

CONCEPT NOTE

ARF Workshop on Maritime Law Enforcement Comprehensive Approach to Address Maritime Crimes

1. Background

Maritime threats have evolved over the years and so should Maritime Security. Whilst much of the discussions in the Asia Pacific domain on maritime security are focused on state sponsored threats, i.e. South China Sea, there is a need to focus on the real issues concerning maritime security, non-state actors and Maritime Transnational Organised Crime (MTOC). Maritime crimes has been perennially viewed through the lens of government maritime security agencies. This may not hold true as MTOC encompass land and sea dimensions and will require the land-sea nexus to ascertain the logistics chain of crime. Additionally, the complex web of MTOC is being addressed through International Government Agencies like United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Interpol, to name a few. These are also being addressed by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) like TRAFFIC and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) which address crimes against natural resources. Media, academia, think tanks and industry play important role in disseminating information and allowing market forces to address criminal issues.

A Comprehensive Approach will be required to map out MTOC like Piracy/Armed Robbery. Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF), and Smuggling/Trafficking. These crimes have become transnational in nature worth billions of dollars. Besides loss of life and injury, both to victims and law enforcement personnel, the economic loss and loss of opportunity from these crimes have been widely reported and published in various documents. Further, these crimes draw communities away from **legitimate economy** into the **shadow economy**, thriving between the gaps of costs between these two economies. Whilst much of the discussions are focused on hard security like maritime domain awareness and enhanced law enforcement collaboration, there needs to be further emphasis on soft security issues which provides the ability to detect, deter, disrupt and destroy the logistics chain of these crimes. Comprehensive Approach to address MTOC will take advantage of the available opportunities and attempt to engage the multi stakeholders that are relevant to the well-being of society and good governance.

Comprehensive Approach will complement ongoing efforts by ASEAN Regional Workshops on Single Maritime Points of Contact (SMPOC) and Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation (MLEA) which focuses on government maritime security agencies.

2. Co-Chair – European Union – Malaysia

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Comprehensive Approach to Maritime Crimes are:

- a. To impress upon the need to be better organised than organised crime syndicates in addressing Maritime Transnational Organised Crime (MTOC) domestically and regionally;
- b. To drive the notion that addressing maritime crimes require Land-Sea nexus for successful conviction and busting of organised crime syndicates;
- c. To complement domestic Single Maritime Point of Contacts (SMPOC) to work together as a regional network through multi stakeholder engagement; and
- d. To detect, disrupt, destroy and deter the logistics chain of MTOC through collaborative effort.

3. Format

- a. 1x Conference, 4 x Workshops (3x workshops on the respective focus areas and 1x consolidation workshop) - formation of road map, milestones and identification of working group leaders.
- b. 2 x Annual regional training for maritime law enforcement personnel on Comprehensive Approach

5. Participants

The participants of the above events is open to ARF Members and identified multi stakeholders. Collaborative partners identified as United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Maritime Bureau- Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB-PRC), Interpol, ASEANAPol, World Wildlife Fund and interested NGOs.

6. Venue & Date

When approved, a Gantt chart illustrating activities will be produced with logistic requirements. The events will be organised in Kuala Lumpur.

8. Anticipated Outputs

- a. To successfully detect, disrupt and destroy criminal logistics chain; and deter Maritime Transnational Organised Crime (MTOC) regionally through multi stakeholder engagement, encompassing security

agencies (land/sea), industry, IGO/NGO, Media, academia, think tanks and community;

- b. To communicate capacity building initiatives on MTOC through national shared awareness and de-confliction (SHADE) encompassing multi stakeholder engagement;
- c. To develop regional capability in addressing MTOC through enhanced cooperation, coordination and collaboration; and
- d. To complement and inform existing law enforcement mechanisms and forums.