



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM HEADS OF DEFENSE UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/INSTITUTIONS MEETING

**“Defense Diplomacy through Education and Research:  
Building Confidence, Enhancing Engagement”**

**18-19 September 2017  
Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The 21<sup>st</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM) was held on 18-19 September 2017 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Manila, Philippines. The meeting was co-chaired by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), and the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan.
2. A total of 23 out of 27 ARF HDUCIM participants attended the meeting. The list of the participants is at **ANNEX 1**.

### **Welcome Remarks by Rear Admiral Roberto Q Estioko AFP (Ret), PhD, MNSA, President, National Defense College of the Philippines, and Chair, 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM**

3. In his remarks, Rear Admiral Estioko welcomed the participants to the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM, an event hosted by NDCP as part of the Philippine chairmanship of ASEAN. Coinciding with the golden jubilee of ASEAN, the ARF HDUCIM also celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. However, the current security landscape has evolved since the ARF HDUCIM was inaugurated in Manila in 1997. Indeed, the dynamics of great power relations, territorial and maritime disputes, weapons of mass destruction, competition for natural resources, and the rise of new terrorist organizations are some of the major challenges that define the current security landscape.
4. Noting that ASEAN is at the driver seat of multilateral diplomacy in the region, Rear Admiral Estioko emphasized that to underscore the role of defense

educational institutions in the broader effort in using diplomacy to address security challenges, the NDCP has chosen the theme “Defense Diplomacy through Education and Research: Building Confidence, Enhancing Engagement.” In closing, the Chair of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM looked forward to a fruitful discussion.

**Welcome Remarks by Mr Tatsuo Yamamoto, President, National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan, and Co-Chair, 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM**

5. In his remarks, Mr Yamamoto noted that the ARF HDUCIM is a grouping of the defense universities and research institutes of the ARF’s member nations and regions, with the aim of having academic and free discussions and exchanges in research and education, and on matters of national security. The ARF HDUCIM’s goal is to contribute to confidence building in the Asia-Pacific region.
6. The Co-Chair of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM emphasized three principles regarding the education of senior military officers. First, the establishment of educational objectives suitable for senior officers. Because senior officers are already burdened by the high positions of responsibility, they must be provided with an opportunity to think deeply about national security matters. Second, the balancing of diversity and specialization, in particular understanding national security from a set of policies regarding diplomacy, economics, energy, among others. Third, the importance of history. Mindful of the changing balance of power in the region, history can provide the best guidelines for future courses of action. In closing, Mr Yamamoto noted that these principles are common to the defense universities of all countries and looked forward to having a frank exchange on these issues.

**Keynote Address by Senator Loren Legarda, Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate of the Philippines**

7. In her keynote address, Senator Legarda noted that the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM is held at a time when Southeast Asia, and the broader Asia-Pacific region, celebrates a historical milestone. This year marks the golden jubilee of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). For fifty years, ASEAN has served as a catalyst of peace, stability, growth, and prosperity in the region. Anchored on the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural pillars, ASEAN is building a community in which nations live in harmony, security, and development. Beyond the immediate Southeast Asian region, ASEAN is at the forefront in shaping the multilateral architecture of the greater Asia Pacific. Guided by the principle of open regionalism, ASEAN's goal is to promote an inclusive political, economic, and security environment, where every country, regardless of size, wealth, or status, plays a key role in reaching the region's full potential. The ASEAN Regional Forum, founded in 1994, is a testament to this diplomatic resolve. Indeed, Senator Legarda

underscored that chairing ASEAN on this auspicious occasion is truly a distinct honor and privilege for the Philippines.

