

**Defence Dialogue within the ASEAN Regional Forum
• A Concept Paper For Discussion •**

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has made much progress since its inception in 1994. The comfort level among ARF members has increased and many confidence building measures have been implemented. There is general consensus that confidence building remains the main thrust of the whole ARF process, and that it is impossible to move the ARF forward without a high degree of mutual trust and understanding among ARF participants.

2. The involvement of defence officials in the ARF has contributed to confidence building within the ARF and added depth to the process. At the 5th ASEAN Regional Forum, ARF Ministers "recognised that defence and military officials had a constructive contribution to the work and activities of the ARF and encouraged greater interaction and networking among these officials in the ARF". Over the past few years, defence officials have been progressively included in ARF Ministerial, SOM and inter-sessional meetings. The interactions among defence officials during these meetings have helped to build up rapport among ARF defence establishments.

3. To further strengthen confidence building within the ARF, it would be useful to create more opportunities for defence officials to interact and exchange their views on issues of common interest. This will serve to sustain the interest of defence establishments within the ARF and to reinforce the bonds of trust and understanding among its members.

ARF Defence Dialogue

4. The proposed informal defence officials' dialogue builds upon the existing defence officials' lunches, where an afternoon session could be set aside for the exchange of views on issues of common interests. Currently, lunches for defence officials are organised at ARF meetings. The defence officials welcome these informal lunches as they provide valuable opportunities to exchange views among themselves. The defence lunches should continue to be a feature of the ARF ISG on CBMs meetings. However, the exchange of views is often constrained by the lack of time during lunch. Besides, there is much scope to discuss issues of common professional interest at these sessions. Hence, it could be worthwhile to augment the defence officials' lunch with an informal defence dialogue within the ARF,

Objectives

5. The primary objectives of an ARF defence dialogue are as follows:
 - a. To promote understanding and confidence building among ARF defence establishments.
 - b. To promote networking among ARF defence officials.
 - c. To allow defence officials an opportunity to discuss various issues of common interest.

Principles & Modalities of an ARF Defence Dialogue

6. The development of an ARF defence dialogue should take into account the following principles:
 - a. The dialogue should be an integral part of the ARF process and should aim to add value and complement the ARF process. ARF defence officials should also continue to participate in existing ARF Ministerial, SOM and inter-sessional meetings.
 - b. The programme of the dialogue need not be rigid or structured.
 - c. The dialogue should, as far as possible, not duplicate the work of foreign affairs officials under the current ARF process.
 - d. The agenda for the dialogue will be determined by consensus and developed at a pace comfortable to all members.
 - e. The discussions at the dialogue are informal and ~~non-binding~~.
7. The proposed modalities for an ARF defence dialogue are as follows:
 - a. The dialogue will be ~~co-chaired~~ by the current co-chairs of the ISG on CBMs.
 - b. Co-chairs** of the dialogue may wish to circulate an indicative programme so that exchanges and discussions would be more constructive.
 - c. The exact timing of the **dialogue** would ~~be~~ left flexible to the **co-chairs** but it should not coincide with an important session of the ARF **ISG** plenary.

d. Defence representatives (preferably at Director level) and/or military representatives (preferably Lieutenant-Colonel level and above) from each ARF country, who are attending the ARF ISG meeting, will be invited to the dialogue.

e. A formal **statement is not mandatory** for incorporation into the ARF ISG Co-Chairs' report to allow for a more frank and free flowing exchange of views. The Co-Chairmen of the dialogue can brief the ISG on CBMs on the discussions, as per the current arrangement for the Defence Officials' Lunch.

8. As a start, defence officials could consider the following issues for discussion:

a. Exchanges on defence and security policy.

b. Professional issues e.g. impact of the revolution of military affairs on militaries.

c. Confidence building measures, including defence exchanges, networking and cooperation to support ARF co-operation in the various areas e.g. transnational crime, disaster relief.

d. Updates on related activities outside the ARF process. (For instance, ARF defence officials can update one another on the outcome of defence conferences and seminars held outside the ARF process, or inform one another on forthcoming military courses that ARF defence establishments can participate in.)

