



CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
9TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON MARITIME SECURITY

Tokyo, Japan, 8-9 February 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting was held in “Mita Kaigisho” Government Conference House, Tokyo, Japan on 8-9 February 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Daisuke Namioka, Director of Maritime Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Robespierre Bolivar, Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and Mr. David Greene, Director for the Office of Multilateral Affairs, the Department of State of the United States.

2. All ARF participants except the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea were present. Representatives from the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The list of participants appears in **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

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

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

4. Mr. Daisuke Namioka, Director of Maritime Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, welcomed all participants to the 9th ARF ISM on MS and highlighted that the ARF is a useful forum for facilitating practical cooperation among its participants in terms of enhancing maritime security, safety of navigation, and sustainable development in the region. He looked forward to fruitful discussions in order to ensure free, open and stable seas based on the rule of law for regional stability and prosperity.

5. In his opening remarks, Mr. Robespierre Bolivar, Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, underscored the importance of the ARF ISM on MS as a platform for discussions and exchanges of views to ensure a rules-based, peaceful and cooperative maritime security atmosphere in the region while noting that the Philippines attach importance to maritime security as the ASEAN chair this year. He thanked the Co-Chairs and looked forward to fruitful discussions.

6. Mr. David Greene, Director for the Office of Multilateral Affairs, the Department of State of the United States thanked the Co-Chairs and reiterated the need for greater coordination in order to ensure progress on maritime security cooperation, particularly as the issue is also discussed in various fora. Mr. Greene further highlighted that the ARF ISM on MS is a forum which can contribute to the issue through open dialogue as well as sharing of technical expertise.

AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

7. The Meeting was held in plenary.

AGENDA ITEM 3: COORDINATION, CONSULTATION, AND SYNERGY BETWEEN REGIONAL MARITIME-RELATED BODIES AND MECHANISMS

3.1. 11th ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security, 13-16 November 2016, Auckland

8. The Meeting was briefed on the outcomes of the Experts' Working Group co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand. The Experts' Working Group reviewed activities held under its 2014-2017 Work Programme and noted that all key deliverables have been achieved including the Counter Piracy Operations Workshop, a Maritime Security Table Top Exercise, the Maritime Security Future Leaders' Programme, the joint ADMM-Plus Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism Exercise and Experts' Working Group Meetings, and the Mahi Tangaroa 2016 Field-Training Exercise. The Experts' Working Group noted that the various exercises promoted interoperability, built trust and enhanced practical military cooperation among the participants and further highlighted the need for greater information sharing and enhancing cooperation with other maritime security agencies. The Experts' Working Group also considered inputs for the 2017-2020 Work Programme and welcomed Singapore and the Republic of Korea as the incoming co-chairs for the 2017-2020 cycle.

3.2. 3rd ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation, 15-16 September 2016, Bangkok

9. Thailand and the EU briefed the Meeting on the recommendations of the High-Level Dialogue including the need to enhance maritime cooperation among law enforcement agencies which is reflected in the proposal by Vietnam, Australia and the EU to hold a workshop under the auspices of the ARF ISM on MS. The Dialogue further recommended that ASEAN and the EU promote exchange of experiences and best practices in addressing the challenges of piracy and robbery at sea in order to maintain and promote safe and secure sea lanes of communication, explore feasible ways to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) to better address transnational crimes at sea, share experiences on programmes dedicated to maritime domain surveillance and situational awareness, exchange best practices through various declarations including the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, and enhance capacity building and participation in university programs dedicated to maritime domain management. Thailand further informed the Meeting that the 4th High-Level Dialogue will be held in 2017.

3.3. 42nd ASEAN Senior Transport Officials' Meeting (STOM) and 22nd ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings, 14-18 November 2016, Manila; 32nd ASEAN Maritime Transport Working

Group (MTWG) Meeting, 18-20 October 2016, Bohol; 41st ASEAN STOM, 26-28 April 2016, Manila, and 31st ASEAN MTWG Meeting, 6-8 April 2016, Boracay

10. The Philippines briefed on some of the highlights of the 22nd ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting including: (1) the progress of the operationalisation of the ASEAN Roll-On Roll-Off (RO-RO) Shipping Network; (2) the adoption of the Framework of Cooperation on Certification of Competency for Near Coastal Voyages (NCV) issued by ASEAN Member States; (3) the adoption of the revised Strategic Plan for ASEAN-China Transport Cooperation; (4) adoption of the Development Strategy for ASEAN-China Transport Scientific and Technological Cooperation; (5) endorsement of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership Work Plan for 2016-2017 which included the Regional Action Plan on Port Security 2017; and (6) the discussion towards the finalisation of the new ASEAN-ROK Transport Cooperation Roadmap 2018-2021. The Meeting noted that these initiatives are consistent with the goals of realising the ASEAN Single Shipping Market and to promote maritime security, safety and strategic economic corridors within ASEAN.

