

THE THIRD
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 23 JULY 1996

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THE THIRD ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 23 JULY 1996

1. The Third ASEAN Regional Forum was held in Jakarta on 23 July 1996. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Meeting was attended by all ARF participants. The Secretary General of ASEAN was also present.
3. The Ministers recalled the decision of the Second ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in July 1995, requesting the Chairman of the ARF to study the question of future participation and to develop a set of criteria for such participation for the consideration of the Third ARF through the ARF-SOM.
4. The Meeting noted with appreciation the round of consultations made by the Chairman with the representatives of ARF participants to obtain their views on the matter. On the basis of the inputs and comments received, the Chairman had prepared a paper on criteria for participation in the ARF.
5. In this regard, the Ministers considered the guiding principles and criteria suggested in the Chairman's Paper on Criteria for Participation in the ARF as recommended by the ARF-SOM and agreed on the following:
 - 5.1. Guiding Principles
 - i. Any new participant must subscribe to and work cooperatively to help achieve ARF's key goals. As stated in the ARF Concept Paper (which was annexed to the Chairman's Statement of 1 August 1995), the main challenge of the ARF is to sustain and enhance the unprecedented period of peace and prosperity now enjoyed by the Asia-Pacific region. All participants should work to develop an agenda which focuses on the security concerns of the Asia-Pacific region.
 - ii. The ARF should only admit participants that can directly affect the peace and security of the region on which the ARF shall focus its peace-building and peace making efforts. As the Asia-Pacific region could theoretically cover a large part of the world's surface (including the two American continents), it would be wise to spell out clearly the specific

region - or the “geographical footprint” - that the ARF will concentrate on. It is clear that there is already an implicit consensus among ARF participants that this “geographical footprint” will cover all of East Asia, both Northeast and Southeast Asia, as well as Oceania. In the short term, it would not be wise to expand this geographical scope for the key ARF activities. (Some ARF activities, for example, Cooperation on Search and Rescue, will cover the larger Asia Pacific region and not just East Asia).

- iii. The ARF should expand carefully and cautiously. As the ARF process is barely three years old, it would be advisable to consolidate the ARF process before expanding it rapidly. Each new participant must be admitted on the firm understanding that its participation is necessary for the ARF to accomplish its key goals.
- iv. All questions regarding participation should be decided by consultations among all ARF participants. As stated in the Chairman’s Statement of 1 August 1995, “A successful ARF requires the active, full and equal participation and cooperation of all participants. However, ASEAN undertakes the obligation to be the primary driving force”. The following paragraph states “The ARF process shall move at a pace comfortable to all participants”. These statements suggest that regarding ARF participation the ARF will have to take into consideration both the views of all the participants and the special needs and interests of the ASEAN States. Hence, all members of ASEAN shall automatically become participants of ARF.

(Note: The founding fathers of ASEAN agreed in 1967 that ASEAN will eventually become a community of ten, encompassing all Southeast Asian States).

5.2. Criteria

Bearing these principles in mind, the ARF participants agree that the criteria for new participants should be as follows:

- i) Commitment: All new participants, who will all be sovereign states, must subscribe to, and work cooperatively to help achieve the ARF’s key goals. Prior to their admission, all new participants should agree to abide by and respect fully the decisions and statements already made by the ARF. All ASEAN members are automatically participants of ARF.
- ii) Relevance: A new participant should be admitted only if it can be demonstrated that it has an impact on the peace and security of the “geographical footprint” of key ARF

activities (i.e. Northeast and Southeast Asia as well as Oceania).

iii) Gradual expansion: Efforts must be made to control the number of participants to a manageable level to ensure the effectiveness of the ARF.

iv) Consultations: All applications for participation should be submitted to the Chairman of the ARF, who will consult all the other ARF participants at the SOM and ascertain whether a consensus exists for the admission of the new participant. Actual decisions on participation will be approved by the Ministers.