Conclusion

9. An ARF defence dialogue will further strengthen confidence building within the ARF by providing a meaningful platform for ARF defence establishments to exchange views. Such a dialogue will contribute towards the aim of the ARF to enhance dialogue and consultation on regional political and **security** issues to preserve regional peace and security.

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The First Subcommittee of the Forum for Defense
Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region
Summary by the Chair
Theme : Diversified Roles of the Military
(Tokyo, January 29, 2002)

[Session 1] General Discussion: Roles of the Military
in the Field of Transnational Problems

Globalization has posed new security issues to the military including terrorism, piracy, refugee assistance, and border control such as regulation of drug trafficking and illegal immigrants among others. Accordingly, while the primary role of the military remains the defense of its country, activities of the military have come to cover wide range of OOTW activities.

The participants acknowledged that such transnational problems are now recognized by their respective defense authorities as grave security concerns. They also acknowledged that it is important for countries of the Asia-Pacific region to continue dialogues and talks and even further begin military-to-military cooperation in order to tackle transnational problems.

Regulation of transnational issues is, by its nature, closely linked with maintenance of social order, thus requiring police power. While in some countries the military has, nonetheless, regarded the maintenance of social order as its core task, for many countries cooperation between the military and policing agencies is a new challenge. The military possesses wide variety of unique equipment, units and skills. It enjoys wide regional networks. With such assets, the military could play a crucial role in the field of transnational problems in cooperation with

policing agencies .

In addition, importance of the defense involvement in peace keeping operations was also stressed by a number of participants with the view to preserving regional security.

[Session 2.] **Piracy**

(1) Significance of Anti-piracy Measures in the Maintenance of Maritime Security

Although piracy had been a problem from the past, the problem became increasingly intense and complex with the economic downturns during the late 1990s and involvement of organized syndicates, particularly in South East Asia. Now, piracy has become a major issue affecting the safety of the sea and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Participants acknowledged that, due to the transnational nature of the problem, cooperation and coordination among concerned countries are necessary and that the military possesses necessary tools including ships and aircraft which are equipped with surveillance devices such as radar and night vision.

Some participants also pointed out that there is a need to discuss the definition of piracy again.

(2) Measures of Cooperation among Navies

Communication is reported to be the key to the success of combined operations. Increasing interaction and cooperation among the navies in the region, most notably the Border Patrol Agreement among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, and exchanges of intelligence have greatly contributed to the decline in piracy and other illegal maritime

activities'.

It was reported that the establishment of coordination mechanism has greatly enhanced the level of cooperation, exemplified by the Philippines-Malaysia Border Patrol Coordination Group and the Republic of the Philippines and Republic of Indonesia Border Committee, to name a few.

For future measures, it was suggested that standing procedures should be prepared to facilitate the planning of combined operations and to coordinate effective response to piracy. Schedules of patrols and exercises could be exchanged by law enforcement agencies.

(3) Case Studies

Vietnam reported that recently piracy in the South West Sea adjacent to Cambodia and Thailand has become worrisome. Piracy has threatened the life and business of fishermen, harmed the country's maritime security and became a pretext for sabotage. The Vietnamese Navy, in cooperation with Vietnamese maritime police, border guards, and Cambodian navy, succeeded in arresting the reactionary gangs. With this experience, Vietnamese Navy advocates to enhance navy-to-navy exchanges at various levels, to make efforts in establishing measures of coordination with neighboring countries that include joint sea patrol, hot-line, dispute settlement mechanism among others.

India reported the Allondra Rainbow incident in 1999. With lessons learned from the incident, India stressed the following vital elements in apprehending pirates; importance of alert, prompt reporting by ship masters, and the use of maritime reconnaissance aircraft and flexible firepower among others.

(4) Joint Exercises and Patrols

Although some showed reservations about conducting joint military exercises, in the campaign against piracy, importance of joint naval exercises and patrols was recognized by many participants. Through exercises and patrols, navies could not only improve their capabilities on interdiction and maritime surveillance but also enhances their operational capabilities in coordination. The visible presence of military itself would also serve as an effective deterrence.

There already exist significant number of practices of joint exercises and patrols in the Asia-Pacific region.