11. The Meeting was further informed that several other issues, including the agenda for the First ASEAN Single Shipping Market Coordinating Board, finalisation of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement and Harmonisation of Safety Standards and Ship Inspection for Non-Convention Ships in the ASEAN region, the improvement of Port Security in ASEAN, the establishment of ASEAN Regional Training Centers for Vessels Traffic Service (VTS) Operators, and the draft ASEAN Agreement on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Cooperation, will continue to be discussed at the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting in 2017. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 3**.

3.4. 3rd Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Marine Environmental Protection, 7 February 2017, Tokyo

12. The Meeting noted some of the highlights of the 3rd Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Marine Environmental Protection including discussions on the crucial role of maritime ecosystem for the long-term security of countries in the region. The CSCAP Study Group concluded that the degradation of fisheries and marine biodiversity have potential security implications such as heightened poaching and illegal fishing activities

as well as increased migration flow, thus increasing the burden of maritime law enforcement agencies. The Meeting noted the recommendations of the CSCAP Study Group in addressing challenges for maritime environment protection including: (1) to support the Coral Reef Triangle initiative which has been successful in its field experiments; (2) to support a network of Marine Protected Areas; (3) to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal number 14 which is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources; and (4) to strengthen the management of the regional seas without prejudice to national interests and for the common good of the region. The CSCAP further informed the Meeting on its intention to conclude the CSCAP Memorandum on Marine Environment Protection by mid-2017.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MARITIME SECURITY

13. The Meeting exchanged views on the various challenges to maritime security in the region such as piracy and armed robbery at sea, terrorism in the maritime domain, trafficking in persons and illicit drugs, illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing, as well as marine pollution, and reiterated its commitment to support efforts to address these challenges. Noting the multiplicity and multifaceted nature of non-traditional threats on maritime security, the Meeting emphasised the need to increase cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies and the importance of capacity building assistance. Further, various suggestions were made to address maritime security challenges including increasing international and regional cooperation and promoting confidence building measures through dialogue and information sharing, enhancing MDA, cooperation through regional mechanisms including ASEAN-led mechanisms, the ReCAAP, as well as enhancing maritime connectivity through a free and open Indo-Pacific to ensure effective commerce and trade activities.

14. The Meeting reiterated the need to ensure peace, security and stability at sea based on the rule of law in the region and noted freedom of navigation and overflight and safety of sea lanes should be maintained as the free, open and stable seas are vital for the region's prosperity. Further, the Meeting viewed that confidence and trust building are crucial for enhancing regional cooperation on maritime security. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the ARF ISM on MS is a useful platform for open dialogue and enhance confidence building and welcomed ongoing cooperation in other maritime-related mechanisms. The Meeting further reiterated the need to ensure

synergy of initiatives in various maritime-related sectors to avoid duplication of efforts and expressed support for the continuous implementation of the ARF Work Plan on MS.

15. The Meeting took note of concerns expressed by a number of members over recent developments and escalation of activities in the South China Sea which may erode trust and confidence, and encouraged all parties to exercise self-restraint, to refrain from actions that may increase tensions, and to seek peaceful resolution of disputes through dispute settlement mechanisms without resorting to the threat or use 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). The Meeting also took note of concerns on the land reclamation, building of outposts, and their use for military purposes in the South China Sea. Some members also noted that the Arbitral Tribunal's Award rendered on 12 July, 2016 is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute, and a useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea. In this regard, the Meeting emphasised the importance of full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, non-militarization, maintaining unimpeded commerce based on the rule of law, increasing trust and confidence, and intensifying practical cooperation in the region. The Meeting took note of the commitment of the ASEAN Member States and China to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety as well as the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea, while welcoming the establishment of the Guidelines for Hotline Communications among Senior Officials of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Members States and China in Response to Maritime Emergencies in the Implementation of the DOC, and the adoption of a Joint Statement on the Application of the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) in the South China Sea at the 19th ASEAN-China Summit to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations in September 2016 .

