

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING
Bandar Seri Begawan, 24 May 2013**

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, on 24 May 2013. H.E. Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam, chaired the Meeting.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF participating countries and the EU. The representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2: Business Arrangement

4. The Meeting adopted the Tentative Programme of Activities which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

Agenda Item 3: Report of the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (Brunei)

5. Haji Adi ihram Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud, Acting Director of Defence Policy, ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam / ARF DOD Chairman, delivered a report to the Meeting on the outcome of the ARF DOD held in Brunei Darussalam on 22 May 2013. Under the theme "The Impact of Social Media on Defence and Security", the Dialogue discussed two topics, namely Defence Policy on the Role and Use of Social Media; and Challenges and international Best Practices. In discussing these topics, participants acknowledged the widespread of the use of social media, and highlighted that it has both advantages and disadvantages to the defence and military establishments. The Chairman's Report is at **ANNEX 4**.
6. The Meeting also noted the suggestion to enhance cooperation and synergy between the ARF and ADMM Plus, including through the sharing of information between the two mechanisms.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) (Brunei)

7. Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Azmansham Pengiran Haji Mohamad, Permanent Secretary (Defence Policy and Development), Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam / ASPC Chairman, reported to the Meeting on the outcome of the ASPC held in Brunei Darussalam on 23 May 2013. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international security, especially current security challenges, such as the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, and discussed the importance of promoting people-to-people interaction within the

ARF defence and military establishments. The Meeting also discussed regional and international efforts towards enhancing cyber security. The Chairman's Report is at **ANNEX 5**.

8. The Meeting reiterated the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergy between the ADMM-Plus and the ARF, which was a recurring theme discussed in both the ARF DOD and the 10th ASPC.

Agenda Item 5: Report of the ARF ISG on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy

9. Brunei Darussalam and China briefed the Meeting on the outcomes of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 27-28 November 2012 and in Beijing on 27-28 April 2013. The reports of the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD appear as **ANNEXES 6 and 7**.
10. The Meeting endorsed the new proposals of ARF Track I Activities for inter-sessional year 2013 – 2014 (**ANNEX 8**) and the draft Best Practices for Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event (**ANNEX 9**). In relation to the ARF Track I Activities, the Meeting noted that only those activities which have ASEAN and non-ASEAN Co-Chairs will be submitted to the 20th ARF in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013 for the Ministers' consideration.
11. The Meeting welcomed the ARF Concept Paper on Moving towards Preventive Diplomacy, which appears as **ANNEX 10**. The Meeting suggested that the ARF should draw a preventive diplomacy model that best suits the interest of the region with ASEAN playing a leading role in the process. The Meeting acknowledged that the ARF's efforts towards preventive diplomacy should be conducted in parallel with confidence-building measures. The Meeting underscored the importance of continuing to implement the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy, which was adopted by the Ministers at the 18th ARF in 2011 in line with the 2001 ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the proposal on a preventive diplomacy roundtable, which will co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam, China, New Zealand and the United States. The Meeting also viewed the need for the ARF to give direction to the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) in supporting the ARF's process in moving towards preventive diplomacy.
12. The Meeting welcomed the publication of the 20th ARF Anniversary Commemorative Publication, initiated by Brunei Darussalam and China. The publication will be launched at the 20th ARF in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013.
13. The Meeting welcomed the ongoing efforts by Malaysia, Australia and Russia in developing the draft ARF Work Plan on Cyber Security. The Meeting noted a variety of inputs to the draft Work Plan had been received, including on cyber threats, cyber-attacks and cybercrime. The draft Work Plan will be circulated at the first ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in the inter-sessional year 2013 – 2014. All ARF participants were encouraged to provide inputs to Malaysia, Australia and Russia in this endeavour.