Thailand had conducted joint patrols with Malaysia and Vietnam on the bilateral basis, targeting pirates in South West Asia. In relation with Cambodia, it is enhancing relationship with local officials.

Probably the most close coordination in the region is that among Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. Indonesian Navy has stressed the importance of communication system that can apply to all related countries. The past exercises and patrols have revealed serious problems in communication, especially data communication: they felt the need to prepare a same format of language. In addition, lessons called for improvement of the early warning system in order to obtain accurate maritime data.

(5) Fact Sheet on Anti-Piracy Measures

The attached fact sheet on anti-piracy measures was produced and will be distributed to participants after submission by the remaining countries.

[Session 3.] [Refugee Assistance]

The issue of refugee assistance is, in many cases, intertwined with regional conflicts. In the management of refugee movement, it is thus crucial to obtain information on the situation of the related conflicts, number of the refugees, and safe routes of their transportation. Participants shared some case studies where the military had taken part in the management of the refugee movement through provision of intelligence, disarming of the displaced, and overseeing of the refugee camps.

Not only in the case of displaced persons who have crossed the international border but also in the case of displaced persons within their country, the provision of humanitarian aid such as food, medical treatment, public health services among others are important tasks. Inadequate social living in the refugee camps can unleash epidemics, and expose refugees to malnutrition. Under the view, Indonesian Armed Forces have been providing refugees with services of public health and for other needs.

In this respect, Thailand explained its unique contribution to the peace keeping operations in East Timor. Thai Armed Forces made efforts in transferring their knowledge on agriculture and other necessities such as demonstration of economic planting, planting for daily lives, and making agricultural tools. As a result, people in many villages in East Timor are reported to be able to grow vegetables and raise fish.

(END)

DRAFT CONCEPT PAPER
SEMINAR ON MILITARY LOGISTICS OUT SOURCING SUPPORT
(CHINA)

1.BACKGROUND

During the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group meeting on Confidence Building Measures held on 19-21 December 2001, New Delhi, India, China submitted a proposal to host a seminar on Military Logistics Out-Sourcing Support (MLOSS). This proposal is in the purpose of facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation, maintaining regional peace and security, as well as conducting the program on Confidence Building Measures promised by China. This draft paper is to illustrate the key issues related to the seminar on Military Logistics Out-Sourcing Support.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 1) Exchange ideas and lessons learned from MLOSS among the armed forces of the ARF participants.
- 2) Identify possible solutions to the difficulties and challenges while conducting MLOSS.
- 3) Identify ways and means to facilitate logistics cooperation among the armed forces of the ARF participants.
- 4) Enhance mutual understanding and trust among the armed forces of the ARF participants.

3.TOPICS

- 1) The current status of defense logistics structure and its operation mechanism ever since MLOSS being implemented.
- 2) Effects on the defense budget allocation ever since MLOSS being implemented.

**Voluntary Briefing by Thailand
on Cobra Gold Military Exercise**

- Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. Chairman.

- I wish to inform the meeting of recent developments with regard to the annual military exercise between Thailand and the United States, referred to as the Cobra Gold Military Exercise.

- Since the year 2000, Singapore has joined the Cobra Gold as a participant, thus rendering the exercise a multilateral cooperation.

- Recently, the concept of Cobra Gold has changed from defensive conventional warfare to support for the United Nations peace operations and military operations other than war including non-combatant evacuation and disasterrelief.

- This year, Cobra Gold Exercise will take place in May 2002, that is next month, in central Thailand and will be joined by military observers from 17 countries. Out of these 17 countries, 14 are ARF participants.

- Thailand is confident that the wider participation of countries in the region in such military cooperation will serve to enhance confidence-building as well as peace and security in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The 6th Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions

Concept Paper

According to the decision of the 8th ARF Ministerial Meeting, Russia will host the 6th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defence Colleges/Institutions. It will take place on 16-20 September, 2002 in Moscow.

During the Meeting on September, 17-18 the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy which is to host the Meeting intends to hold a Conference on "Perspectives of military education development in the 21st century".

