

# **ASEAN Regional Forum**

## **Work Plan**

**for**

## **Maritime Security**

**2015 - 2017**



**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM** 

Promoting peace and security through dialogue and cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

## Table of Contents

Context.....	2
Objective.....	3
Framework.....	4
Pillars and Priority Areas.....	4
Proposals.....	5
Co-Chair Responsibilities.....	5
Relationship with Other Regional/International Efforts .....	6
Implementation Timeline.....	7
<b>Annex A: Pillar Implementation Annex.....</b>	<b>8</b>
#1: Maritime Security.....	9
#2: Safety of Navigation.....	10
#3: Marine Environment.....	11
<b>Annex B: Regional &amp; International Maritime Organizations List...12</b>	

## Context

Maritime security related issues represent some of the most pressing and potentially useful areas for cooperation in the ARF. Due to the importance of shipping and seaborne trade in the ARF region, some forms of cooperation have developed among relevant countries in the region, both bilaterally and through multilateral fora, with a view to combating and preventing maritime security-related threats. However, cooperation in some areas still falls short of that which is necessary.

The ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) was established by the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in July 2008. Based on the discussion in the first ARF ISM-MS in Surabaya in March 2009 which agreed to utilize the outcomes of the previous ARF discussions on maritime security, the second ARF ISM-MS in Auckland in March 2010 agreed to seek a mandate from the 17th ARF Ministerial meeting to develop an ARF Work Plan. As a result of the 17th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Hanoi in July 2010, the Ministers issued the following directive in the Chairman's Statement;

*The Ministers stressed the need to build common perceptions on threats and challenges in maritime security. The Ministers appreciated the work of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) in promoting awareness and concrete cooperation on maritime security. In this regard, the Ministers tasked the ISM-MS to develop an ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security for consideration during the next inter-sessional year.*

The resulting ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security was adopted by the Ministers at the 18th ARF in July 2011. Over the next three years, the work plan guided cooperative activities in support of the ARF's ISM-MS. However, the dynamic nature of the regional security landscape, coupled with recognizable progress made in confidence building, best practice exchanges and practical cooperation under the ARF ISM-MS and other fora, underscored the need for the ARF to review and revise the Maritime Security Work Plan, in order to give a clear orientation to ARF participants in setting up ARF official events in the maritime domain for the years to come.

## **Objective**

A principle objective of this Maritime Security Work Plan is to create a long-term, action-oriented, coordinated and comprehensive plan that:

- establishes Pillars that enable focus and coordination on maritime security challenges, but also allows flexibility to address new and emerging issues that might not have been recognized as a priority at the time of Work Plan approval;
- creates a compilation of shared experiences and lessons learned;
- strengthens existing networks to share and exchange information;
- assists in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional capacity building exercises and training related to maritime security;
- maintains and builds on existing ARF participants' efforts in capacity-building, technical support and information exchange;
- complements and coordinates with existing regional and international agencies, arrangements and initiatives;
- advances ARF Maritime Security efforts in a direction that contributes to the goals of the ARF Vision Statement endorsed by Ministers in July 2009;
- promotes peace, stability and security, maritime security, unimpeded trade, and the freedom of navigation and overflight and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms;
- encourages all ARF participants to recognise the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes and issues in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the importance of the exercise of self-restraint and avoiding actions that could complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability.

A key issue is the extent to which the ARF ISM-MS should balance its work between conventional and non-traditional security issues. Non-traditional security issues are recognized as useful early building blocks which are conducive to the cultivation of mutual trust and consensus in the region. Consistent with the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan and on the basis of consensus, potential measures of Preventive Diplomacy and confidence-building in the maritime domain shall have a place in the Work Plan. The coordination of the timing of events under both Work Plans to prevent activities from running simultaneously to each other is important in order to allow broad ARF participation.

## **Framework**

Consistent with the long term goals of the ARF Vision Statement, including the development of the ARF into an action-oriented mechanism, the Work Plan establishes “Pillars” to specify concrete fields of cooperation in which collective efforts of ARF participants are particularly needed. While there are various important aspects of international maritime security cooperation, establishment of the Pillars will allow ARF to focus its own work in the fields where it can bring the most added value given its geographic focus, participation, and past work, as well as the specific interests of its members. For their relevance, the Pillars can be reviewed, as appropriate, every three years when the co-chairmanship of ISM-MS is renewed.

