



Korea National Defense University



CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 18TH ARF HEADS OF DEFENSE
UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/INSTITUTIONS MEETING
SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 22-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

1. The 18th ARF HDUCIM was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on September 22-26, 2014. The HDUCIM was co-chaired by Korea National Defense University (KNDU) President, LTG. Park, Sam Duck and Myanmar NDC President, Commodore Myint Nwe. The minister of National Defense, ROK, Han, Min-Gu addressed keynote speech at the opening ceremony. Representatives from all ARF participants except Cambodia, DPRK, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea attended the meeting. Representatives from the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as ANNEX 1.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opening Remarks

2. The president of KNDU, LTG. Park, Sam Duck expressed his gratitude to the Myanmar Co-Chair, Commodore Myint Nwe, and wholeheartedly welcomed all the participants. He underscored that the ARF HDUCIM was the place for furthering an academic exchange and mutual cooperation which has been contributed towards Asia-Pacific Region and world peace. He noted that the security situation on the Asia-Pacific Region is faced with many traditional and non-traditional challenges as such as maritime territory disputes, conflicts of the views on history, and terrorism. He explained that in order to reflect the actuality of the security situation, the 18th ARF HDUCIM has set the agenda of the meeting 'Military Cooperation and the Role of National Defense Universities for Heightened Peace and Trust in the Asia-Pacific Region', and focused on linking military cooperation and defense universities' education to grope for strengthening peace and trust among the regional players. He expressed his hope for the 18th ARF HDUCIM, through an exchange and cooperation among the members, to become foundation of not only stabilization of the Asia-Pacific Region, but the promotion of prosperity of global peace as the Region is emerging as pivotal axis of the world security order. His remarks appear as ANNEX 2.

3. The Myanmar NDC President, Commodore Myint Nwe, showed his appreciation to ROK and KNDU, and expressed a great pleasure to be the Co-Chair of the meeting. He mentioned that, as shown in the agenda of this meeting, the promotion of a regional peace and stability will be realized when the military cooperation among the regional players are strengthened, and he placed importance on the role of HDUCIMs in the improvement of the military cooperation. The Co-Chair emphasized that the mutual trusts among the members of the region is built when the regional peace and stability is maintained and it is achieved by the military cooperation of the regional players. In hope of this meeting, discussing various ideas on the agenda, to be the building block of the regional peace and trust, The Co-Chair made his last of the remark. His opening remarks appear as ANNEX 3.

4. The keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony, Han, Min-Gu, the Minister of National Defense, assessed the meeting as a timely, adequate and significant for the respective HDUCIs to gather to discuss the ways of military cooperation in connection with education on the agenda of “Military Cooperation and the Role of National Defense Universities for Heightened Peace and Trust in the Asia-Pacific Region” when the Asia-Pacific region is emerging as the center of the international security order. The Minister noted that the Asia-Pacific region is faced with a various military tension; transnational threats as such as a terrorism and disaster are increasing; and North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats are the factors endangering the peace of the Asia-Pacific region and the world. He stressed that in the various and complex security threats, a single country cannot prepare for all the threats, therefore, the cooperation based from trust, mutual respect and understanding is important in order for mutual prosperity. Lastly, he expressed expectation of profound meeting on defense education, exchange and cooperation for the enhancement of regional peace and trust. The Minister’s keynote speech appear as ANNEX 4.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Presentations and Key Findings

5. For the theme of the 18th ARF HDUCIM: 'Military Cooperation and the Role of National Defense Universities for Heightened Peace and Trust in the Asia-Pacific Region', three topics are selected to support the theme. Prior to the presentations for the sessions, the President of KNDU, LTG. Park explained the topics. The session 1, 'Regional military cooperation and collaborative fields for heightened peace and trust among neighboring nations': The objective of this session was to explore trends in regional security environment changes, discuss the possibilities and prospective fields of regional military cooperation related to MOOTW, thereby comprehending shifts in the demand of future national defense policy, and perceiving its implications to military cooperation. The session 2, 'The development of educational courses in NDUs and development tasks regarding the advancement of inter-regional peace and trust': In order for the advancement of inter-regional peace and trust, and response to national security environment change, introductions of current data and operation cases of educational courses, programs, and subjects developed in each National Defense Universities (NDUs), followed by discussions of tasks for further development. Contributing to the advancement of each NDU's educational capacity through case introductions of other institutions was the goal of this session. The session 3, 'Institutionalizing cooperation and exchange among NDUs for the promotion of regional peace and trust': In response to shifts in regional security environments, member nations shall explore new possibilities and prospective fields of cooperation among NDUs, and institutional measures for reinforcing the substantiality of exchange. Under the goal of promoting regional peace and trust and developing national defense education, such discussions shall aim to establishing institutional grounds of strengthening regional military cooperation.