The purposes of the Conference are the following:

1. Conduct an analyses of the main factors which have implications for military experts training programs in the beginning of the 21st century.
2. Determine the scope of military education issues which are of major importance to ensure security of the ARF members.
3. Exchange experience in resolving key problems of military education development in the context of the transformation of its role in the modern world.

Tentative list of topics to be discussed at the Conference:

- political aspects of military education;
- humanization of military education;
- globalization and military education development in the 21st century;
- military education and maintaining of regional security;
- military education and ensuring of information security;
- issues of countering terrorism in military education;
- economic issues in military education;
- problems of military education development under various ways of armed forces recruitment (contract, levy in mass, combined method of recruitment);
- coordination of defence and law enforcement agencies' educational systems.

High level officials from the Defence Ministry and the Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy of the Russian Federation are supposed to take part in the Conference.

The Meeting's draft provisional agenda, tentative program and information on administrative arrangements will be conveyed to the ARF Members later.

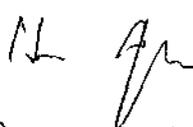
5. Draft Statement to be included in the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of the ISG Meeting (April 22-24, Ha Noi)

- o Participants welcomed the recent agreement to resume dialogue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Republic of Korea (ROK) following the visit to Pyongyang by the Presidential Envoy of the ROK. They encouraged the two Koreas to implement follow-up measures for the enhancement of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation in keeping with the spirit of the June 15 South-North Joint Declaration and emphasized the importance of holding the second inter-Korean summit.

- o Participants reiterated the importance of the full implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, including the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) project. They also expressed the hope the issues of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery would be resolved through dialogues among the parties concerned.]

They welcomed reports that prospects for dialogue between the DPRK and the United States may be improving.

DPRK: 

ROK: 

Dongman Han

Workshop on Defense/Military Officials' Cooperation within the ARF (Revised)

(A Concept Paper by the Republic of Korea for distribution at the ARF ISG-CBMs Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 22-24 April 2002)

- The Workshop on Defense/Military Officials' Cooperation within the ARF will be held in August 2002 in Seoul.

This project was initially endorsed at the ARF Foreign Ministerial Meeting in July 2000 in Basket 2 as "A Joint Workshop on Asia-Pacific Security".

In this regard, in November 2000, at the ISG-CBM Meeting in Seoul, the title was changed to "Workshop on Defense/Military Officials' Cooperation within the ARF" and the workshop was moved from Basket 2 to Basket 1.

In addition, the plans to hold this workshop were also reconfirmed at the 5th ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions held in August 2001 in Tokyo.

In December 2001, ARF-ISG Meeting on CBMs held in New Delhi included this workshop in Basket 1 to be held on August 28-30, 2002 in Republic of Korea.

- The ROK Ministry of National Defense and National Defense University will host this workshop. The rough programme for the workshop and its objectives are as follows :
 - The purpose of this "Workshop on Defense/Military Officials' Cooperation within the ARF" as a sub-mechanism of the Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions, is to build military confidence through exchanges of opinions on issues such as regional security, military exchanges and cooperation, networking between defense officials, defense modernization plans and so forth among defense/military officials and security experts from the participating countries.

* Tentative Agenda

- Military Exchange and Cooperation (including Networking Between Defense Officials)
 - Military Doctrine, Strategy and Policy
 - Defense Budget and Other Military Issues for Military CBMs
- o The workshop will be held over three days from August 28~30, 2002 in Seoul. (The Venue is Hotel Grand Hilton Seoul.)
- Aug 27 : Registration and welcoming dinner
Aug 28~29 : Workshop
Aug 30 : Visit to military and defense industry facilities(tentative)
Aug 31 : Departure
- o We request that 2—3 professors/students or defense officials/officers from Defense Universities, Colleges, Institutions, or Defense Ministries of each ARF participating country attend the workshop. It is recommended that the ranks of participants be Colonel or equivalent level.

▣ Others

- o Participants should cover the cost of- air tickets, accommodation and other expenses incurred.
- o The host country, the ROK, will cover the cost of inland transportation (including between the Incheon International Airport and Motel Grand Hilton Seoul), meals, conference materials, secretarial services, etc.
- o The ROK government will provide further detailed information at the ARF-SOM in May 2002. -The End-