

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the
ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on "Raising Awareness and Promoting
ARF Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation"
Manila, Philippines, 9-10 September 2015**

Introduction

1. Co-chaired by the Philippines and the European Union, the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on "Raising Awareness and Promoting ARF Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation" was held in Makati City, Philippines on 9-10 September 2015. The Workshop was held in compliance with the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC).

2. The Workshop was attended by 82 participants from ARF Member States and organisations including all ASEAN Member States except Thailand, the European Union, Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand and the USA. The ASEAN Secretariat also sent a representative as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The list of participants appears as **Annex A**.

Opening Remarks

3. ASEAN-Philippines Director General Hon. Luis T. Cruz delivered the Opening Remarks where he emphasized the importance of having a better and stronger interaction and cooperation among ARF Nations in responding to non-traditional security issues, particularly in CBRN risk mitigation. He stressed that strengthening of interagency cooperation, increasing awareness and better preparedness, most especially at a regional level, were vital for the success and effectiveness of CBRN responses. He expressed his appreciation to the European Union as the Co-Chair and the Anti-Terrorism Council – Program Management Center for spearheading the implementation of the Workshop.

4. Mr. Mattias Lentz, Minister Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, gave the opening remarks for the EU co-chair. He expressed the need to focus on CBRN risks because they were evolving and underscored that consolidated efforts of all would make a difference. He said that the EU – Center of Excellence was the best showcase in the CBRN domain. He concluded by expressing the need for coordination and cooperation which revealed how much still needed to be done both at the regional and interregional level.

5. The Workshop adopted the Agenda, which appears as **Annex B**.

CBRN Risk Mitigation from the Perspective of International Organisations

6. Mr. Kenneth Aoki from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) shared the overall structure and objective of the OPCW noting that it was not considered an anti-terrorism organisation. He said that the focus of the OPCW was on disarmament and that so far, 90% of the declared chemical stockpiles had been destroyed. He emphasized that there was a need for support mechanisms to enhance coordination, to build capacity and to assist in the legal area.

7. Dr. Babatunde Olowokure, Coordinator at the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, gave a presentation on the health security threats associated with CBRN materials covered under the International Health Regulation (IHR) from the WHO public health perspective. He said that a coordinated multisectoral engagement was what WHO was all about. He emphasized that there was a need to strengthen monitoring, information sharing and response not just at the WHO but also at the national levels. He shared that the solution for effective mitigation was the existence of a global mandate and regional tools that make the IHR reality.

8. The video message from the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva showcased the 40th anniversary of the BWC in March 2015. It emphasized that the BWC was the first multilateral disarmament treaty to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

9. Mr. Michael Clarke, Nuclear Security Officer at the IAEA, discussed the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) and the Nuclear Security Support Centers (NSSCs). He outlined that an INSSP identifies and consolidates the nuclear security needs of an individual state, including the necessary nuclear security improvements, and provides a customized framework for the coordination and implanting nuclear security activities by the state concerned. The NSSC develops human resources and network of experts and provides technical support for lifecycle equipment management and scientific support of the prevention and detection of and the response to nuclear security events.

10. Presentations of speakers appear as **Annex C**.

Non-ASEAN Members of the ARF present their Engagement in CBRN Risk Mitigation connected to Southeast Asia

11. Ms. Shasta Fisher, Second Secretary Political, of the Australian Embassy in the Philippines, talked about the local and regional approaches of Australia to CBRN risk management and control mechanisms used for dual use goods. She also discussed the Australia Group, which addresses export control and of which Australia is the permanent chair. Also discussed were Australian efforts under UNSC Resolution 1540.

12. Ms. Jennifer Lai, UNSCR 1540 Program Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Canada, talked about the Canadian Global Partnership (GP) Program and its aim to address WMD proliferation and terrorism threats around the world. She discussed GP's priorities for 2013-2018 too which were to mold partnerships with other countries. She cited a regional UNSCR 1540 Workshop held in partnership with the Philippines as well as other partnerships

13. Presentations of speakers appear as **Annex D**.

Panel Discussion on the European Union CBRN Centre of Excellence (CoE) Risk Mitigation Initiative with a Focus on Southeast Asia

14. A panel discussion composed of National Focal Points (NFPs) for CBRN risk mitigation or their representatives was held having Mr. Francesco Marelli from the UNICRI and Ms. Margarida Goulart from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC JRC) as co-chairs. The panel talked about the different CoE actions on CBRN risk mitigation and expressed its wish that the EU CBRN Action Plan also has a mirroring effect to non-EU member countries.

15. The Philippine NFP talked about its national team. He also highlighted the activities of the CBRN CoE such as workshops that had helped the Philippines in identifying the gaps that needed to be addressed.

16. The Indonesian representative emphasised on having interagency cooperation to avoid the risk of the lack of awareness among relevant stakeholders at the national level. He noted the importance of all countries having a comprehensive discussion on CBRN CoE modalities.

17. Viet Nam's NFP shared the Vietnamese experience on the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) provided by the EU CBRN CoE to help countries in starting their initiative on CBRN Risk Mitigation. He recommended gathering the different agencies in one workshop to identify the gaps of the country especially in CBRN risk mitigation. He emphasized that the biggest challenge on the NAQ was assuring that all the questions were answered by the right person.

18. Brunei Darussalam discussed the concept of the National Action Plan (NAP) which was the second step after completing the NAQ. The NFP talked about the strategic objectives of the NAP which include identifying the gaps of responses, improving coordination and filling-in appropriate actions needed.

