

DRAFT Concept Paper
ARF Seminar on the Regional Confidence Building and Law of the Sea
To be held in inter-sessional period 2015-2016

Proposal

Recent developments on the maritime security situation in the region clearly reveal the importance of enhancing further confidence building efforts in the maritime field through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). In this context, it will be beneficial for all ARF members to go back to the ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy, which reminds us that the codes or norms of behavior enhance predictability and support cooperative actions; and as such, they can enhance trust and confidence among states in the region. This concept is naturally applied to the maritime domain.

Based on this idea, Japan proposes a seminar, to be held in Japan in the next inter-sessional period, to explore codes and norms of behavior conducive to the regional confidence building in the maritime field to be extracted from and built upon the wisdom and the practical experiences accumulated through long history of humankind as enshrined in the law of the sea today.

Japan believes that this seminar will serve as a valuable opportunity for high level officials from ARF members and experts from academia to review relevant provisions of international law, *inter alia* UNCLOS Articles 74, 83 and 123, legal precedents and state practice, and to exchange their views to extract positive suggestions therefrom for promoting maritime cooperation and confidence building.

Co-Chair

Japan is seeking an ASEAN co-chair(s) and is also open to additional non-ASEAN ARF member(s) joining as co-chair.

Administrative arrangements

Japan most welcomes participation of high level officials dealing with policy planning, maritime affairs, international law and/or other relevant policy field as well as eminent persons having expertise in the theme of this seminar. International travel, accommodations and other related costs necessary for participation will be borne in principle by the participants.

Please direct comments or questions on this proposal to:

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