



**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS (MDA)**

Tokyo, Japan, 7-8 March 2018

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) was held in Tokyo, Japan from 7-8 March 2018. The Workshop was co-chaired by Mr Daisuke Namioka, Director of Maritime Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan and Ms Adina Kamarudin, Deputy Director General, Department of Maritime Affairs, MOFA Malaysia. The Program of the Workshop appears as **ANNEX 1**.
2. It was attended by representatives from ARF participants, including Japan, Malaysia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United States, and Viet Nam. The list of participants appears as **ANNEX 2**.
3. The workshop was organised to deepen the participants' understanding of measures in dealing with maritime security challenges effectively through enhanced MDA capabilities, with a particular focus on international cooperation. As approved by the 24th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting in Manila, the Philippines, on 7 August 2017, Malaysia and Japan would be co-chairing the "ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness" (MDA) which was previously titled as "ARF Workshop on Maritime Security" in Tokyo, Japan, from 7 to 8 March 2018. This workshop was carried over from the previous inter-sessional years, and the title and the contents of the workshop have been modified based on the discussions between co-chairs. The workshop also provided a networking opportunity for relevant officials of the ARF member states, thus enhancing critical lines of communication among them.
4. To achieve these objectives, the discussions during the Workshop focused on the following key themes of each session; "Current Maritime Related Situation and MDA"; "MDA as a means to Address Various Maritime Challenges" and "International Cooperation on MDA".
5. The following are the highlights of the discussions:

Opening Session

6. Mr Kansuke Nagaoka, Deputy Assistant Minister, Ambassador in charge of Policy Planning and International Security Policy of MOFA Japan delivered a keynote speech where he articulated the importance of international cooperation in MDA in addressing various maritime challenges such as piracy, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Based on the belief that it is important to ensure the peace and prosperity in the entire region through making Indo-Pacific a free and open global commons based on the rule of law, Mr. Nagaoka stated that Japan pays a strong attention to capacity building assistance towards ASEAN member states in such areas as maritime law enforcement, maritime safety, natural disaster risk reduction, including enhancement of MDA capabilities. Mr. Nagaoka stated that knowledge and experience of MDA structure among the ARF members is very different and diverse, while hoping that the ARF members, especially Southeast Asian countries, can deepen their understanding on the challenges related to the establishment of the MDA structure.

7. Both Co-Chairs in their respective opening remarks expressed their sincere gratitude and pleasure that Malaysia and Japan had the opportunity to co-host a workshop on this issue in Tokyo in March 2018. Under the framework of ARF, Malaysia and Japan are the co-lead countries for Priority Area 2 (Confidence Building Measures based on International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation) of the ARF Work Plan for Maritime Security.

8. Co-Chairs further reiterated that a country would not be able to handle these threats on its own. Thus collaboration between neighbours and friends are of great significance. Networking between the governments and stakeholders (e.g. shipping community) should be strengthened to address this issue. Hence, the Workshop was an avenue for ARF participants to engage in discussions on MDA as well as international cooperation on MDA.

Session I: Current Maritime Related Situation and MDA

9. In this session, the participants had the opportunity to listen to the experts from Japan, Australia, the United States and Canada who shared their knowledge and experiences on the concept and their respective national implementation of MDA. During the session, participants noted, among others that evolving challenges and situation of maritime security necessitate states to undertake various approaches to resolve those challenges or issues. The presentations from Japan, Australia, the United States and Canada appear as **ANNEX 3**, **ANNEX 4**, **ANNEX 5**, and **ANNEX 6**, respectively.

Session II: MDA as a Means to Address Various Maritime Challenges

10. The incorporation of the concept of MDA among the enforcement agencies has definitely contributed in defining and determining the ways to address challenges

in maritime security. The speakers in this session (Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka and Japan) shared their respective experiences as well as the national implementation of and measures taken about MDA to address respective maritime security challenges. The participants had a further exchange of views on the needs and requirements of their respective countries' MDA capabilities in facing maritime challenges. The presentations from Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka and Japan appear as **ANNEX 7**, **ANNEX 8**, **ANNEX 9**, **ANNEX 10**, and **ANNEX 11**, respectively.

11. Some participants also took the opportunity to highlight, after the presentations above, the workshops/seminars/meetings that have bearings with MDA which their countries would organise or host. There were also participants who shared about their maritime cooperation with certain countries in the fields of maritime environment, disaster risk management, and others.

Session III: International Cooperation on MDA

12. In this session, Singapore, Philippines, Brunei, India and Malaysia shared their views on possible international cooperation on MDA. The discussion took cognisance that each country has their own set of challenges in securing their nation, with sufficient or limited capabilities to undertake this task. It would be easier if this burden could be shouldered together. The presentations from Singapore, Philippines, Brunei, India and Malaysia appear as **ANNEX 12**, **ANNEX 13**, **ANNEX 14**, **ANNEX 15**, and **ANNEX 16**, respectively.

13. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about the INDOMALPHI Trilateral Cooperative Arrangement (TCA) between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Armed with the commitment from the leaders of the three countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are currently working together to ensure that the safety and security of the people affected in the region is guaranteed.

14. Similar to the previous session (Session II), some participants also proffered some insights on international maritime cooperation undertaken by their respective countries with others.

Closing Session

15. Both Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation to the participants of the Workshop for their active participation and fruitful discussion. They also commended the frank discussion and active participation of all participants that contributed to the confidence building measures among ARF members and the success of the Workshop.

16. After reviewing the presentations and comments expressed by participants, the Co-Chairs, under their responsibilities, summarised the key points articulated throughout the Workshop as follows:

- 16.1. The Workshop noted how the concept of MDA was developed in certain countries and the importance of that concept in their national maritime security framework including the issue of monitoring and safeguarding national maritime interests;
- 16.2. The Workshop further noted the practices of MDA by certain countries, some specific threats faced by those countries, as well as the measures taken (e.g. various surveillance method) to address the threats;
- 16.3. The Workshop also took note of the various, existing international cooperation which could be constituted as MDA-related efforts. The Workshop is seemingly cognizant of view that no countries could address the whole gamut of their national maritime issues on their own and in this regard, international cooperation is necessary.
- 16.4. The Workshop heard a view that the operative word of the concept of MDA is “*awareness*”. Hence, through this concept, raising awareness is the key to deepen understanding of the myriad maritime issues faced by states;
- 16.5. The Workshop further heard a view that the concept, although not legalistic, was not an abstract concept that was impossible to fathom. In addressing multifaceted maritime issues, a concept that synergises horizontal and vertical stakeholders might enable a state to address those issues more effectively;
- 16.6. The Workshop had also heard about the importance of information sharing. In this regard, various questions about information sharing such as what to share, how it is shared, the security of the information shared, and to whom a particular piece of information should be shared are something that participants of the Workshop could deliberate further in future engagements.

