

Concept Paper

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop / Conference on Maritime Security

Background

Maritime security and its related issues are important in the ARF region, due to the importance of seaborne trade and maritime navigation in the region. Maritime security represents potentially useful areas of cooperation amongst ARF participants.

It is noted that a number of activities have been undertaken over the years under the framework of the ARF. At the same time, it is observed that over the years, maritime security has grown to be more complex, more diverse and more unpredictable.

As such, the common needs of the ARF members in addressing maritime security issues should be identified, bearing in mind the differing needs of the developed and developing economies of the ARF region. It would be vital for the ARF region to address maritime security issues including piracy through measures that are comprehensive and that could be carried out cooperatively at a comfortable pace to all members countries. Nevertheless, the ultimate challenge would be to create synergy and symbiosis between these activities, not only to enhance cooperative arrangements within ARF, but also to achieve tangible result.

Proposal

It is proposed that a three – day workshop / conference would be convened to firstly stock take of all the activities relating to maritime security that have been undertaken under the ambit of the ARF. Secondly, discussion on these issues with a view to streamlining activities that could be further undertaken under the ambit of the ARF would be undertaken. The third objectives would be to identify future challenges, the way forward as well as tangible result from ARF activities in maritime security. Tentative date for the convening of this workshop / conference is in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Participants in the workshop would be officials and maritime security experts from ARF countries. The workshop would allow participants to identify challenges of common interests in maritime security by comparing their experiences, practices and legal system of maritime security including counter-piracy and share information on good practices in maritime security. The workshop will also discuss capacity building, technical know-how and the way forward in the area of maritime security.

Subjects covered by the workshop could include: maritime security issues of possible common interests; regulatory aspect of maritime security; role of intelligence in maritime security; maritime domain awareness; sharing of information and international cooperation; best practices and technical know-how; legal cooperative arrangement; future challenges, way forward, and any other subjects.

Malaysia and Japan will co-chair the workshop.

Next steps

Malaysia and Japan would like to invite views and comments on this proposal. Views and comments may be directed to both Dr. Azfar Mohamad Mustafar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia (azfarmm@kln.gov.my) and Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (hiroyuki.kobayashi@mofa.go.jp).