6. The Ministers welcomed India and Myanmar joining the ARF as new participants and took note of their express commitment to help achieve the ARF's key goals and to abide by and respect fully the decisions and statements already made by the ARF.
7. The Meeting discussed a wide range of issues relevant to the question of peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region. In this context, they highlighted the following:
 - (i) The signing of the SEANWFZ Treaty by all Heads of Government of Southeast Asia countries in Bangkok in December 1995 signifies another important contribution of the countries of Southeast Asia to the strengthening of the security in the region and to the maintenance of world peace and stability. This is consistent with the 1995 NPT Review welcoming the development of further nuclear weapons free zones.
 - (ii) Nuclear testing remains a concern in the region. The Meeting welcomed the end of nuclear testing in the South Pacific and confirmed their understanding that the Asia Pacific region would shortly be free of nuclear testing. The Meeting called upon all states participating in the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear weapons states, to conclude, as a task of the highest priority, a universal and multilaterally effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty which shall contribute to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects so as to enable its signature by the outset of the fifty-first session of the UNGA. The Meeting expressed the hope that the on-going negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament to be reconvened on 29 July 1996 would lead to a CTBT which would receive the support of all concerned parties.
 - (iii) With reference to the issue of the global elimination of anti-personnel mines, the Meeting welcomed the decisions of several states to impose moratoria and ban on the production, export and operational use of these weapons. The Meeting recognized the need, following conflict, for reinforcing international support for efforts to detect and remove landmines and to assist victims.

- (iv) On the South China Sea, the Meeting welcomed the efforts by countries concerned to seek solutions by peaceful means in accordance with international law in general and with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 in particular. The Meeting also noted the positive contributions made by the Workshop Series on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea.
 - (v) Bearing in mind the importance of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, the Meeting stressed the need to establish a peace mechanism and also emphasized that the 1953 Armistice Agreement until then should remain valid. The Meeting reiterated the importance of the resumption of dialogue between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea. The Meeting noted the importance of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and encouraged ARF participants to consider giving further financial and political support to KEDO.
8. The Ministers considered the Track One and Track Two activities since the Second ARF in Bandar Seri Begawan.
 9. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the Summary Reports of the Track-One activities presented by the respective co-chairmen of the activities, namely the meetings of the Inter-sessional Support Group (ISG) on Confidence Building Measures held in Tokyo on 18-19 January 1996 and in Jakarta on 15-16 April 1996, the Inter-sessional Meeting (ISM) on Peace Keeping Operations held in Kuala Lumpur on 1-3 April 1996 and the Inter-sessional Meeting (ISM) on Search and Rescue Cooperation and Coordination held in Honolulu on 4-7 March 1996.
 10. In this connection, the Ministers endorsed the proposals made by the Track-One Activities which appear in their respective Summary Reports as follows:
 - A. The Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures
 1. Dialogue on Security Perceptions:
 - a. Dialogue on security perceptions should be continued within the ARF process, including at inter-sessional meetings.
 - b. Information-sharing on dialogue and other activities of the ARF participants should be continued on the basis of papers voluntarily submitted by participants. Such papers could also cover defense contacts and exchange programmes undertaken by the participants.
 2. Defense Policy Publication:
 - a. The ARF participants are further encouraged to submit annually a defense policy statement to the ARF SOM on a voluntary basis. Regular publication of defense white papers or similar papers would also be welcomed.

- b. Exchanges of views on the information provided in such statements and papers should be encouraged in future ARF dialogues.
- 3. Enhancing High-level Defense Contacts and Exchanges among Defense Staff Colleges and Training.
 - a. ARF SOM is open to defense representatives and encourages their greater participation in inter-sessional activities.
 - b. The ARF participants should be encouraged to submit papers on their defense contacts and other exchange programmes to the ARF SOM. Such papers could cover security dialogues and other activities they undertake.
 - c. The ARF participants should be encouraged to conduct exchanges among national defense colleges, including information sharing and personnel exchanges, and to convene a meeting of heads of national defense colleges or equivalent to this end.
- 4. The UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNRCA)
 - a. The discussions on the UN Register within the ARF framework should be continued, with a view to enhancing security in the region;
 - b. The ARF participants should be encouraged to circulate on a voluntary basis the same data to the ARF countries at the time of its submission to the UN, while avoiding unnecessary administrative duplication; and
 - c. The ARF participants should be encouraged to work together within the UN to promote more global participation in the UN Register.
- 5. Additional Confidence Building Measures
 - a. Completing and maintaining a current list of ARF contact points;
 - b. Exchanging information on the role of defense authorities in disaster relief, and considering the convening of an intersessional meeting on this matter;
 - c. Exchanging information on a voluntary basis on some of the on-going observer participation in and on-going notification of military exercises among ARF participants with a view to discussing the possibilities of such measures in selected exercises;
 - d. Encouraging the participants to support actively internationally recognized global arms control and disarmament legal agreements, specifically Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the successful conclusion of CTBT.
- 6. The ISG on CBMs should continue its activities for another year in order to review the implementation of CBMs to be approved by the Third ARF

Ministerial Meeting, and to further discuss measures to be promoted in the future, with particular emphasis on proposals identified in the summary Report (ANNEX D).