## **Pillars and Priority Areas**

The concept of maritime security is vast and diverse, spanning conventional security issues such as military threats and state sovereignty concerns to other security issues such as piracy, armed robbery against ships, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illicit drugs trafficking, illicit small arms trafficking, trafficking-in persons, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Other aspects of maritime security issues where cooperation can be enhanced include maritime search and rescue, natural disasters, climate change, and marine environment. As such, to keep this Work Plan effective and actionable, the following are specified as Pillars for 2015-2017:

1. Maritime Security
2. Safety of Navigation
3. Marine Environment

*[See Annex A for additional details on Pillar implementation.]*

To ensure support of these Pillars by ARF participants, this Work Plan designates each co-chair of the ISM-MS a Pillar to co-lead with one other ARF participant. The composition of the co-lead countries should consist of one ASEAN Member State and one non-ASEAN country. This establishes a mechanism to link the Work Plan to the ISM-MS, as co-chairs are intimately involved in their respective Pillar and hence encouraged to synchronize Work Plan Pillars with ISM agenda items.

The “Priority Areas” established in the previous Work Plan, namely 1) Information Sharing; 2) Confidence Building Measures; and 3) Capacity Building, remain critical for cooperation and will continue to guide cooperative efforts under each of the Pillars. These priority areas will be further enhanced to account for preventive diplomacy and eventually conflict resolution, in order to strengthen and advance the ARF process. For that purpose, ARF participants are strongly recommended, in setting up any project as ARF official events in the maritime domain, to respect the fields of cooperation identified as the Pillars and to contribute to developing functional cooperation in line with the Priority Areas of this Work Plan.

### **Proposals**

With a view to visualizing the connection between ARF official events and this Work Plan, in submitting project proposals to acquire the status of an official ARF event, ARF participants are encouraged to indicate, as appropriate, how their project can contribute to the Pillars and Priority Areas of the Work Plan.

Projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular needs and nature of the Priority Areas. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of activities with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

1. ARF-wide or sub-regional training focused on improving law enforcement capacity, including inter-agency coordination;
2. Capacity-building workshops that share information on experiences on maritime security, bringing in government, private sector and other relevant experts, as agreed, to train and/or develop best practices;
3. Multilateral tabletop and/or field exercises that would test the modes of communication (including information-sharing) among ARF and sub-regional participants;
4. Studies on selected aspects of maritime security, in particular focused on improved risk assessment and risk reduction.

### **Co-Chair Responsibilities**

The Co-chairs of the ARF ISM-MS will take a leading role in implementing this Work Plan through, inter-alia, encouraging ARF participants to organize ARF official events in line with Pillars and Priority Areas and helping them to find co-host countries if necessary.

The Co-chairs will also liaise with the ARF Unit on the coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements and update the ARF Unit on Work Plan contributions every 6 months by utilizing Annex A in order to ensure maximum synergies among projects, as appropriate. Along with co-chairing annual ARF ISM-MS and managing the Work Plan Pillars, the Co-chairs are also responsible for maintaining the Work Plan and synchronizing ARF efforts with other regional/sub-regional maritime efforts.

### **Relationship with Other Regional/International Efforts**

There is an obvious need for the Work Plan to be complementary to and coordinated appropriately with relevant regional and global efforts on maritime security. These efforts include various regional and international organizations (see Annex B). The following actions will be taken to ensure activities are complimentary to and in coordination with other regional and international efforts.

- The participation, as appropriate, of regional/international organizations acceptable to all participants in annual ISM-MS meetings.
- The ARF Unit and ISM-MS Co-chairs should also seek participation in relevant meetings of other regional/international efforts.
- Consistent sharing of organization reports, strategies, and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations is encouraged.
- The ARF Unit and ISM-MS Co-Chairs should regularly consult with representatives of other fora both within and outside of their own governments.
- The ARF Unit should publish the ARF MS Work Plan on ARF and ASEAN public websites.
- A priority for maritime security in the ARF is to ensure that it is complementary and synchronized with the various fora/mechanisms in the region- the ASEAN Maritime Forum has reported that there are currently 13 different bodies associated with ASEAN that deal with maritime issues.
- The Work Plan Maintenance and Synchronizing ARF efforts with other regional/sub-regional maritime efforts

**Implementation Timeline:**

**December 2014:** An initial draft of the Work Plan tabled at the ISG in Melaka, Malaysia

**1 April 2015:** The Draft Work Plan will be finalized and agreed to at the ARF ISM on Maritime Security

**8 May 2015:** The Work Plan will be tabled at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD

**June 2015:** The Work Plan will be tabled at the ARF SOM

**August 2015:** The Work Plan will be adopted by the Ministers at the ARF

*The Annexes of this Work Plan will be reviewed and updated annually.*

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**Annex A**  
**Pillar Implementation**

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## **Pillar #1: Maritime Security**

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### **Scope:**

This Pillar should explore how ARF can address maritime security issues through the review of case studies and sharing of best practices, promoting compliance and adherence to relevant international legal instruments and regional arrangements, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This Pillar should also forge cooperation in addressing other maritime security issues and transnational maritime crimes such as piracy, armed robbery against ships, illegal people, drugs and weapons trafficking/smuggling, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing through concrete and practical activities such as maritime law enforcement cooperation in accordance with national and international laws,

Information Sharing, Confidence Building Measures, and Capacity Building should guide cooperative efforts as priority areas under this Pillar.