8. After identifying the six thematic priorities of the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN, Senator Legarda noted that this year's theme of the ARF HDUCIM, "Defense Diplomacy Through Education And Research: Building Confidence, Enhancing Engagement," is indeed very timely. As components of defense diplomacy, education and research contribute in the overall objective of peace and stability in the region in three important ways. First, education and research foster greater understanding among defense and security leaders of countries. Second, education and research serve as means of engaging counterparts in the region. Third, education and research are powerful conduits in building confidence. Senator Legarda also shared the Philippine Government's initiatives to enhance defense education and research, including the legislative bill to create the Philippine Defense University System, as well as the establishment of the Philippine Center for Defense, Development, and Security. In closing, the Chairperson of the Philippine Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations conveyed her highest commendation to the body in celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. The annual conference complements the broader regional efforts in strengthening the regional security architecture through dialogue and cooperation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

9. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS**

10. The Meeting was held in plenary. The Programme of Activities of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 3**.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: "EVOLVING REGIONAL SECURITY LANDSCAPE OF THE ASIA PACIFIC"**

11. With the theme "Evolving Regional Security Landscape of the Asia Pacific," Session I of the meeting surveyed the Asia Pacific security environment by identifying the major traditional and non-traditional challenges of the region. The following countries delivered corresponding presentations in this Session:
  - a. Bangladesh: "Evolving Regional Security Landscape of the Asia-Pacific"
  - b. Japan: "Evolving Regional Security Landscape of the Asia-Pacific"
  - c. Lao PDR: "Evolving Regional Security Landscape of the Asia-Pacific"

- d. Republic of Korea: “Evolving Regional Security Landscape of the Asia Pacific: Korean Perspective”
- e. Thailand: “Training Center for the Disaster Relief Operations Royal Thai Armed Forces”
- f. United States
- g. Viet Nam: “Evolving Regional Security Landscape in the Asia-Pacific and Roles of Defense Universities, Colleges, Institutes”
- h. Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

12. Highlights of the presentations and discussions:

- a. The participants indentified great-power competition as one of the major traditional security challenges facing the Asia Pacific region. The participants noted that the Asia Pacific is a diverse region composed of various countries with different cultures, languages, and traditions, as well as varying levels of economic development. Some of the participants noted that the rising powers are pursuing proactive external policies in the context of great-power competition, in particular in the realm of the politico-security and economic affairs. The participants underscored that such great power competition should not translate into confrontation, which is a situation that will be detrimental to the entire region.
- b. The participants expressed grave concern over the recent developments in the Korean peninsula, in particular the sixth nuclear test of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 3 September 2017, as well as the firing of ballistic missiles over Japan on 29 August 2017 and on 15 September 2017, and the testing of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) on 4 and 28 July 2017. Noting the overall nuclear weapons program of the DPRK, the participants underscored that these developments have resulted in the major escalation of tensions and could affect the peace and stability of the region and beyond. Mindful of the need to resolve the situation through peaceful and diplomatic means, the participants called on the DPRK to adhere to the relevant United National Security Council Resolutions, and the relevant pronouncements of ASEAN regarding the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
- c. The participants likewise expressed their concerns over the territorial and maritime disputes in the region, in particular the South China Sea. Mindful of the importance of the seas in trade, commerce, energy flow, and the overall security of the region, the participants expressed the need to resolve territorial and maritime disputes through peaceful and diplomatic means, without the use or threat of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Some participants expressed concern over the competition to exert influence over the maritime areas of the region, as well as the implications of the military buildup and other actions taken by some countries to the overall security situation of the region. Noting the rising tensions in the maritime domain, some of the participants expressed the view that the term Indo-Asia-Pacific should be used, instead of Asia-Pacific, to fully capture the strategic importance of sea lanes of communication to both the security and prosperity of the region.