B. The Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM on Search and Rescue Coordination and Cooperation)

A meeting of SAR experts and officials who are familiar with the ARF process should be convened to further discuss and explore cooperation in the following areas:

- a. The increased sharing of training facilities and expertise in the region to enhance the capabilities of SAR personnel.
- b. Further cooperation between training institutions and the facilitation of a greater flow of information, for example, with the establishment of a directory of training courses.
- c. Movements towards standardization of SAR manuals, training and procedures.
- d. Possible increased practical training and exercises such as attaching SAR personnel to the Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs) of other countries for on-the-job training and experience; training of personnel other than SAR Mission Coordinators (SMCs) such as pilots and medical personnel involved in SAR; conducting paper and field exercises; and exploring the possibility of establishing an internet web site between RCCs.

C. The Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Peacekeeping Operations

1. Current Status of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
 - a. ARF participants work together more closely within the ARF context and also in the United Nations Special Committee on Peace Keeping Operations as part of an ongoing dialogue to exchange views and experiences on UN Peacekeeping Operations.
 - b. ARF participants are encouraged to become Parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.
 - c. ARF participants endeavour to pay their assessed contributions to peace keeping operations on time, in full and without conditions.
2. Training for Peace Support Operations
 - a. ARF participants promote greater sharing of peace keeping experience and expertise among ARF participants voluntarily through, inter-alia:
 - holding training courses on specialized peacekeeping topics;
 - sharing curricula and course information;
 - developing a roster of peacekeeping trainers;
 - offering available places in national training programmes to

- other ARF participants;
 - assisting where possible in financing of peacekeeping training;
 - fostering cooperation among national peace keeping training centers.
 - b. ARF participants use United Nations training manuals and materials as the basis of their training programmes for national contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.
 - c. ARF participants are encouraged to support the peacekeeping capacity of the UN through loan of military and civilian personnel and through other bilateral arrangements.
 - 3. Stand-by Arrangements
 - a. ARF participants work closely, according to their capabilities, with UNDPKO to reinforce the ability of the UN to respond effectively and rapidly to crisis situations.
 - b. ARF participants consider, where possible, taking part in the Standby Arrangements in order to facilitate the planning and deployment of UN peacekeeping.
11. Pursuant to the relevant recommendations of the ISG on CBMs, the Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs continue its activities for another year and an ISM on Disaster Relief be convened. Similarly, the ISM on Search and Rescue Coordination and Cooperation should continue its activities for one more meeting, attended by SAR experts and officials who are familiar with the ARF process, to be convened in Singapore in the first half of 1997 and remain co-chaired by the present co-chairmen namely Singapore and the United States.
 12. The Ministers also agreed that the ISM on Peacekeeping Operations co-chaired by Canada and Malaysia continue to function for another year to coordinate the implementation of the specific recommendations adopted by this ISM, including the convening of a regional “Train the Trainers” Workshop in Kuala Lumpur and the conducting of a course on demining. New Zealand has offered to host the course on demining.
 13. The Ministers welcomed the offers made by China and the Philippines to co-host the ISG on CBMs in Beijing in early March 1997 and by Thailand and New Zealand to co-host the ISM on Disaster Relief.
 14. Pursuant to the decision of the Second ARF Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers noted with appreciation that a number of participants had submitted defense policy statements or defense policy papers.

