

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE
19TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM HEADS OF DEFENCE
UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/INSTITUTIONS MEETING
NAY PYI TAW, MYANMAR, 1- 4 SEPTEMBER 2015**

INTRODUCTION

1. The 19th ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defence Universities/ Colleges/ Institutions Meeting (19th ARF HDUCIM) was held at the Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 4 September 2015. The Meeting was hosted by the Myanmar National Defence College and co-chaired by Brigadier General Myo Moe Aung, Commandant of the Myanmar National Defence College and Lieutenant General Navkiran Singh Ghei, Commandant of the Indian National Defence College.

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from all ARF participating countries except Canada, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, European Union, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat also attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

CONCEPT OF THE MEETING

3. The Meeting discussed under one main theme with three sessions on different topics. The Meeting comprised of presentations and bilateral meetings as well as tours to the Gems Museum and Military Museum. In addition, participants paid a joint courtesy call on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of the Myanmar Armed Forces. The agenda of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 2**.

THEME OF THE MEETING

4. The main theme for the 19th ARF HDUCIM was "Enhancing Strategic Cooperation in the Region". The Meeting recognised the changes in the political,

military and economic landscape in the region and sought to discuss ways for enhancing strategic cooperation among the defence universities, colleges and institutions and addressed many challenges facing the region. The three sessions discussed the following topics:

- a. Session One: *Enhancing Cooperation through Military Education*
- b. Session Two: *Regional Security Cooperation & Confidence Building*
- c. Session Three: *The Role of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions to Meet the Challenges*

OPENING REMARKS

5. The opening remarks was delivered by the Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services, Commander in Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win. The opening remarks is attached as **ANNEX 3**.

SESSION 1

6. The topic for Session One was “**Enhancing Cooperation through Military Education**”. There were five presentations on this topic from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam.

7. The titles of the various presentations and the countries that have presented are as follows:

- a. Paper 1 presented by Cambodia: “**Enhancing Strategic Cooperation in the Region**”
- b. Paper 2 presented by Myanmar: “**Military Training Cooperation**”
- c. Paper 3 presented by Thailand: “**National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI)**”
- d. Paper 4 presented by the United States: “**The Role of International Students at the United States’ National Defense University**”
- e. Paper 5 presented by Viet Nam: “**Cooperation in Training Defence Strategy for Maintaining Peace in the Region and the World**”

8. The key findings in session one are as follow:
- i. The Meeting acknowledged the need to enhance capacity building among the ARF participating countries, to promote mutual trust, confidence and mutual respect through enhancing cooperation in the military education, to share information, experiences and enhance human resources, and to develop long-term military ties that will provide joint / coalition capabilities for future contingencies ;
 - ii. The Meeting noted the importance of promoting cooperation and coordination among the ARF participating countries including through military education in dealing with the non-traditional security issues including drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling at national and international levels. The Meeting also took note of the need to further enhance collaboration in addressing matters related to the security issues including economic security, food security, human security and environmental security;
 - iii. Bearing in mind that the security environment and regional architecture after the end of cold war are unpredictable and extremely volatile in many part of the world, The Meeting noted that it is imperative to promote creative ways of cooperation and better strategy to address the emerging challenges of the region and to encourage free thinking and opened discussion among academic and think tank;
 - iv. The Meeting noted the briefing made by Thailand on the establishment of strategic study Centre and welcomed the invitation to participate in the upcoming 3rd ASEAN Defence Leadership Development Programme (the 3rd ADLDP) to be held on 28 February - 8 March 2016 in Thailand;
 - v. The Meeting acknowledged the benefit of the participation of the international students in the American Universities and welcomed the exchange of students between the Military colleges of the United States and the ARF participating countries;
 - vi. The Meeting noted the need to promote cooperation in Defence training in view of maintaining peace and stability in the region as well as

promoting mutual understanding, trust and confidence among the officers of the ARF participating countries for common benefits in accordance with international conventions and law.

SESSION 2

9. The topic for Session Two was **“Regional Security Cooperation & Confidence Building”**. There were five presentations on this topic from India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka.

10. The titles of the various presentations and the countries that have presented are as follows:

- a. Paper 1 presented by India: **“Regional security cooperation and confidence building”**
- b. Paper 2 presented by Lao PDR: **“Regional Security Cooperation and Confidence Building”**
- c. Paper 3 presented by Malaysia: **“Regional Security Cooperation and Confidence Building”**
- d. Paper 4 presented by Republic of Korea: **“The Role of HDUCIM in Enhancing Regional Security Cooperation and Confidence Building”**
- e. Paper 5 presented by Sri Lanka: **“Regional Security Cooperation and Confidence Building: Strategic Involvement of Defence Universities”**