AGENDA ITEM 5: MARITIME SECURITY AND COOPERATION

- 5.1. Australia's Maritime Border Command Approach to Regional Civil Maritime Security Cooperation** by Commander Christopher Wall, Minister Counsellor (Asia), Australian Border Force, Australia

16. Commander Wall outlined Australia's Maritime Border Command whole-of-government approach on civil maritime security in the Australian maritime domain. He further explained that Australia takes layered and an intelligence led, risk-based approach to managing eight key threats: (1) unauthorised maritime arrivals; (2) maritime terrorism; (3) illegal exploitation of natural resources; (4) piracy, robbery and violence at sea; (5) illegal activities in protected areas; (6) prohibited imports and exports; (7) compromise to marine bio-security, and (8) marine pollution. In response to these threats and challenges, Australia has undertaken various activities including conducting maritime security operations to detect, deter, and respond, including participation in study tours, regional vessel search training; coordinated patrols and maritime security desktop exercises with other countries in the region. Further, Australia is also actively participating in various regional fora and mechanisms such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC), ReCAAP and the East Asia Summit (EAS) in efforts to enhance MDA and information sharing. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

5.2. Strengthening the Region's Maritime Security and Cooperation by
Mr. M. Chandra W. Yudha, Director for ASEAN Political and Security
Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

17. Mr. Yudha briefed the Meeting on the pillars underlying its Global Maritime Fulcrum Vision which reflects Indonesia's commitment to contribute to the protection and development of the seas. The pillars of the vision includes, among others, rebuilding maritime culture, preserving marine resources, prioritising maritime infrastructure and connectivity, enhancing maritime diplomacy and strengthening maritime defence. Indonesia found that maritime security is the most fundamental element to support its Vision of a Global Maritime Fulcrum. In this regard, Indonesia is committed to enhance cooperation with ARF participants in the area of maritime security. He noted the wide challenges on maritime security in the region including maritime terrorism, arms smuggling, trafficking in persons, crimes against environment, natural disasters, and IUU fishing, and underscored the importance of jointly addressing these challenges through a holistic and comprehensive approach. Mr. Yudha recalled the proposed ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing co-sponsored by Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the United States drafted in 2016 with inputs from all ARF participants and expressed

strong hope for the Statement to be adopted at the forthcoming 24th ARF in Manila in 2017. The Meeting noted that there is a pressing need to intensify exchange of information and sharing of best practices through confidence building and capacity building activities as outlined in the Work Plan to effectively address maritime challenges. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

5.3. Maritime Connectivity, Security and Safety – Nexus of Cooperation in the Maritime Areas of the Asia-Pacific by Dr. Suriya Chindawongse, Deputy Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

18. Dr. Suriya's presentation focused on the nexus on issues of connectivity, security, and safety of maritime cooperation in the region. There are several key elements of challenges identified such as piracy, safety and security of sea lanes as well as the depletion of natural resources. Dr. Suriya further mentioned the link between piracy and other transnational crimes such as terrorism, human trafficking and illegal migration and highlighted the need to prevent the snowballing of threats through the promotion of the regional frameworks. Some suggestions to tackle these challenges include the strengthening of synergies among various maritime-related fora and to establish a coordinated approach in dealing with maritime challenges. In this regard, Thailand proposed to work together with the ASEAN Secretariat in developing a reference paper to stock-take the various initiatives taken in other maritime fora in the region. The ASEAN Secretariat would present the stock-take at future ISMs on MS.

19. The Meeting noted Thailand's suggestion to address threats against maritime security by promoting sharing of information through ReCAAP, enhancing cooperation through SEAFDEC, enhancing maritime domain awareness, conducting joint exercises and patrols, supporting the development and establishment of the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC) co-chaired by Thailand and the United States, and supporting the draft ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Further, Thailand also informed the Meeting regarding the idea of establishing an ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy which is meant to develop approaches to promote sustainable fisheries in the region.