15. The Ministers took note of the report presented by the Chairman of the Track Two Seminar on Principles of Security and Stability in the Asia Pacific held in Moscow on 23-24 April 1996. The Ministers observed that the Seminar had been useful, particularly in promoting better understanding of the respective values and aspirations of the participants with regard to security and stability in the Asia Pacific and agreed that the dialogue on the matter should continue.
16. The Ministers also noted the EU proposals: a Track Two Seminar on Nonproliferation to be co-sponsored by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) of Indonesia and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) of Germany and the Peace Research Centre, Australian National University (ANU) of Australia in Jakarta on 6-7 December 1996; a Track Two Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy to be co-sponsored by L'Institut Francais des Relations Internationales (IFRI) and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) of Indonesia in Paris on 7-8 November 1996.
17. With a view to assisting ARF participants in preparing their human resources for ARF activities, the Ministers agreed that, in principle, Track One activities be carried out in the first half of the calendar year while Track Two activities in the second half of the calendar year.
18. The Minister is also agreed to consider at the next ARF Meetings the question of drug trafficking and other related trans-national issues such as economic crimes, including money laundering, which could constitute threats to the security of the countries of the region.
19. It was noted that the discussions throughout the Meeting remained positive, although there was some divergence of views on the subjects discussed. The participants were open and candid in expressing their views but this did not generate tension or dissension in the room. Instead, there was a tendency towards creating a harmonious environment. This positive mood demonstrated that the overall trend remains encouraging.
20. The participants also displayed a high degree of comfort in their interactions with each other. The ARF is still a fairly young process. Its success was never pre-ordained. It is therefore worth noting that the increasing comfort level among the participants at the Third ARF demonstrates that the ARF is progressing at a good pace. Future meetings should try to build upon this demonstrated base of friendly and frank discussions among the participants as this will in turn pave the way for agreements on substantive issues in the coming years.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

TOKYO, JAPAN, 18-19 JANUARY 1996
JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 15-16 APRIL 1996

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the agreement at the Second Ministerial Meeting of the ARF in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 1 August 1995, the Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) on Confidence Building Measures, co-chaired by Indonesia and Japan, held two meetings in Tokyo and Jakarta, on 18-19 January and 15-16 April 1996, respectively. The meetings were attended by all the ARF participants, and most participants had defense officials in their respective delegations.
2. In these two meetings, which were conducted in a frank and cordial manner, the ISG had lively and productive discussions on various confidence building measures. Through these discussions, the momentum of the ARF process has been strengthened and the meetings marked another important milestone in the process.
3. The participants reiterated the importance of the promotion and implementation of confidence-building measures with a view to improving the security environment of the Asia Pacific region. In this connection, the group noted various proposals concerning the general approach toward CBM cooperation, including but not limited to respecting the sovereignty and security interests of the ARF participants, voluntary participation and agreement on consensus.
4. The agenda of the ARF ISG on CBM is attached at [ANNEX A](#). The programme of activities is attached at [ANNEX B](#). The list of delegates who attended the meeting is at [ANNEX C](#).
5. The following is a summary of the key points discussed.

Agenda item 1: Dialogue on Security Perceptions

6. The participants exchanged views on the current security situation in the Asia Pacific region. It was a widely held view that the overall security picture in the region was positive. There were also views expressed that existing bilateral security arrangements were conducive to this security environment and that the ARF process was a contributing factor. Dynamic economic developments in the region as a whole, which required peaceful security climate, were especially noted as a positive element. The meeting also

noted the importance of utilizing dialogue and consultation in resolving differences among countries and encouraged continuing trend towards this direction. On the other hand, as earlier observed by the Ministers in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, it was pointed out that, in a period of transition, there are still sources of tensions such as the Korean Peninsula situation, territorial issues and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It was also pointed out that the region was faced with new challenges such as environmental issues, drug trafficking and crime.

7. Given such an overall picture, the participants stressed the importance of security dialogue and cooperation at regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels. In reviewing the efforts that the countries in region are conducting, the ISG noted that some delegations submitted papers on their activities (as attached).

Agenda Item 2: Defense Policy Publications

8. The ISG was informed by those participants who had already published defense policy papers and/or defense white papers and/or relevant available information and welcomed this development. The ISG noted that some of the participants who have not published such papers had nevertheless briefed the group on their defense policies, and the ISG encouraged those participants to publish relevant papers in due course on voluntary basis.

Agenda Item 3: Enhancing High-Level Defense Contacts and Exchanges among Defense Staff Colleges and Training

9. The participants reported on their defense contacts and exchanges programmes with other participants, and some participants submitted papers on their activities (as attached). It was agreed that defense contacts and exchanges should be maintained and further developed at various levels.

Agenda Item 4: The UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNRCA)

10. The ISG reviewed the current UN framework from a regional perspective, and the participants had a very intensive discussion on a number of ideas to enhance transparency in the Asia-Pacific region. The ISG encouraged those participants that had not yet joined the Register to do so, and discussed the different views on including voluntary submission to the UN of background information on holdings and procurement through national production. The ISG also had an exchange of different views on the need to include the UN Standardized Reporting on Military Expenditures.

11. Concerning the possibility of creating a supplementary regional framework for the arms register, different views were expressed by the participants. The ISG agreed that this issue should be further discussed.

