ensure the security and safety of international shipping and navigation using those choke points. He underlined that the types of incidents that happened within Indonesia's territory does not fall into the definition of piracy under UNCLOS and the violence level is far way different with what happens in Somalia waters or on the coast of western Africa. In addition, Indonesia is also concerned about issue like safety of navigation in some narrow straits, marine pollution, trafficking and smuggling of goods, drugs, peoples and others between Indonesia and its neighboring

countries, etc. Finally, he introduced the revitalization of the IMSCB into the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency and its role and efforts in safeguarding the security of SLOCs in Indonesia's waters.

9. Mr. Iskandar Sazlan Mohd Salleh, Senior Researcher of Maritime Institute of Malaysia, noted that Southeast Asia is a region with many important sea lines of communications (SLOCs). Challenges to SLOCs security and safety in this region include petty thefts, inadequate aids to navigation, hijacking, etc. He emphasized that Malaysia views SLOCs safety and security as vital to the region and the international community as a whole. He thought that the challenges of securing SLOCs from various threats will remain, and Malaysia has managed, is managing and will manage SLOCs security issues using traditional and innovative approaches as well as through regional cooperation.
10. Capt. Navy Dmitry Sharashov, Deputy Head of the Centre of Ministry of Defence of Russia, presented his analysis of 2014 global pirates activity. He informed that pirates groups activity in the different areas of the oceans continues to have a significant effect on the safety of Russian and international maritime shipping, but the total activity substantially decreases year by year. However, pirates have been constantly improving their tactics. He noted that the activity of Somali pirate gangs in the Gulf of Aden is still a serious threat to international shipping, and Gulf of Guinea is becoming as dangerous for shipping as the area off the coast of Somalia. He also discussed the Russian Navy's role and practice in safeguarding SLOCs security and safety.
11. Sr. Col. Ouyang Wei from Strategic Studies Institute, Chinese National Defence University, gave a general situation review of SLOCs security in Asia-Pacific Region. He emphasized that SLOCs are the key links composing the world geopolitical relationship, and it is the responsibility and of vital interest of all the countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the international community to safeguard the security of the sea routes in the region. According to his evaluation, the social-economic development of Asia-Pacific countries relies on the security of SLOCs. The general security situation of SLOCs in Asia-Pacific is stable; but the SLOCs security in Asia-Pacific is still confronted with challenges, non-traditional threats, regional flashpoints, territorial disputes, etc. He concluded that confidence building in Asia-Pacific region is the foundation of SLOCs security. Regional countries should join hands in safeguarding the security of SLOCs through international cooperation, rather than sticking to zero-sum competition or pursuing military advantage.

Session Two: Handling maritime incidents, piracy and terrorism at

sea

12. Mr. Christopher Wall, Ministe Counsellor of Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, mainly introduced Australia's counter piracy efforts in Asia. He noted that the security of the maritime shipping industry in Asia is of vital importance to the Australian economy, and Australia highlights the need to mitigate the risk to trade in the region around Australia emanating from piracy and armed robbery. He noted that Australia has participated in a number of regional framework to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea; such as the Regional Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). Australia calls for greater regional cooperation through forums to take more of an intelligence-led and risk-based approach to address the issue of piracy and armed robbery.
13. Col. Lu Yin, Associate Researcher of Strategic Studies, Chinese National Defence University discussed a two-track approach to maritime safety and to maritime security. As to ways and means to ensure the safety of SLOCs, she puts forwards 4 suggestions: being aware of the importance of avoiding risks at safety level; conducting dialogues to enhance mutual trust, rules of behavior, and emergency communication. As to ways and means to ensure the security of SLOCs, she also advanced 3 suggestions, i.e., knowing clearly about the security situation, creative thinking, and regional cooperation. She concludes lastly that both political will and practical measures of the countries concerned are needed to ensure the safety and security of SLOCs.
14. FADM Fery Sidjaja, Chief of Navy Security, Indonesian Navy HQ, shared Indonesian's perspectives on maritime transnational crimes and Indonesia's practice in dealing with the problem. He noted that transnational crimes at sea mainly include drug trafficking, human trafficking, piracy, weapons smuggling and maritime terrorism, in which piracy and maritime terrorism have been on the increase and posing grave threats to international society. He then shared Indonesian Navy's practice and readiness in coping with those crimes at sea, among others by enhancing training and preparedness programs, cooperation with Indian Ocean littoral states, and regulating legal and security behavior for vessels. He also mentioned about the Navy's contribution to SLOCs security, i.e., routine patrol, coordinated control with neighboring countries, information sharing, and building international cooperation mechanisms.
15. Mr. Mohd Nazwan Hafeez bin Hashim, Marine Officer of Malaysian Marine Department, explained about the situation of security situation in

Straits of Malacca, background of the Cooperative Mechanism and its components; and the recent updates of CM. He also informed about the 8 projects under project coordination committee (PCC). He concludes that the CM has proven to be an effective framework among three Littoral States, and international cooperation like CM is needed in maintaining the navigation safety and security in the Straits. He also emphasized that to ensure the continuation of CM, one of the challenges is the consistent financial contribution from the User of the Straits.