14. The Meeting was of the view that the ARF should continue to carry out confidence-building activities. The Meeting noted the suggestion that the ARF should come up with more innovative ways to develop dialogue and cooperation to enhance mutual trust. The Meeting viewed that the ARF should also further promote cooperation on non-traditional security areas, including disaster relief, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, cyber security and space security.
15. The Meeting emphasised the importance of close cooperation and coordination between the ARF and other existing ASEAN mechanisms on overlapping issues, such as the ADMM-Plus, the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and the Expanded AMF. The Meeting noted the view of some ARF participants on allowing a natural synergy among the mechanisms without creating a new structure for their interactions.
16. The Meeting welcomed Myanmar and the European Union as Co-Chairs of the next ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in the inter-sessional year 2013-2014. The first ARF ISG on CBMs and PD will be hosted in Myanmar at the end of 2013.
17. The Meeting welcomed New Zealand's offer to co-chair the 12th ARF ISM on CTTC in the inter-sessional year 2013 – 2014 and encouraged ASEAN Member States to co-chair the meeting with New Zealand.
18. On exploring new areas of cooperation, the Meeting noted that the ARF should continue its discussions on space and cyber issues. The Meeting took note of Japan's briefing on its priorities in the ARF for the coming years, namely, Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Space Security, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Cyber Security. In this connection Japan offered to convene the 2nd ARF Workshop on Space Security as a follow-up to the previous workshop held in Hoi An on 6-7 December 2012. The workshop will also be co-chaired by the United States and an ASEAN Member State.

Agenda Item 6: Review of CBMs and PD Activities (post ARF ISG on CBMs and PD)

6.1 Outcome of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise, 7-11 May 2013 (Thailand/ROK)

19. The Meeting noted the briefing by Thailand and Republic of Korea on the outcomes of the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx) 2013, which was conducted in Cha-am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand on 7-11 May 2013. The ARF DiREx 2013 included Table-Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and the After Action Review (AAR). The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the ARF DiREx and the Report of the AAR will be circulated to all ARF participants for ad-referendum endorsement prior to submission to the Ministers at the 20th ARF in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 11**.
20. The Meeting suggested that the next ARF DiREx should continue enhancing interoperability among different agencies involved in disaster response. The Meeting also noted the need to develop better synergies across various regional

disaster relief initiatives under the frameworks of ASEAN, ARF, EAS, ADMM Plus, among others. In order to maximise planning and preparation, the Meeting encouraged early identification of the co-chairs of the next ARF DiREx.

6.2 Outcome of the 7th ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs), 9-10 May 2013 (Malaysia/United States)

21. The Meeting noted the briefing on the outcomes of the 7th ARF EEPs held in Honolulu on 9-10 May 2013. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the 7th ARF EEPs appears as **ANNEX 12**.
22. The Meeting suggested that future ARF EEPs meetings should be held in between the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in order to allow the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD to provide guidance for the EEPs' deliberation as well as ensure EEPs recommendation can be fully considered by officials. The Meeting noted a proposal for the Co-Chairs of ARF EEPs to brief the ARF ISG on the recommendations of the EEPs.
23. Timor Leste expressed its gratitude to the participation of several ARF EEPs in the Timor Leste Election Observer Mission and the participation of some ARF government officials on a voluntary, bilateral basis, in the election monitoring in Timor Leste in July 2012.

6.3 Outcome of the 2nd ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540, Bangkok, 14-15 May 2013 (Thailand/United States)

24. The Meeting noted the briefing on the outcomes of the 2nd ARF CBM Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 14-15 May 2013, co-chaired by Thailand and the United States. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Seminar appears as **ANNEX 13**.

Agenda Item 7: Future Direction of the ARF

7.1 Implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement (ASEAN Secretariat)

25. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the progress of implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action (PoA). The briefing highlighted the progress of PoA in the areas of disaster relief, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, peacekeeping operations, preventive diplomacy, defence dialogue, and institutional enhancement of the ARF.
26. The Meeting suggested that future reports on the implementation of the PoA should highlight areas of the PoA which are not yet progressing significantly.
27. In the discussion on the future direction of the ARF, the Meeting viewed that after twenty years the ARF needs to move forward by sustaining its focus on confidence-building measures while developing its preventive diplomacy capacity. The Meeting reiterated the need for the ARF to continue conducting

concrete activities in view of the implementation of the 2011 Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan based on agreed ARF PD principles and continue enhancing the capacity of the ARF participants to support the ARF's preventive diplomacy efforts.