Agenda Item 5: Additional Confidence Building Measures

12. The participants had an intensive discussion on the kinds of additional measures which may be promoted in the ARF process. Many of them need further discussion.

Conclusion

13. The meeting decided to convey the following recommendations to the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM) to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia:
 - 13.1. Dialogue on Security Perceptions
 - 13.1.1. Dialogue on security perception should be continued within the ARF process, including at inter-sessional meetings.
 - 13.1.2. Information sharing on dialogues and other activities of the ARF participants should be continued in the process based upon papers voluntarily submitted by participants. Such paper could also cover defense contacts and exchange programmes they undertake.
 - 13.2. Defense Policy Publications
 - 13.2.1. As agreed by the Ministers, the ARF participants are further encouraged to submit annually a defense policy statement to the ARF SOM on voluntary basis. A regular publication of defense white papers or defense policy papers or similar papers would also be welcomed. The ISG agreed that an exchange of views on the information provided in such statements and papers should be encouraged in future ARF dialogues.
 - 13.3. Enhancing High-Level Defense Contacts and Exchanges among Defense Staff Colleges and Training
 - 13.3.1. The ARF participants confirmed that ARF SOM is open to defense representative and encouraged their greater participation in inter-sessional activities.
 - 13.3.2. The ARF participants should be encouraged to submit papers on their defense contacts and other exchange programmes to the ARF SOM. Such papers could cover security dialogues and other activities they undertake.
 - 13.3.3. The ARF participants should be encouraged to conduct exchanges among national defense colleges, including information sharing and

personnel exchanges, and to convene a meeting of heads of national defense colleges or equivalent institutions to this end.

13.4. The UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNRCA)

13.4.1. The ARF participants agreed to continue discussing the UN Register within the ARF framework, with a view to enhancing security in the region.

13.4.2. The ARF participants should be encouraged to circulate on voluntary basis the same data to the ARF countries at the time of its submission to the UN, while avoiding unnecessary administrative duplication.

13.4.3. The ARF participants should be encouraged to work together within the UN to promote more global participation to the UN Register.

13.5. Additional Confidence Building Measures

The ARF should endorse the following ideas:

13.5.1. completing and maintaining a current list of ARF contact points;

13.5.2. exchanging information on the role of defense authorities in disaster relief, and consider convening an inter-sessional meeting on this matter;

13.5.3. exchanging information on voluntary basis on some of the on-going observer participation in and on-going notification of military exercises among ARF participants with a view to discussing the possibilities of such measures in selected exercises; and

13.5.4. encouraging the countries to support actively internationally recognized global arms control and disarmament legal agreements, specifically NPT, CWC, BWC and CCW, and the successful conclusion of CTBT.

13.6. The ISG agreed to recommend that the ARF SOM endorse the idea that the ISG will continue its activities for another year in order to review the implementation of confidence building measures to be agreed upon at the ARF SOM in May 1996 and approved by the Third ARF Ministerial Meeting in July 1996, and to further discuss measures to be promoted in the future, with particular emphasize on proposals identified in this Summary Report. The Chinese delegation informed the ISG that China is ready to co-chair the next ISG.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

HONOLULU, HAWAII, 4-7 MARCH 1996

INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Search and Rescue Coordination and Cooperation (ARF ISM SAR) in the Asia Pacific was held on 4-7 March 1996 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting was jointly organized by the United States of America and the Republic of Singapore as agreed to by the ARF Ministers at the Second ARF Meeting on 1 August 1995 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The ARF ISM SAR was jointly chaired by Ambassador Winston Lord, the United States Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, and Mr. Kishore Mahbubani, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.
2. The ARF ISM SAR was aimed at promoting universality; enhancing multilateral SAR coordination and cooperation in the Asia Pacific within the ARF context; building mutual trust and confidence, and promoting transparency among the civilian and military agencies of the ARF participants engaged in SAR; and enhancing coordination and cooperation in the Asia Pacific under existing operating procedures.
3. The agenda of the ARF SAR ISM is attached at [ANNEX A](#). The programme of activities is attached at [ANNEX B](#). The list of participants who attended the meeting is at [ANNEX C](#). A compilation of presentations of national SAR arrangements by ARF participants was provided to each delegation.
4. The ARF ISM SAR was attended by 18 ARF participants. Representatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) participated as guest speakers. United States Admiral Joseph Prueher, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, gave the keynote address to the meeting. For the first time, in addition to officials from the Foreign and Defense Ministries, officials from Aviation, Communications, Transportation, Maritime, and other civilian Ministries also participated constructively in the meeting. This marked another important step forward in realizing ARF as an avenue to strengthen regional cooperation and confidence building.

