

**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON MARITIME SECURITY**

Manila, 6-7 April 2016

Concept Note

Title: ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments (working title)

Date and Place: 2nd Quarter 2017, Manila

Background

The ASEAN Regional Forum ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) was established by the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting in July 2008. At the 2nd ARF ISM-MS in Auckland in March 2010, ARF delegations agreed to seek a mandate from the Ministers to develop a Work Plan.

At the 17th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi in 2010, the Ministers instructed the ISM on MS to “develop an ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security for consideration during the next inter-sessional year”.

The Work Plan was approved by the Ministers in 2011. Priority areas of this Work Plan are:

- Shared Awareness and Exchange of Information and Best Practices
- Confidence Building Measures based on International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation
- Capacity Building of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region

An updated Work Plan, covering the period 2015-2017, was crafted by the ISM-MS co-chairs, i.e. the Philippines, the United States and Japan. This new Plan identifies Maritime Security and Cooperation, Safety of Navigation and Marine Environment Protection and Sustainable Development as its three focal themes. Each co-chair was assigned to lead in one of the focal themes, with the Philippines being assigned the “Safety of Navigation” theme.

In line with its commitment to shepherd the ARF ISM-MS work on safety of navigation, the Philippines is proposing to convene an ARF Workshop which will explore best practices in implementing and enforcing international safety standards, e.g., the 1974 International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the 1972 International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) and the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES).

The Workshop should be able to:

- Identify best practices on the implementation of SOLAS, COLREGs and other international safety of navigation arrangements
- Review the implementation of these arrangements in the Asia-Pacific setting
- Make concrete recommendations on capacity-building towards the enhancement of a rules-based maritime regime in the Asia-Pacific
- Provide an excellent opportunity for relevant officials of ARF Member States to network, thereby creating and/or enhancing critical lines of communication among those who are directly involved in implementing safety of navigation instruments.

The Philippines will host the Workshop in Manila (TBC) in the first half of 2017. The Philippines is currently coordinating with possible non-ASEAN co-Chairs, as well as relevant international and regional organizations which could deliver expert presentations and assist in the conduct of the Workshop.

Participants

The Workshop participants will be officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Maritime Affairs (or equivalent agency) and Law Enforcement/ Coast Guard of ARF member countries. Experts from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the European Commission, and other relevant international organizations, as well as think-tanks and the academe are also expected to participate as resource persons.