Agenda Item 8: Preparations for the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum

8.1 Draft Provisional Agenda of the 20th ARF

28. The Meeting noted the draft Provisional Agenda of the 20th ARF to be held on 2 July 2013. The draft Provisional Agenda appears as **ANNEX 14**.

8.2 Tentative Programme of Activities of the 20th ARF

29. The Meeting noted the Tentative Programme of Activities of the 20th ARF. The Tentative Programme of Activities appears as **ANNEX 15**.

30. The Meeting noted the suggestion to ensure sufficient allocation of time and placement of the agenda item on the exchange of views on the regional and international security issues in the first order, taking into consideration the importance of the deliberation by the Ministers.

Agenda Item 9: Exchanges of Views on Regional and International Issues

31. The Meeting expressed concerns on the developments in the Korean Peninsula. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner for the enduring peace and stability in the region. Most participants also urged North Korea to abide by its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.

32. The Meeting exchanged views on the South China Sea issue. The Meeting welcomed the successful outcomes of the recent ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting in Beijing on 2 April 2013. The Meeting commended ASEAN Member States and China for their joint efforts in maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea, in particular, their commitment to the Joint Statement of the 10th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and to the full and effective implementation of the DOC. The Meeting stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting noted the ASEAN Statement on the 6 Point Principles on the South China Sea. The Meeting noted the upcoming 8th Meeting of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the implementation of the DOC in Thailand on 29 May 2013, and welcomed the on-going efforts to work towards a code of conduct (COC) in the South China Sea on the basis of consensus.

33. The Meeting noted that cross-border security challenges, including transnational crimes, would likely emerge from enhanced connectivity in the region. In this connection, the Meeting welcomed the Workshop on Enhancing Connectivity through Multilayered Regional Framework: the Role of Dialogue Partners which would be held in Bangkok on 19 July 2013.
34. The Meeting touched on the issue of non-proliferation. Some ARF participants underlined that the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) is an important move to promote peace and security in Southeast Asia and beyond. On that note, the Meeting encouraged all parties involved in the consultations between ASEAN Member States and the five nuclear weapon states to resolve their remaining differences, with a view to signing the Protocol to the Treaty on the SEANWFZ and its related documents, without reservations, as soon as possible. The Meeting noted the E3+3 Talks with Iran last April in which several ARF participants urged Iran to address the international community's concerns over its nuclear capabilities.
35. The Meeting welcomed the positive developments in Myanmar. In light of the solution of recent communal violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar, the Meeting expressed support to the Government of Myanmar for the efforts in finding lasting solution of the problem.
36. The Meeting welcomed the result of the recently concluded national election in Pakistan and expressed hope that the new government will have a greater role to play in maintaining peace and stability in the region.
37. The Meeting touched on several non-traditional security issues, including natural and man-made disasters, terrorism, trafficking of illicit drugs, people smuggling, and human trafficking. The Meeting reiterated the importance of information-sharing and capacity-building to addresses these challenges.
38. The Meeting noted Pakistan's intervention which appears as **ANNEX 16**. The intervention mentioned, among others, the loss of lives in its fight against terrorism and the severe impact this has had on Pakistan's economy and political harmony. In this regard, Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
39. The Meeting expressed condolences to the victims of the Oklahoma City tornado in the United States. The event served as a reminder of the nature of disasters and the critical importance of disaster preparedness and response. On this note, the Meeting encouraged ARF participants to as well as the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination between concerned stakeholders, both civilian and military.
40. Several participants raised deep concerns over the situation in Syria as a threat to regional stability and security.

41. The Meeting noted several ARF participants' concerns on the recent developments in Fiji which could affect convening of credible general elections in Fiji.

Agenda Item 10: Other Matters

42. The Chair reiterated the call for nomination of complete set of Co-Chairs for new proposed ARF activities. The Chair suggested that activities without a complete set of Co-Chairs should be postponed in their submission for adoption of the Ministers at the 20th ARF.

Acknowledgement

43. All ARF participants expressed appreciation to the Government of the Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to them. The Meeting also commended Brunei Darussalam for its effective chairmanship and for the cordial and fruitful discussion.

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