- d. The participants also noted the various non-traditional security challenges facing the region. Among others, these include terrorism, cybersecurity, climate change, natural disasters, environmental degradation, human and drug trafficking, transnational crimes, epidemics, piracy, and refugee crisis.
- e. The participants stressed the importance of cooperation among states in order to address both traditional and non-traditional security challenges. At the multilateral level, ASEAN may serve as platform for cooperation and dialogue.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: “EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AS COMPONENTS OF DEFENSE DIPLOMACY”**

13. With the theme Education and Research as Components of Defense Diplomacy,” Session II examined how education and research figure as elements of defense diplomacy. It also covered discussion on how defense education and research complement efforts in promoting regional security. The following countries delivered corresponding presentations in this Session:

- a. Cambodia: “Education and Research as Component of Defence Diplomacy”
- b. Canada: “Indirect Defence Diplomacy Through Experiential Learning”
- c. China: “Education and research as components of defense diplomacy”
- d. European Union: “European Security and Defence College Contributing to EU Defence Diplomacy through training ?”
- e. Indonesia: “Education and Research as Components of Indonesian Defense Diplomacy”
- f. Russia: “Education and Scientific Activities as the Components of the Defense Policy”
- g. Singapore: “Defence Diplomacy Through Cooperation, Education, Training & Research”

14. Highlights of the presentations and discussions:

- a. The participants noted that a key theme of defense diplomacy is the cooperative initiatives between and among institutions under the ambit

of defense establishments in the pursuit of foreign policy goals. Defense diplomacy is thus pursued by various institutions such as the defense ministries, armed forces, defense universities/colleges/institutions (DUCIs), among others. The participants noted that in ASEAN, the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), the ADMM-Plus, ASEAN Regional Forum (in particular the ARF Security Policy Conference and the ARF HDUCIM) are key examples of defense diplomacy at the multilateral level.

- b. Some participants noted that while cooperation between and among defense and military may be challenging, cooperative initiatives on education and research serve as crucial components of defense diplomacy, in particular the foreign policy objectives of building confidence and promoting engagement. The participants emphasized that exchange visits among DUCIs, as well as conduct of joint training and research, are essential in furthering trust and closer cooperation among defense officials.
- c. The participants underscored that, as components of defense diplomacy, education and research play major roles in promoting understanding among defense officials in the region. The participants noted that cooperation on education and research promotes dialogue among officials. Moreover, the relationships fostered among defense researchers, professors, and other officers could contribute in the overall regional peace and stability. Some participants cited the improvement of the US-China military relations with the visit of the delegation from the US National Defense University to its counterpart in China, following the 2001 incident between the two countries in the South China Sea.
- d. The participants also exchanged views on the use of education and research as components of defense diplomacy in their respective institutions.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: “BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT: AVENUES FOR COOPERATION AMONG DEFENSE UNIVERSITIES / COLLEGES / INSTITUTIONS”**

- 15. With the theme “Building Confidence and Enhancing Engagement: Avenues for Cooperation among Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions,” Session III facilitated an exchange of views on possible areas of cooperation among DUCIs. Specifically, this area of discussion aimed to identify specific programs for education and research cooperation initiated by DUCIs—bilaterally and/or multilaterally—in the region. It also examined how such initiatives promote greater confidence and trust between and among countries

in the region. The following countries delivered corresponding presentations in this Session:

- a. Australia: “Building Confidence and Enhancing Engagement: Avenues for Cooperation”
- b. Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
- c. India: “Building Confidence and Enhancing Engagement among DUCI”
- d. Myanmar: “Building Confidence and Enhancing Engagement : Avenues for Cooperation among DUCIs”
- e. Pakistan: “Avenues for Cooperation among DUCIs”
- f. Sri Lanka: “Building Confidence and Enhancing Engagement: Avenues for Cooperation among DUCIs”