11. The key findings in session two are as follow:

- i. The Meeting noted the emerging challenges of traditional and non-traditional security issues and encouraged institutionalization of the ARF Meetings and enhancement of staff representation from the HDUCIM. The Meeting also emphasized cooperation for the stability of the region through confidence building measures, promotion of Military cooperation

in the region, and strengthening of the ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat;

- ii. The Meeting noted the importance of peaceful settlement of conflict in maintaining peace and stability in the region, multilateral participation in the use of the advanced technology and science and the vital role of educating students in building confidence and mutual trust;
- iii. The Meeting noted the role of military university in building confidence, the presence of new non-traditional security threats particularly the threat of natural disaster and the importance of military cooperation in disaster management , and search and rescue;
- iv. The Meeting emphasized the importance of cooperation to enhance awareness of future challenges, to promote capacity building, to nurture habits for cooperation for future leaders and to exchange visiting scholars and students. The Meeting also took note of the recommendations to fully implement action plans to provide ARF tangible, vibrant and effective mechanism for regional security cooperation;
- v. The Meeting noted the recommendations to increase collective efforts, mutual trust and confidence through cooperation, promotion of education diplomacy and building network among Defence universities and colleges.

SESSION 3

12. The topic for Session Three was **“the Role of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions to Meet the Challenges”**. There were six presentations on this topic from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Russian Federation.

13. The titles of the various presentations and the countries that have presented are as follows:

- a. Paper 1 presented by Bangladesh: **“The Role of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions to Meet the Challenges of Enhancing Strategic Cooperation in the Region”**
 - b. Paper 2 presented by China: **“The Role of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions to Meet the Challenges.”**
 - c. Paper 3 presented by Indonesia: **“Indonesian Defence University (IDU) as ‘Melting Pot’ for Civilian Academics and Military Officer: A Strategy to Broaden Student’s Mind to Maximize Achievement as Think-Tank”**
 - d. Paper 4 presented by Japan: **“The Role of NIDS to Meet Maritime Security Challenges”**
 - e. Paper 5 presented by the Philippines: **“The National Defense College of the Philippines’ Strategic Role in Addressing Internal and External Security Challenges: Professionalizing Defense Education”**
 - f. Paper 6 presented by Russian Federation: **“The Place and Role of Russian Military Educational Establishments in Countering Security Threats in Asia-Pacific Region”**
14. The key findings in session three are as follow:
- i. The Meeting acknowledged that educating both military officers and strategic leaders from friendly countries in the concepts and principles of strategy and military issues plays an important role in supporting long-term national goals of building trust and friendship. The Meeting also encouraged that the defence university and institutions of the ARF participating countries should further increase oversea participation to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation.;
 - ii. The Meeting noted that defence universities, colleges and institutions play the role of strategic think tanks for the nation and the military in support of decision-making on national security issues. The Meeting viewed that think tanks should not only collect concrete information and make professional analysis, but also learn to observe issues from the perspectives of other countries.;

- iii. The Meeting noted that it is critical for military officers, as professionals, not only to receive functional training, but also to engage in an education environment for the sake of being exposed to analytical skills and critical judgement, in addition to being exposed to diverse points of view.
- iv. The Meeting noted the vital role of National Institute for Defence Studies of Japan which contributes more proactively to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community;
- v. The Meeting acknowledged that the defence colleges and universities play a strategic role in addressing security challenges by professionalizing defence and security education. The Meeting also noted that professionalizing defence education would require national government's support with possible networking assistance from various stakeholders;
- vi. The Meeting noted that the first international military army games was held in Russian Federation with representatives from many countries competing with each other in driving, firing, sea and aerial battles contests. The Meeting also took note the suggestion that other ARF participating countries should hold such a competition in the future.

OTHER MATTERS

15. The Meeting discussed Brunei Darussalam's concept paper which was introduced at the 18th ARF HDUCIM in Seoul in September 2014. The Meeting took note of the comments and suggestions made by some ARF participating countries and welcomed further comments and inputs. The Meeting agreed to further discuss the concept paper at the upcoming 20th ARF HDUCIM in New Delhi.

16. India informed the Meeting that the 20th ARF HDUCIM will tentatively be held in New Delhi in October 2016. All participants were invited to submit inputs on the agenda items to be discussed next year. The final agenda and the definitive dates would be circulated to all participants by March 2016.

CLOSING REMARKS

17. Myanmar thanked all participants for their contributions to the discussions and expressed its appreciation to the fruitful result of the meeting. Moreover, Myanmar looked forward the closer ties between the universities of ARF participating countries. The closing remarks is attached as **ANNEX 4**.

18. All participants expressed their gratitude to the Myanmar National Defence College for the hospitality and preparation of the successful 19th ARF HDUCIM. In addition, all participants extended their appreciation to the Co-Chairs of the Meeting for their effective and efficient leadership in presiding over the Meeting.

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