5. Five discussion topics, two workshops, and a practical search and rescue demonstration were conducted. All delegations presented a brief overview of their respective country's national SAR Organization.
6. The following is a summary of the key points discussed.

Topic 1: International SAR Conventions Publications

7. ICAO and IMO representatives briefed the meeting on the various SAR Conventions and the technical requirements specified in the IMO and ICAO SAR Manuals, as well as recent developments in these areas. Several countries also briefed the meeting on the steps that they were taking to incorporate the various ICAO/IMO SAR requirements into their SAR Organizations.

Topic 2: Regional SAR Training Overview

8. Singapore presented the introductory remarks. The discussions on SAR training emphasized the importance of training of personnel involved in SAR to enable them to meet the increased SAR demands which have resulted from increases in air and sea traffic in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting noted that IMO and ICAO had developed over the years substantial standardization provisions for SAR procedures and equipment. This will lead to better cooperation as well as facilitate coordination among the ARF participants to effect more efficient responses to SAR requests. There was also agreement that active cooperation between training institutions and greater flow of information was necessary, an example of which could be the establishment of a directory of training courses available in the various training institutes.
9. The Inter-Sessional Meeting took note of the fact that bilateral and multilateral training was already being provided by a number of countries in the region. Several participants suggested that these countries increase joint training in collaboration with experts from other ARF participants for the region. The need to provide different types of training for various levels of SAR personnel was also identified.
10. In addition, the meeting noted the importance of practical training and exercises to hone the skills of SAR personnel to enable them to maintain a high state of readiness. It suggested that after training, SAR personnel be attached to the Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) of other ARF member countries for on-the-job training and experience. The need for training of personnel other than SAR Mission Coordinators (SMCs) such as pilots and medical personnel involved in SAR was also noted. Exercises could cover both paper and field exercises and could explore the possibility of establishing an internet website between RCCs to work towards possible standardization.

Topic 3: Military and Civilian SAR Coordination and Cooperation

11. Indonesia made the introductory remarks. Several participants noted the increasing involvement of the military in humanitarian activities such as SAR. The meeting noted that close cooperation at the national level between civilian and military agencies would facilitate effective SAR operations. Participants shared the view that, although different countries possess varying forms of formal civilian-military cooperation, greater civilian-military cooperation at the national level was necessary to enhance regional SAR efficiency.

Topic 4: SAR Communications and Potential for SAR Coordination and Cooperation

12. This topic was introduced by the United States. The meeting noted that with the recent advances in communications technology, responses to distress calls could become more efficient. It would therefore be useful to develop a well-integrated regional system of cooperation on SAR matters. The standardization of SAR communications manuals, procedures and training at the regional level would be a worthwhile objective. Suggestions were made for subsequent actions by the IMO to discuss a number of issues including the problem of electronically transmitted false alerts. The meeting also supported closer cooperation in establishing a comprehensive SAR communications network among RCCs in the region.

Topic 5: Benefits of Regional SAR Coordination and Cooperation

13. Australia made the introductory remarks and China gave a presentation on the topic. The meeting agreed to publish a directory of regional SAR contact points. The United States offered to compile the directory, with the goal of completing it before the Third ARF Ministerial Meeting. In addition, countries without a SAR manual agreed that by drawing on the expertise of other ARF participants, they could develop more quickly a manual suitable for their own countries. ARF countries were encouraged to comply with the provisions of the IMO and ICAO SAR Conventions. Exchanges of SAR manuals among ARF countries would be beneficial.

Workshop

14. The United States led an informal workshop on the relative importance to the Asia-Pacific region of various aspects of the SAR system. The purpose of this effort was to identify and prioritize vital elements of a SAR system within the region, with a view toward selecting potential areas of regional cooperation. There was a clear consensus that the most important elements of a regional SAR system involved formal SAR organizations, establishment of effective RCCs, and comprehensive training programmes on a national and regional basis.

15. Singapore led the second session, which focused on the importance of SAR training. The workshop identified the need to provide training to fully implement the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), improving cooperation between maritime and aeronautical RCCs and further regional cooperation in SAR training.

SAR Demonstration

16. The U.S. Coast Guard provided a demonstration of search and rescue techniques using U.S. Coast Guard aircraft and vessels. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary presented a boating safety display.