**Co-Chairs:** Japan and Indonesia

### **Proposed Projects:**

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling, proposed by New Zealand
2. ARF Workshop on Combatting IUU Fishing by Indonesia
3. ARF Seminar on Regional Confidence Building and the Law of the Sea by Japan
4. ARF Workshop on Maritime Crisis Management by China

### **Implemented Projects:**

- ARF Seminar on Sea Lines of Communications (SLOC) Security
  - Co-chaired by China and Indonesia
  - 7-9 December 2014 in Beijing, China
- ARF Seminar on Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia
  - Co-chaired by Japan, India, Malaysia, and the United States

- o 3-4 March 2015 in Tokyo Japan

**Past ARF Activities:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Seminar on UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
  - o Co-Chaired by Australia and the Philippines
  - o 28-29 May 2014 in Manila, Philippines
- 1<sup>st</sup> ARF Workshop on Ship Profiling
  - o Co-Chaired by Malaysia and New Zealand
  - o 15-16 April 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1<sup>st</sup> ARF Seminar on UNCLOS
  - o Co-Chaired by Australia and the Philippines
  - o 8-9 March 2011 in Manila, Philippines
- *Include applicable agenda topics from previous ISM-MS meetings*

## **Pillar #2: Safety of Navigation**

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**Scope:** This Pillar should promote close cooperation towards enhancing the safety of navigation, including the implementation of standards and best practices regarding topics such as enforcement of relevant standards, maritime search and rescue, safety of navigation, 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1972 International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), and the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES).

Information Sharing, Confidence Building Measures, and Capacity Building should guide cooperative efforts as priority areas under this Pillar.

**Co-Chairs:** The Philippines and [Non-ASEAN country]

### **Proposed Projects:**

1. ARF Workshop on Maritime Safety and Environment Protection by China

### **Implemented Projects:**

### **Past ARF Activities:**

- ARF Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation on Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue
  - o 21st ARF, Nay Pyi Taw, 9 August 2014

## **Pillar #3 Marine Environment**

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**Scope:** Recognizing that marine ecosystems and resources are vital to food security, human health, and economic well-being in the Asia-Pacific region and that efforts in the ARF to address marine environmental issues have proven to be effective in contributing to positive habits of maritime security cooperation, potential topics under this Pillar include cooperation and best practices in marine oil spill response, management and conservation of fisheries resources, marine pollution, ocean acidification, coral harvesting, and coastal management.

Information Sharing, Confidence Building Measures, and Capacity Building should guide cooperative efforts as priority areas under this Pillar.

**Co-Chair:** United States and [ASEAN Member State]

### **Proposed Projects:**

1. ARF Workshop on Emergency Management of Offshore Oil Spills by China
2. ARF Workshop on Increasing Regional Security by Improving Fisheries Management by the United States
3. ARF Workshop on Maritime Safety and Environment Protection by China
4. ARF Ministerial Statement on Strengthening Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation

### **Past ARF Work:**

- ARF Statement on Cooperation in Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration from Marine Oil Spill Incidents
  - 21st ARF, Nay Pyi Taw, 9 August 2014
- ARF Workshop on *Marine Environmental Protection Cooperation: Preparedness and Response to Pollution Incidents Involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances*
  - Co-chaired by Brunei, China, Japan and United States
  - 4-5 March 2014 in Honolulu Hawaii
- ARF Seminar on *Regional Cooperation on Offshore Oil Spill*

- o Co-chaired by Brunei, China, Singapore and the United States
- o 27-28 March 2014 in Qingdao, China
- 6th ARF ISM on MS, 22-23 May 2014, Bali, Indonesia
  - o Briefings conducted on managing fisheries resources
- 5<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on MS, 18-19 April 2013, Seoul, Republic of Korea
  - o “Protection of Marine Environment” featured as a main topic
- ARF Concept Paper, adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF, 1 August 1995, Brunei Darussalam
  - o Annex B: Confidence-Building Measures
    - V. Maritime Security Cooperation – highlights “Sea Level/Climate Monitoring System,” Conventions on the Marine Environment” (Dumping of Toxic Wastes and Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution), and “Explore the idea of joint marine scientific research”

## **ANNEX B**

# **List of Regional and International Maritime Organizations**

**Regional Organizations/Fora**

1. ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)
2. Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)
3. ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)
4. ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Maritime Security
5. ASEAN Ministers' Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)
6. ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)
7. ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)
8. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi)
9. ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME)
10. Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies (HACGAM)
11. Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)
12. North Pacific Coast Guard Forum
13. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
14. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
15. Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
16. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC)

**International Organizations**

1. International Maritime Organization
2. International Maritime Bureau
3. Food and Agriculture Organization
4. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
5. Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)
6. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
7. United Nation Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)
8. Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOMFC)
9. East Asia Hydrographic Commission
10. IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
11. Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (Jakarta)