

Concept Paper **ASEAN Regional Forum**

Best Practices in Maritime Data Analysis to Combat Transnational Organized Crime

Background

Transnational organized crime in the maritime domain facilitates the illicit trade and trafficking of people, drugs, arms, wildlife products, and other goods. It has detrimental effects on economic, food, and national security; human rights and safety; political stability; and contributes to the overexploitation of natural resources including through illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Maritime data is abundant and ever-increasing as technology adoption expands and new technologies are developed. Thorough and effective analysis of this data can improve intelligence related to maritime domain awareness and the identification of anomalous and illegal activity. This intelligence is critical for targeting limited and costly enforcement resources to most effectively combat transnational organized crime. So much data is available that processing and analyzing it to identify and act on the useful information are significant challenges.

Proposal

The United States proposes holding a workshop on maritime data analysis tactics and techniques to identify anomalous and potentially illegal activity to better combat transnational organized crime. This two or three-day workshop will be held in early 2018 in a location to be determined in the ASEAN region. We expect 25 to 30+ participants as described in further detail below. The goal of the workshop is for participants to leave with concrete tools and processes that can be directly applied to maritime data analysis in their home countries. As an example, participants could be trained on how to access vessel automatic identification system (AIS) data and how to process the data to find indicators of potential illegal activity like AIS outages in the vicinity of closed fishing areas or indicators of transshipment activity. The opportunity to network and share information and best practices with regional counterparts is a secondary, but equally valuable outcome. Topics of discussion will be tailored to best meet participant country needs and could include:

- Effective maritime intelligence program framework
- Sources of maritime-related data
- Platforms and software for the display and analysis of maritime data
- Vessel tracking data analysis and anomalous vessel behavior
- Analysis of Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) lightboat detections
- Marine industry network analysis
- Human trafficking and forced labor indicators
- FAO Port State Measures Agreement implementation and vessel screening
- Marine product traceability data analysis
- Marine physical and biological data analysis
- Best practices for data sharing and information exchange

Co-chair

The United States is seeking an ASEAN co-chair(s).

Participants

Representatives from the ARF Participants and other key academic and environmental institutes, think tanks, and other entities from throughout Southeast Asia would be invited to participate in this workshop. Ideal participants would be those involved in maritime data management, analysis, intelligence, and enforcement.

Date and Venue

The proposed workshop would be held in early 2018 in a location to be determined in the ASEAN region.

Administrative Arrangements

The co-chairs would share the administrative costs of the workshop, including the venue, meeting preparations, travel costs for expert presenters, and working dinners and lunches. International travel, accommodations, and other related cost necessary for workshop participation would be borne by the respective participants.

Please direct comments or questions on this proposal to:

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