19. Assistant Secretary Valenzuela of the Philippine ATC-PMC discussed the importance of the need for a cross-cutting responses NAP at a regional level. He noted the improvement in the region in terms of CBRN risk awareness and the need for a cross-cutting response to mitigate CBRN risks. He said that CBRN risk interventions were usually on a local level but the effective approach is one that was regional and interregional in nature.

20. The Cambodian NFP shared the Cambodian experience in identifying the priorities in the Cambodian efforts in CBRN risk mitigation which were capacity building, prevention, detection, preparedness and response.

21. The representative from Myanmar emphasised on the NAP. He noted the need for an interagency objective having a clear chain of command.

22. The representative from Singapore discussed CBRN CoE projects. She mentioned that the most important point in terms of handling CBRN risks was transmitting the respective information to the right people who are capable of doing and handling such cases. She said the best way to strengthen awareness was by explaining it to different people in a different manner depending on their level of understanding.

23. The NFP from Lao PDR shared the actions of Lao PDR in CBRN risk mitigation. They include surveys, workshops and meetings to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders. The challenge he sees is on how to convene people and have them answering a questionnaire which some of them do not understand.

24. Presentations of speakers appear as **Annex E**.

Continuation: Non-ASEAN Members of the ARF present their Engagement in CBRN Risk Mitigation connected to Southeast Asia

25. Mr. Ivan Green, Squadron Leader (SQNLDR) at the Royal New Zealand Air Force discussed the scope of service of the Royal New Zealand Air Force – it being required to secure sea lines of communication exposing the people, most especially the military personnel, to a number of issues and threats from operational to health threats including CBRN hazards. Further to the CBRN mitigation measures, he emphasized that hazard identification was a key mitigation measure and that practicing operations beforehand raise understanding and build links that facilitate for a more effective response.

26. Mr. Carson Kuo, Foreign Affairs Officer at the Department of State of the USA, discussed the background, focus, mission and the lessons learned from their CBRN Capacity Building Programs, namely the Chemical Security Program, Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP), the Partnership for Nuclear Security, the Export Control and Related Border Security Program, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). He reiterated that the progress in combatting nuclear smuggling would only be optimized through effective detection and existence of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

27. Further to his presentations in various ARF Meetings and Fora for the discussions of inter-regional issues, Mr. John McCombs from the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and CBRN Defense Division of the Strategic Plans

and Policy Directorate of the United States Pacific Command reiterated that relying on partnership with government agencies was important as well as considering ongoing methodologies.

28. Presentations appear as **Annex F**.

Group Work on “Raising Awareness and Promoting ARF Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation”

29. The first group was facilitated by Col. Jose Embang, Philippine NFP and Ms. Margarida Goulart from the EC JRC. The group saw CBRN risks as something that all countries should be able to prepare for, respond to and recover from. It also underlined the need to increase and strengthen the awareness of not just certain stakeholders such as the government but also the whole society itself.

30. The second group was facilitated by Dr. Irma Makalinao, CBRN Expert from the University of the Philippines. Participants from non ASEAN countries discussed the CBRN threats in their different countries (e.g. trafficking of uranium in Mongolia). The group also exchanged ideas on strengths and weaknesses with regards to preparedness in biological risk mitigation. Canada has a virtual database network to be able to work with the network of the Ministry of Health. The Asia Pacific Biosafety Association can also be a venue or mechanism for CBRN risk mitigation in the region as well as the Science Advisory Board in Asia as the culture of safety and ethics starts at the academe/schools. One suggestion was to involve the Education Ministers in the awareness raising.

31. The third group was composed by participants from Southeast Asia except the Philippines and facilitated by Mr. Francesco Marelli from the UNICRI and Mr. Nigel Totti, Team Leader and Key Expert in the CBRN CoE Project 46. The group discussed the threats and risks like terrorism at national and cross-border level and diseases (e.g. outbreaks of Ebola and MERS-CoV). It concluded that policy makers, practitioners, the general public and students should be targeted by the awareness raising activities. The fora or mechanisms can be ASEANTOM, SOMTC, AMMTC, and ARF. The group agreed that Education was very important. It should be delivered to the right people using the right means in order to avoid scaring people but raise the awareness and preparation with regards to CBRN risks at national and regional level.

32. Group presentations appear as **Annex G**.

Official Closing of the Plenary of the Workshop

33. Assistant Secretary Valenzuela thanked the presenters, the European Union and the NFPs for openly sharing their knowledge and experiences. He congratulated everyone for a successful two-day workshop and stated that the workshop objective was accomplished and awareness on the subject of CBRN was raised. He hoped that the participants would cascade the subject to their respective countries and agencies. He encouraged continuous sharing and collaboration.

34. Dr. Robert Frank from EU also thanked everyone for their contributions and announced the rest of the day's schedule which was a Bilateral Meeting/Match Making Session to be able to provide opportunity for developing follow up cooperation actions by mapping out priorities and expertise of the countries.

ANNEXES

- Annex A – List of Participants
 - Annex B – Agenda
 - Annex C – CBRN Risk Mitigation from the Perspective of International Organisations: Presentations
 - Annex D – Non-ASEAN Members of the ARF present their Engagement in CBRN Risk Mitigation connected to Southeast Asia: Presentations
 - Annex E – Panel Discussion on the European Union CBRN Centre of Excellence (CoE) Risk Mitigation Initiative with a Focus on Southeast Asia: Presentation
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 - Annex G – Group Work on “Raising Awareness and Promoting ARF Cooperation on CBRN Risk Mitigation”: Presentations
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