16. Dr. Andrew Ericson, Assistant Professor of the U.S. Naval War College, noted in his speech that threats to growing overseas interests are forcing Beijing to find new ways to safeguard them. Initial efforts included enhanced diplomacy and mediation, international and local institution capacity building, crisis prevention and management, and corporate social responsibility of national oil companies, peacekeeping operations, anti-piracy/SLOCs protection patrols, hospital ship visits, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), etc. In general, he acknowledged China's great contribution to SLOCs security, and called for greater international cooperation in this regard.
17. Capt. Liu Xiaobo, Associate Researcher of Chinese Naval Academic Institute, informed the participants about PLAN's current operation escort mission in the Gulf of Aden. December 26, 2008, the PLA Navy has successively dispatched 18 task groups, totally 48 ships, to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters to conduct escort missions. The Chinese PLA Navy believes that to enhance exchange and cooperation on escort missions and counter-piracy efforts between navies is an effective way to give full play to the joint effort of naval forces of countries and improve the efficiency of escort mission. Chinese navy has been involved extensively in joint escort operations and joint drills between ships of Chinese navy and those of Russia, the US, Pakistan, and has conducted certain degree of intelligence and information sharing with other operating ships. In the future, the PLA Navy will perform the mission given by the United Nations, take up international responsibilities, and work hand in hand with other navies to constrain international piracy.

Session 3: Enhancing multilateral cooperation to promote mutual understanding and capacity building

18. Professor Zhu Feng, Executive Director of South China Sea Research Centre of Nanjing University, firstly identified several factors that contributed to the maritime tension in Asia-Pacific region, i.e., great power gaming, territorial disputes, and multi-lateral territorial disputes in South China sea, and the threat of piracy. He then proposes two

suggestions, one is to set up a joint rescue mechanism in Asia-Pacific region, the other is to establish an entire-regional center for information exchange. He called on regional countries to work together and jointly fight against piracy and other unexpected threats.

19. Mr. Qu Yijiang, Director of Navigation Management Bureau, Maritime Safety Administration, Ministry of Transport, first discussed the importance of navigational safety and its challenges, such as cyclone, piracy, lack of infrastructure of navigational aids, etc. He then reviewed the efforts China and ASEAN has made on maritime cooperation, such as some cooperation mechanisms, mentioning about the China-ASEAN maritime SAR hotline under construction. Lastly, he proposed that ASEAN and China could conduct future operations in relevant areas, i.e., drafting and signing a *Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Safety Cooperation*, carrying out joint research program on maritime traffic planning, setting up Vessel Traffic System operator's training program, exchange and cooperation on maritime PSC inspection and marine incident investigation, providing seafarers' training, developing a mechanism on cooperation of maritime SAR, etc.
20. RADM Mohd Taha bin Ibrahim, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Malaysia, generally gave a briefing of AMSAS, Malaysian Maritime Academy & Training Centre. He introduced the center's history and development, basic course modules, and cooperation with other institutions.
21. Sr. Capt Ren Xiaofeng, Deputy Director of Chinese Naval Academic Institute, in his speech emphasized the importance for the international community to join hands and make joint efforts to eliminate "control and anti-control" security threats for the strategic SLOCs. First, to set up the modern idea of "co-governing, co-managing and sharing" of the SLOCs, and abandon the self-regard and exclusive control of the choke points; Second, to establish the international security supporting system for the freedom of navigation of the strategic SLOCs. Third, to build up military mutual trust and further to jointly promote the SLOCs security. Fourth, to advocate and build a common, but differentiated international obligation system of maintaining the SLOCs security.
22. Mr. Triyono Wibowo, Director of Indonesian Marine Police Region of North Sulawesi, mainly shared with the participants the general practice of Indonesian police in investigating transnational crimes at sea. He offered statistics that shows in general Indonesia's Sea Robbery Cases and Indonesian marine police efforts to deal with the Cases, especially the placement of marine police patrol vessels on dedicated "hotspot" areas.

Indonesian police have been successful in preventing crimes, but have been faced with major difficulties like the lack of witnesses, evidence or clues, especially useful information provided by people on the spot. He emphasized that relevant countries should cooperate to set up new frames for coordinated investigation for maritime crimes. He informed that Indonesian police has established the first training institution for people dealing with transnational maritime crimes - Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation, to deal with transnational crimes more effectively. He also presented information on the training programs of the center.

Item 6: Co-chairs' Summary of Seminar

23. In the Co-chair's summary, Indonesian co-chair Major General Syaiful Anwar briefly reviewed and highlighted the salient issues that have been deliberated during this one and half day Workshop. He concluded that the participants had a very fruitful discussion, and thoughts and views were constructively exchanged and experiences and best practices were shared. MG. Anwar also expressed thanks to all ARF participants for their active participation and contributions during the meeting, and acknowledged that the deliberations of the participants will further strengthen our commitment to the maintenance and enhancement of SLOCs Security.
24. The meeting commended China and Indonesia for their preparation of the seminar and for the fruitful discussion. The participants also expressed the appreciation to China for warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to them.