16. Highlights of the presentations and discussions:

- a. The participants discussed the various avenues for cooperation among DUCIs. The participants reiterated that the DUCIs have an important role in the overall regional peace and stability because of their role in educating and training security officials. Cooperation among DUCIs, in the area of education and research, may play a role in preventing misunderstanding and mistrust between and among defense and security officers. Some participants underscored that the networking among defense officials, especially those who are alumni of educational programs, may likewise contribute in this regard.
- b. The participants emphasized that mutual visits, memoranda of agreement / understanding, educational and training programs for officers, joint research publications, joint conferences / seminars / workshops, and electronic learning programs are some of the major initiatives that have been and may be initiated between and among DUCIs.
- c. The participants also discussed how cooperation among DUCIs, through the ARF HDUCIM, could be further enhanced. Some participants proposed the creation of working groups, which can be convened in between meetings, in order to consider specific items to be discussed in the next ARF HDUCIM. It was pointed out that such working groups can be organized as per the current ARF HDUCIM Terms of Reference (TOR), adopted in 2006 during the 10<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCIM in Malaysia. Some participants also suggested the creation of an ARF HDUCIM website, where participants may conduct online discussion. Some participants noted that such an initiative may be included in the ARF website, with assistance from the ARF HDUCIM participating countries on the technical aspects. Some participants also proposed for a summary of the proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM in the next meeting, the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF HDUCIM.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS**

17. Brunei delivered a presentation on the proposed “Asia-Pacific Rim Command & Staff Colleges Collaborative Network.” The participants agreed that such a proposal, if conceived as a body within the ambit of the ARF, must be approved at the foreign ministers level of the ARF, after going through vetting by the ARF Senior Officials and other relevant bodies.
18. The meeting noted the need to indentify the Co-Chair of Japan, among ASEAN member-states, for its hosting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF HDUCIM in 2018.
19. Pakistan volunteered to host the 24<sup>th</sup> ARF HDUCIM in 2020.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

### **Closing Remarks by Mr Tatsuo Yamamoto, President, National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan, and Co-Chair, 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM**

20. In his remarks, Mr Yamamoto expressed that the two-day conference was a success, largely through the careful preparation and planning. He noted that the balance of power in the region is changing greatly, and there are movements which are challenging liberty, democracy, rule of law, and other values, which the international society had been pursuing. In this regard, the ARF HDUCIM participating institutions have an increasingly larger and more important role to play.
21. In closing, Mr Yamamoto noted that he looked forward to meeting the participants again during the 22<sup>nd</sup> ARF HDUCIM that will be hosted by Japan.

### **Closing Remarks by Rear Admiral Roberto Q Estioko AFP (Ret), PhD, MNSA, President, National Defense College of the Philippines, and Chair, 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM**

22. In his remarks, Rear Admiral Estioko expressed his gratitude for the participants in attending the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM, which coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN. The 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM Chair noted that regional interaction has touched many areas, including academic exchanges and networking. In this respect, the ARF HDUCIM significant accomplishments. For twenty years, as a Track I platform, the ARF HDUCIM has provided a venue very conducive to discussion of pressing defense and security challenges among a very diverse grouping.
23. In closing, Rear Admiral Estioko underscored that in the spirit of a strong and vibrant ASEAN-Japan strategic partnership, the Philippines turns over the ARF HDUCIM Chair to Japan.

**Keynote Address by Secretary Delfin N Lorenzana, Department of National Defense, Republic of the Philippines**

24. In his address, Secretary Lorenzana noted that the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM provided the delegates with an opportunity to discuss regional security issues and ways to conduct research and educational exchanges. The Philippine Defense Secretary expressed his gratitude for the joint efforts of all the delegates. Secretary Lorenzana expressed that view of the continuing need to persistently explore ways to further boost our cooperation in terms of security education and research to enhance confidence building in the region. As the region faces more globalized threats such as extremism and proliferation of illegal drugs, it is high time that the ARF HDUCIM participating institutions also focus study on non-traditional security threats and not just on the traditional ones. These non-traditional security threats are transnational in scope and are rapidly transmitted due to the advent of globalization and communication revolution.
25. In closing, Secretary Lorenzana also expressed confidence that with the transfer of the chairmanship from the Philippines to Japan, the ARF HDUCIM will reach even greater heights.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

26. The delegates conveyed their gratitude and appreciation to the Philippines for hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> ARF HDUCIM.