5.4. Maritime Domain Awareness by Dr. Chris Merritt, Maritime Technical Adviser, U.S.-ASEAN, the U.S

20. Dr. Merritt explained that the purpose of MDA is essentially to achieve better governance of maritime domain in order to provide enhanced maritime security and safety, better management of environmental and natural resources, and provide greater economic development. MDA provides a better understanding to maritime threats and challenges as it also relates to environment, safety, and economic development. Further, MDA helps identify organised maritime stakeholders within the government, industries and the academia. Dr. Merritt reiterated the need to improve exchange of information and to enhance collaboration through outreach activities in order to create synergies among maritime-related fora. He highlighted the U.S. desire to work with ASEAN and other regional countries to enhance MDA objectives with ASEAN. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

21. In response, Japan recalled the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement ARF Vision Statement which states that the ARF should serve as a regional forum that promotes MDA and develop concrete and effective regional responses to maritime security challenges by 2020. Japan further informed the Meeting that Japan published a policy paper on Japan's efforts to promote MDA capability. In this connection, the Meeting noted the proposal to deepen discussion and cooperation to better understand MDA within the ARF framework.

5.5. Japan's ODA Cooperation for ASEAN Region in the Areas of Maritime Security by Mr. Jun Ishimaru, Principal Deputy Director, First Country Assistance Planning Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

22. The presentation by Mr. Ishimaru referred to the three principle of rule of law at sea advocated by Prime Minister Abe and outlined Japan's capacity building assistance of maritime law enforcement capabilities for ASEAN countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA). Japan has supported the regional countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia by providing hard assistance such as vessels and equipment and soft assistance such as training of personnel of maritime police and coastguards. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

5.6. Cooperation for Peace and Prosperity at Sea by Captain Motonari Adachi, Director of International Affairs, Japan Coast Guard

23. Captain Adachi briefed the Meeting on the role of Coast Guard, as a buffer function, in responding to new maritime security challenges and the need for greater regional cooperation based on the rule of law for ensuring peace and security of the region. He emphasised that as the first responders at sea, linkages among coast guards should be strengthened through communication, cooperation, and coordination. In this regard, Japan's Coast Guard has conducted various multilateral and bilateral activities such as trainings and exercises on, among others, Search and Rescue and preventing maritime pollution. He introduced the efforts by HACGAM to develop multi-layered communication mechanism to strengthen cooperation among coast guards. He also mentioned that in order to deal with global changes and related challenges in the future, global cooperation in addition to bilateral and regional ones would be of utmost importance. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

6.1. Philippine Government's Effort to Address the Piracy Situation in Eastern Sabah and Southern Philippines by Commodore Leopoldo V. Laroya, Commander of Coast Guard Maritime Security and Law Enforcement Command, Philippine Coast Guard

24. The Meeting noted the briefing by Commodore Laroya regarding the updates on the abduction and piracy incidents in the areas of Southern Philippines and East Sabah. Commodore Laroya further outlined the efforts undertaken by the Philippines government in tackling the incidents including seeking assistance from local leaders in Mindanao on the negotiations for the release of abducted victims, intensifying military operations, and intensifying cooperation among law enforcement agencies. In addition, Commodore Laroya stressed the need to strengthen cooperation among States in responding to maritime security threats and reiterated the Philippines Coast Guard's commitment to collaborate with other stakeholders to tackle piracy at sea. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

6.2. International Maritime Organization – Security and Safety by Mr. David Edwards, Chairman ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR

25. Mr. Edwards briefed the Meeting on the role of the IMO as a specialised United Nations' agency responsible for the prevention of marine pollution by ships as well as safety and security of shipping in the Asia-Pacific. He further outlined the various activities in which the IMO takes part in the region including several ASEAN meetings and its role in providing technical assistance and capacity building support to assist developing countries. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.

6.3. Enhancing Regional Cooperation by Mr. Nicholas Teo, Deputy Director, ReCAAP

26. Mr. Teo provided an overview of ReCAAP's activities and efforts in enhancing regional cooperation to address maritime security challenges. Mr. Teo highlighted the three pillars of the ReCAAP, namely: (1) information sharing; (2) capacity building; and (3) cooperative arrangement. He further stressed the need to build mutual trust, establish connectivity and collectively work together with governments as well as industries in order to effectively tackle piracy and armed robbery at sea. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7.1. International Cooperation on Marine Scientific Research and Environmental Protection among China and ASEAN Countries by Ms. Heyun Xu, China Institute of Marine Affairs, State Oceanic Administration, China

27. Ms. Xu's presentation outlined the various cooperative activities conducted between China and ASEAN countries in the areas of scientific research such as oceanography, environmental protection and marine hazard prevention. Further, Ms. Xu explained that China has carried out projects with ASEAN countries in these areas, establish Memorandum of Understandings, supported joint trainings and educational exchanges and will continue to implement such activities with ASEAN countries. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 12**.