6. There were six-presentations in Session One, and participants were Singapore, India, Thailand, Malaysia and ICRC. The key findings in session one are as follows. Firstly, many participants paid attention to increase of complex and non-traditional threats: separatism and extreme religious cases; natural disasters such as earthquake, tsunami and typhoon; human and drug trafficking; contagious diseases such as SARS, MERS and recent outbreak of Ebola. Secondly, many have emphasized an important role of the military to react and resolve new security challenges, and noted that the military has an efficient centralized control structure for its equipment and assets which can conduct an operation in case of crisis, readiness for a swift deployment, well-established command and control system, and well-trained personnel. It is also widely believed that the military can most adequately respond to new non-traditional threats compared to other government agencies. Thirdly, many participants emphasized that an appropriate respond to non-traditional security threat requires cooperation among neighbors or regional players. Moreover, a cooperation between nations are formed on the foundation of and strengthened mutual trust and understanding, and the military cooperation can contribute. A joint and combined exercise, an exchange of human and information resource, a defense industry cooperation, and a military technology exchange were referred as the field of military cooperation.

7. There were eight-presentations in session two, and participants were the Philippines, Canada, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Laos, USA, Japan and Myanmar. The key findings in Session Two are as follows. Firstly, most participating states developed and were employing the subject on emerging non-traditional security threats. Some participating states were already developing, established, and/or employing the course on the subject of non-traditional domain as such as climate change, environmental conflicts, racial and ethnic conflicts, health, electronic waste, and biotechnology which may be relatively low in terms of the security importance, for now, are expected to be weight on considering the future security environment. Secondly, the majority of participating states were educating their senior civil and military personnel with a national security policy course on the strategic level. It was noted that some states' senior level national security policy programs, not only content at transferring the knowledge, but actually invest quite some time on educating and nurturing their each student with logical thinking, decision-making, leadership and communication skills for empowering policy related capabilities. Thirdly, some participating states has established a long-term education development plan in detail aiming at their DUCIs joining the ranks of world class universities qualitatively and pushing its plan by phases.

8. There were six-presentations in Session Three, and participants were Brunei, Australia, China, Russia, ROK and EU. The key findings in Session Three are as follows. Firstly, all participants agreed on the points that the ARF HDUCIM, since its first meeting in 1996, fostered the exchange and dialogues between DUCIs. Especially, sharing the information and best practices on training and education has been the contribution towards DUCIs development, and exchange and cooperation between DUCIs contributed largely towards regional peace and security. Secondly, some nations underscored that for the greater development of exchange and cooperation between DUCIs, on top of student and professor delegation visits, diversified exchange and cooperation is required, and the cooperation in depth through joint research, joint seminar and delegate a professor is in need. Thirdly, some participants pointed out that the plan to upgrade cooperation for more efficient and effective ARF HDUCIM on the new paradigm of security environment is required.

9. In particular, regarding the promotion of institutionalization, even though it is in the form of draft, Brunei proposed 'concept paper' in order to solidify the foundation of cooperation through ARF HDUCIM. Many participants agreed with the objective of concept paper, but highlighted the needs of thorough review and discussion on 'terms of reference' for the ARF HDUCIM and a field and scope of cooperation on the institutionalization. Some participants suggested that ideas and feedbacks from the members should be put together to be discussed further at the 19th ARF HDUCIM in Myanmar. Agreeing to the suggestion, Brunei will report collected ideas and feedbacks at the next ARF HDUCIM, and all participants will actively team up to Brunei's efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Closing Remarks

10. In the closing address, the president of KNDU, LTG. Park, Sam Duck summarized sessions' presentations and discussions, evaluated the meeting as the fruitful one, then he expressed his thanks to all the cooperation and support of participants has given to the meeting. He noted that the ARF HDUCIM has contributed largely towards regional peace and stability, and highlighted three points to expedite continuous development of the ARF HDUCIM. Firstly, considering each participant's different security environment and situation, an ample understanding of each other's direction of national security policy is required. Secondly, efforts for active application are needed, if the suggested ideas are beneficial to each state, through expanding individual exchange. Lastly, in order for the ARF HDUCIM to be continuous and institutionalized, he hopes to see the compilation of proposals in Brunei, China and ROK presentations with participants' comments, and the result reported at the 19th ARF HDUCIM. He conveyed his appreciation to Brunei for presenting the concept paper and their efforts to collect participants' ideas and feedbacks, moreover, urged all participants to honor Brunei's efforts by their full cooperation. His closing remarks appear as ANNEX 5.

11. All participants extended their gratitude to KNDU and ROK government for their hospitality and thorough preparation of the successful 18th ARF HDUCIM. In addition, all participants expressed their appreciation to the Co-Chair for their leadership upon the effective and efficient preside over the meeting.

12. The 19th ARF HDUCIM will be held in Myanmar. The details of the meeting will be announced at later stage.