Conclusion

17. The meeting was successful and accomplished the objectives laid out. The discussions were constructive and frank. It was agreed that a directory of regional SAR contact points be published to facilitate the flow of information and to encourage closer cooperation among ARF participants. With a view towards eventual development of a comprehensive SAR communications network among RCCs in the region, the meeting identified the following areas for further discussion and possible future cooperation:
 - a. The increased sharing of training facilities and expertise in the region to enhance the capabilities of SAR personnel;
 - b. Further cooperation between training institutions and the facilitation of greater flow of information, for example, with the establishment of a directory of training courses;
 - c. Expanded bilateral and multilateral training programmes among various ARF countries in collaboration with experts from other ARF participating countries;
 - d. Movement towards standardization of SAR manuals, training and procedures;
 - e. Possible increased practical training and exercises such as:
 - i. Attaching SAR personnel to the RCCs of other countries for on-the-job training and experience;
 - ii. Training of personnel other than SMCs such as pilots and medical personnel involved in SAR;
 - iii. Conducting paper and field exercises; and
 - iv. Exploring the possibility of establishing an internet web site between RCCs.
18. The Inter-Sessional Meeting, taking full note of the wide variety of on-going and pre-existing bilateral and multilateral search and rescue agreements, SAR exchanges, and SAR exercises, strongly encourages ARF participants to continue developing these cooperative SAR ties in the humanitarian interest of saving lives. The meeting also agreed to recommend to the next ARF SOM that a meeting be held in Singapore following the

Third ARF Ministerial Meeting to further explore cooperation in the above mentioned areas within the framework of IMO and ICAO. The meeting may be attended by SAR experts and officials who are familiar with the ARF process.

19. The meeting was held in the traditional spirit of cordiality and solidarity. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the United States and Singapore for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to it and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting by the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 1-3 APRIL 1996

INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Peacekeeping Operations was held from 1-3 April 1996 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, pursuant to the decision of the ARF Ministers at the Second ARF Meeting on 1 August 1995 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
2. The ISM was attended by all 19 ARF participants. Lt. Gen. Manfred Eisele, Assistant Secretary General (Planning and Support), United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations also attended the Meeting. The list of delegations is attached as ANNEX A.
3. The meeting was Co-Chaired by Mr. Michael Kergin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Political and International Security Affairs Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada and Ambassador N. Parameswaran, Undersecretary, Multilateral Political Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.
4. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, addressed the meeting at the Opening Session.
5. The Agenda of the ARF ISM is attached as ANNEX B. Three papers were presented at the meeting:
 - 5.1. Current Status on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (Malaysia) (ANNEX C and Addenda I, II and III)
 - 5.2. Training for Peace Support Operations (Canada) (ANNEX D)
 - 5.3. Standby Arrangements (United Nations) (ANNEX E)
6. A summary of the discussions is enumerated below.
 - 6.1. Current Status on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
 - 6.1.1. Participants agreed that the discussion on the subject of peacekeeping in the ARF context promotes greater understanding in the Asia Pacific region.
 - 6.1.2. The central role of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations was stressed.

- 6.1.3. There was a need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at United Nations Headquarters to be adequately staffed to permit coordination and timely response in the deployment of peacekeeping operations.
 - 6.1.4. It was important that all member states pay their UN contributions for peacekeeping operations in full, on time and without conditions.
 - 6.1.5. Peacekeeping operations should have clear and achievable mandates and definite time frames.
 - 6.1.6. Consultations between members of the Security Council, Secretariat, and Troop Contributing Countries were essential, particularly in situations where Troop Contributing Countries needed to gain public support for dangerous or politically sensitive operations.
 - 6.1.7. Peacekeeping operations have become more complex and now involve not only armed forces but also police and other civilian personnel.
 - 6.1.8. There was a need for the UN to consider future preventive actions.
 - 6.1.9. Public information on peacekeeping operations was essential for obtaining domestic support for a country's involvement in a particular peacekeeping operation.
 - 6.1.10. ARF participants are encouraged to become Parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. It was noted that to-date only 5 countries had ratified the Convention and that there was a need for 22 ratifications before the Convention could come into force.
 - 6.1.11. ARF participants should cooperate within the ARF context and in the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations since 7 of the 34 member states of the Committee are represented in the ARF.
 - 6.1.12. The possible role that regional organizations could play, with the endorsement of the UN and in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, in assisting peacekeeping operations was mentioned.
- 6.2. Training for Peace Support Operations
- 6.2.1. Participants underlined the importance of adequate and proper training as an essential prerequisite for efficient and effective UN peace support operations.
 - 6.2.2. Participants agreed that training of peacekeeping personnel is a national responsibility although the UN plays a leadership role in establishing training standards.
 - 6.2.3. It was recognized that cooperation between ARF participants in peacekeeping training activities would be beneficial. Such cooperation could include sharing of training programmes and curricula; coordinating the work of national peacekeeping centers, including