7.2. Coral Triangle Initiative by Ms. Carina Manlapaz, Ecosystems Management Specialist (Coastal and Marine Division), Department of

Environment and Natural Resources, Biodiversity Management Bureau,
the Philippines

28. Ms. Manlapaz discussed the importance of coral reef, seagrass beds and mangroves for the growth of marine ecosystem. Ms. Manlapaz then explained the programmes and steps taken by the Philippines to ensure that threats to the marine ecosystem are properly managed and promote sustainable development of marine resources and habitats. Ms. Manlapaz further outlined the development of the Coral Triangle Initiative and emphasised the need to collectively protect the marine environment. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 13**.

7.3. Developing Cooperative Mechanisms for the Management of the Marine Environment in the SCS by Ms. Youna Lyons, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore Centre for International Law, Singapore

29. In her presentation, Ms. Lyons pointed out that States have an obligation to consult and cooperate with each other to manage, conserve, and explore resources. In particular, she encouraged SCS littoral states and ARF member states to recognise the necessity of, and reflect upon the potential of, developing cooperative mechanisms for the management of the marine environment in the SCS. Using a comparative study between the SCS and the Mediterranean Sea, she highlighted that unlike the SCS, the Mediterranean Sea (which was of a comparable size and possessed a coastal population of comparable size), had institutional frameworks (e.g. COPs), regional conventions and other cooperative mechanisms that protected the marine environment. The successful creation of these cooperative mechanisms was despite the fact that most of the maritime boundaries within the Mediterranean Sea had not been clearly defined, and the Sea was bordered by 21 States that were vastly different in cultural and economic terms. Encouraging the SCS stakeholders to look at the Mediterranean Sea as a positive example, she further highlighted the need for better management of the marine environment and for SCS stakeholders to collaborate, communicate, and utilise their institutions to manage the marine environment. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 14**.

7.4. Safe Ocean Network by Lieutenant Commander Luke Slivinski, U.S. Coast Guard Liaison to the Department of State, Office of Marine

Conservation, the U.S.

30. Lieutenant Commander Slivinski explained that the Safe Ocean Network is a global partnership between governments, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organizations working together to share information and intelligence about IUU fishing operations and to take action to strengthen the global fight against IUU fishing. The Safe Ocean Network focuses on strengthening collaboration and identifying and developing projects within three foci: detection, enforcement, and prosecution. Since its launch, the Safe Ocean Network has grown to include 27 governments and 19 intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations supporting over 40 international fisheries enforcement related projects. Governments and organizations interested in joining the Safe Ocean Network can do so by expressing a desire to be a partner, providing a single point of contact, and a new or existing project with a fisheries enforcement nexus about which it is willing to share information. Moving forward, the Safe Ocean Network intends to build an enduring institutional structure and increase partner participation in core management responsibilities. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 15**.

7.5. Overview of Regional Legal Framework and Cooperation in Marine Environment and Sustainable Development by Associate Professor Nguyen Thi Lan Anh, Vice Dean of the International Law Faculty, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam

31. In her presentation, Dr. Anh outlined three policy levels on protecting the marine environment namely statements, treaties, and ethical principles. She further elaborated the regional frameworks on marine environmental protection and stressed the need to identify ways to implement these frameworks in the region. In addition, she noted the need to strengthen regional cooperation on marine environmental protection, particularly focusing on the need to strengthen scientific research cooperation. In this regard, Dr. Anh recommended that they promote cooperation at the operational level and build a set of rules on procedures and contingency plans as well as a mechanism on information sharing among ARF participants. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 16**.

7.6. Scaling up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia by Mr. Stephen Adrian Ross,

Executive Director, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

32. Mr. Ross provided an outline on the three levels of PEMSEA's Work Programme. On the regional level, PEMSEA targets priority transboundary issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss while at the national level, PEMSEA assist countries in developing and operationalising national ocean policy, harmonising legislations, as well as building and strengthening institutional mechanisms. PEMSEA also work at the local level through cooperation with local governments in improving governance and management of coastal and marine areas and resources. Further, Mr. Ross informed the Meeting on the 2017-2022 Implementation Plan of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) which includes measures on ocean governance and strategic partnerships, knowledge management and capacity building, and sustainable financing of SDS-SEA and Blue Economy investments in the priority areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, and pollution reduction and waste management. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 17**.

33. The Meeting noted that a whole-of-government approach is needed in addressing challenges to marine environment and sustainable development and highlighted the crucial role of academics and researchers in providing policy makers with the necessary information for the effective implementation of policies. In addition, the Meeting noted the difficulties in enforcing regulations and judicial processes on cases related to marine environmental crimes. In connection to this, the Meeting emphasized the need to build confidence and common understanding among law enforcement agencies and noted the role of Safe Oceans Network in supporting governments with legal capacity building to address marine environmental violations.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

8.1. ARF Maritime Security Work Plan

34. While commending the role of the current Work Plan as a guiding document for ARF members, the Meeting discussed the development of the new ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security for the 2018-2020 implementation period and emphasised the need to ensure that initiatives undertaken by the ARF are closely aligned with other maritime

security mechanisms in the region such as the ADMM-Plus and the EAS to avoid duplication of efforts. The Meeting further noted the importance of information sharing and the need to identify gaps in maritime agreements and frameworks in order to develop a robust and effective Work Plan.

35. The Meeting also agreed that Vietnam, Australia and the EU as the incoming co-chairs of the ARF ISM on MS will present the draft Work Plan at the 10th ARF ISM on MS in 2018 before submitting the draft to the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) and the ARF SOM for consideration and subsequently to the 25th ARF in 2018 for adoption. Taking into consideration other ARF Work Plans which will soon expire, the Meeting requested for the issue of timeframe on the development of new Work Plans to be highlighted at the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in Canada in May 2017.

8.2. Outcome of Previous Maritime Security Activities (2016-2017)

36. The Meeting noted the briefing by Cambodia and China on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Emergency Management of Marine Hazards in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Beijing from 6-8 December 2016. The Workshop discussed the strategy and management of marine disaster early warning, marine disaster monitoring and forecasting, climate change and forecast in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Workshop acknowledged that there is a need for greater understanding and synergy on regional and international operations and frameworks. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 18**.

8.3. New Proposals for 2017-2018 Inter-Sessional Year

8.3.1. ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety

37. China briefed the Meeting on its proposal to conduct an ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety. The objective of this workshop is to identify the root causes of ferry accidents, to promote exchange of information and sharing of best practices, and to discuss the establishment of a mechanism of cooperation and coordination to enhance ferry safety. Some countries welcomed the proposal and looked forward to receiving more information in due course. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 19, 20**.

8.3.2. ARF Workshops on National Maritime Single Points of Contacts

38. As a follow-up to the Workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact (SPOC) held in Cebu, the Philippines in April 2016, Malaysia, Australia and the United States proposed to hold a Workshop on National Maritime SPOC in the inter-sessional year 2017-2018. The objective of this follow-up workshop is to further develop National Maritime Single Point of Contacts framework to support coordinated regional maritime domain awareness and maritime security operations. This workshop will also be followed by another workshop to be held in the inter-sessional year 2018-2019. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 21**.

39. The Meeting noted that the plan to hold a Table Top Exercise (TTX) as part of the workshop in 2018 may duplicate efforts done in other maritime-related mechanisms in ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Maritime Security Information Sharing Exercise (AMSISX) and the biennial Maritime Information-Sharing Exercise (MARSIX). In this connection, the Meeting emphasised the need to further discuss and seek ways to avoid such duplications.

8.3.3. ARF Workshop on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security in Southeast Asia

40. The US proposed to hold a workshop promoting regional cooperation to ensure food security in the ASEAN region through sustainable fisheries management. The two-day workshop would be held in the fall of 2017 in collaboration with the Asia Foundation. The US announced that it is seeking the support of an ASEAN Co-Chair. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 22**.