- through meetings of directors of centers; offering available training places in national centers for participants from other ARF countries; establishing a roster of training experts and holding specialized meetings on peacekeeping-related topics. In this respect, the importance of a regional “train the trainers” workshop was highlighted. Participants took note of New Zealand’s offer to conduct a course on demining.
- 6.2.4. It was important to adopt a multidisciplinary approach in peacekeeping training given the fact that peacekeeping operations have now become more complex. There was a need to include the civilian component in peacekeeping training. Civilian and military participants need to be aware of each other’s functions to maximize effectiveness and cooperation in peacekeeping training and operations.
 - 6.2.5. The importance of cultural awareness and language training was emphasized.
 - 6.2.6. It was suggested that a compilation of peacekeeping curricula/courses into a database by UNDPKO would be useful to ARF participants.
 - 6.2.7. The role of the United Nations in ensuring that common standards are met by Troop Contributing Countries was underlined. In this respect, United Nations Training Assistance Teams could play a useful role.
 - 6.2.8. There was agreement regarding the importance of the work of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. ARF participants were encouraged to support its work through loan of military and civilian personnel and through other bilateral arrangements.
 - 6.2.9. Several other suggestions were advanced to foster greater understanding of peacekeeping operations including on-site visits to a current peacekeeping operation.
- 6.3. Standby Arrangements
 - 6.3.1. Participants emphasized the importance of working closely with UNDPKO to reinforce the ability of the UN to respond effectively and rapidly to crisis situations.
 - 6.3.2. Participants were encouraged, where possible, to consider taking part in the Standby Arrangements in order to facilitate the planning and deployment of UN peacekeeping operations.
 - 6.3.3. While participants expressed wide support for the concept of a Rapid Deployment Headquarters based in UNDPKO, some emphasized the need for further study on its possible implementation. The need for equitable representation in the staffing of such a facility was also stressed.
 - 6.3.4. Participants discussed the desirability of finalizing appropriate arrangements with the United Nations in order to facilitate the implementation of Standby Arrangements.

- 6.3.5. Participants discussed the desirability of creating additional UN logistical depots to assist in UN peacekeeping operations.
- 6.3.6. Participants expressed concern over delays in financial reimbursements by the UN to Troop Contributing Countries due to the UN's current financial crisis. Such delays contribute to a lack of willingness on the part of Troop Contributing Countries to participate in Peacekeeping Operations.

Conclusion

- 7. The meeting decided to convey the following recommendations to the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting to be held in Jakarta:
 - 7.1. Current Status on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
 - 7.1.1. That ARF participants work together more closely within the ARF context and also in the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as part of an on-going dialogue to exchange views and experiences on UN Peacekeeping Operations.
 - 7.1.2. That ARF participants are encouraged to become Parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.
 - 7.1.3. That ARF participants endeavour to pay their assessed contributions to peacekeeping operations on time, in full and without conditions.
 - 7.2. Training for Peace Support Operations
 - 7.2.1. That ARF participants promote greater sharing of peacekeeping experience and expertise among ARF participants voluntarily through, inter alia:
 - a. holding training courses on specialized peacekeeping topics;
 - b. sharing curricula and course information;
 - c. developing a roster of peacekeeping trainers;
 - d. offering available places in national training programmes to other ARF participants;
 - e. assisting where possible in financing of peacekeeping training; and
 - f. fostering cooperation among national peacekeeping training centers.
 - 7.2.2. That ARF participants use United Nations training manuals and materials as the basis of their training programmes for national contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.
 - 7.2.3. That ARF participants are encouraged to support the peacekeeping capacity of the UN through loan of military and civilian personnel and through other bilateral arrangements.

7.3. Standby Arrangements

- 7.3.1. That ARF participants work closely, according to their capabilities, with UNDPKO to reinforce the ability of the UN to respond effectively and rapidly to crisis situations.
- 7.3.2. That ARF participants consider, where possible, taking part in the Standby Arrangements in order to facilitate the planning and deployment of UN peacekeeping operations.