8.3.4. ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Maritime Data Analysis to Combat Transnational Organised Crime

41. The US briefed the Meeting on its proposal to hold a workshop on maritime data analysis tactics and techniques to identify anomalous and potentially illegal activities to better combat transnational organised crime. The workshop would be held in early 2018. The objective of the workshop is to equip participants with concrete analytical tools and

processes that can be applied to maritime data for topics such as vessel tracking analysis and anomalous vessel behaviour, marine industry network analysis, human trafficking and forced labour indicators, as well as marine product traceability data analysis. The US announced that it is soliciting an ASEAN Co-Chair. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 23**.

8.3.5. ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation

42. Vietnam, Australia and the EU proposed to conduct a two-day workshop to enhance regional maritime law enforcement cooperation. The objective of the workshop is to stock-take existing maritime law enforcement cooperation in the region, to share experiences and best practices in implementing international instruments on safety of navigation and managing incidents at sea, to discuss and identify the scope and possible measures to promote maritime law enforcement cooperation among ARF participating countries, and to promote synergies with other regional efforts such as the EAS. The workshop is expected to be held in the fourth quarter of 2017 or the first quarter of 2018 in Vietnam. The concept paper appears as **ANNEX 24**.

43. The Meeting expressed hope for the adoption of the draft ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing at the 24th ARF in Manila in August 2017. In this regard, the Meeting requested for the co-sponsors to provide an update on the draft Statement at the upcoming ARF ISG on CBMs and PD.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

44. Issues arising from the Meeting that need to be followed up are:

No	Key Decisions/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	To discuss and review the draft ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security 2018-2020	10 th ARF ISM on MS, 2018	Co-Chairs of ARF ISM on MS for the 2018-2020 cycle (Vietnam, Australia, and the EU)
2.	To identify the ASEAN co-chair	Prior to the 24 th	ARF Participants

	for the new proposed activities	ARF in 2017	
3.	To develop a stocktaking paper on the initiatives undertaken by various maritime-related mechanisms	10 th ARF ISM on MS, 2018	ARF Unit
4.	To highlight the timeframe and process of updating ARF Work Plans	ARF ISG on CBMs and PD, May 2017	Co-Chairs of ARF ISG on CBMs and PD
5.	To provide an update on the draft ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing	ARF ISG on CBMs and PD, May 2017	Co-sponsors of the ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING REMARKS

45. Mr. David Greene, Director for the Office of Multilateral Affairs, the United States' Department of State, expressed appreciation to the Philippines and Japan for the cooperation and support throughout the 2014-2017 ARF ISM on MS co-chairmanship cycle. Mr. Greene also thanked the Meeting for the thorough and fruitful discussions and commended the progress on the implementation of the current ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security.

46. In his closing remarks, Mr. Robespierre Bolivar, Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, shared four key points arising from the Meeting including the need for a holistic and integrated approach on maritime security, the need to identify nexus points between maritime security and other facets of security, the importance of ensuring linkages of responses to maritime security challenges, and the crucial role of information sharing through MDA. Mr. Bolivar also expressed his thanks to Japan and the United States as co-chairs of the ARF ISM on MS.

47. Mr. Daisuke Namioka, Director of Maritime Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, mentioned that the first common understanding reached through the Meeting is maintaining and developing open and stable seas are indispensable for peace and stability of international community, including ARF member

states. Based on the recognition that there have been phenomena in the Asia-Pacific region which indicates increasing tensions and that there remains various illegal maritime activities, he stated that the second common understanding is, in addressing maritime security challenges, the following points should be highlighted: (1) enhancing international and regional cooperation, (2) cooperation should be based on regional ownership and responsibility including respect towards ASEAN Centrality and unity, (3) compliance with international laws including the UNCLOS and enhancing concrete actions and cooperation based on international laws, and (4) enhancing cooperation among law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities in order to facilitate capacity building on law enforcement and environment conservation capability. Mr. Namioka thanked the Philippines and the US as Co-Chairs and expressed his appreciation to all participants of the 9th ARF ISM on MS for the fruitful discussion and active contribution.

48. The Meeting welcomed Vietnam, Australia and the EU as the Co-Chairs of the ARF ISM on MS for 2018-2020 and noted that the 10th ARF ISM on MS will be held in the first quarter of 2018.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

49. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their effective leadership and fruitful discussion. The Meeting extended their appreciation to the Government of Japan for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to all ARF participants.

