

**6th ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON
MARITIME SECURITY, BALI, 22-23 MAY 2014**

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA ON MARITIME SECURITY UNDER AGENDA
ITEM 10 – COUNTRY STATEMENTS**

Thank you Mr Co-Chair for giving me the floor.

2. We would also like to participate and contribute in the discussion under Agenda Item 10.

Mr Co-Chair,

3. Malaysia continues to undertake efforts to secure the safety and security of its maritime zones in order to safeguard our national interests as well as to ensure safe passage for international shipping.

4. We would like to mention that incidences of armed robbery at sea against merchant shipping in the Straits of Malacca and off the coast of Sabah have been minimized to only one (1) incident in 2013 and no reported incident from January to April 2014. There are some minor and unreported incidents usually related to pilferage and petty thefts involving tug boats and barges at ports. Malaysia continues to conduct constant surveillance, deterrence operations and enforcement actions through the concerted efforts of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), the Royal Malaysian Navy, the Royal Malaysian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Police. In addition to physical presence, Malaysia has also incorporated electronic monitoring capabilities to enable better surveillances of maritime zones particularly in the Malacca Straits. Two surveillance systems are in place – the Sea Surveillance System operated by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and the Automatic Identification System operated by the Marine Department. With the assistance and support from user states, we are constantly upgrading these facilities.

Mr Co-Chair,

6. Cooperation with neighbouring states have proven to be effective in Malaysia's efforts to keep the Straits of Malacca safe for shipping. Towards this, Malaysia continues to work closely with Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore under the Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrols programme or MSP. The MSP has two components – the Malacca Straits Sea Patrol and the Eyes-in-the-Sky (EiS) air patrols. This programme provides comprehensive aerial and maritime surveillance to ensure security in the Straits of Malacca.

7. Malaysia's efforts to keep its waters secure are not without challenges. We have to monitor and patrol a long coastline of some 4492 km and a porous maritime border especially in parts of Sabah where recent incidences of kidnapping took place. Malaysia needs to constantly increase its capacity in maritime enforcement, to train qualified personnel and invest in state-of-the-art assets with limited financial resources. Malaysia welcomes cooperation in capacity building as well as in the exchange and sharing of intelligence and information that could prevent, combat or counter criminal activities at sea such as armed robbery against ships, smuggling, kidnappings and hijacking. But on balance, Malaysia is confident that these challenges could be overcome through closer cooperation and dialogue with international partners. In this aspect, we found that participation in international and regional fora on maritime security such as this to be invaluable.

Mr Co-Chair,

8. Malaysia has recently organised seminars/workshop and will continue to host events related to Maritime Security as well as environmental protection.

Some of the events which Malaysia have recently hosted and will be hosting includes the following:

- i) Workshop on the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), 6-8 November 2013;
- ii) Workshop on the Capacity Building on the Aids to Navigation in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Port Kelang, 24 February – 6 Mac 2014;
- iii) Workshop on the Development of Joint HNS Standard Operating Procedures and Establishment of HNS Response Centres in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, Johor Bahru, 24-26 June 2014;

- iv) The 6th Western Pacific Naval Symposium for Senior Enlisted Leaders Working Group to be hosted by the Royal Malaysian Navy, Kuala Lumpur, 18 – 22 August 2014;
- v) Forums and meetings under the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environment Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (Cooperative Mechanism), Langkawi, 20 – 22 September 2014.
- vi) The 13th Meeting on ASEAN-Japan Port Security Expert , Kuala Lumpur, 2 – 5 October 2015.

Mr Co-Chair,

9. Considering the importance of the South China Sea, Malaysia believes it is crucial that peace, stability, security, freedom of navigation in and over-flight over the South China Sea be maintained. We should not allow incidences in the region to escalate and become flashpoints as it could disrupt international shipping and international trade. Issues and disputes in relation to the South China Sea should be resolved by peaceful means through peaceful dialogues without resorting to threat or the use of force and according to the universally recognised principles of international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea (UNCLOS). Parties should exercise restraint and abide by the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). These principles have been reiterated by the Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers of ASEAN in the recently concluded ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 10 – 11 May 2014. The formal negotiations towards the Code of Conduct had already stated in March 2014, and the ASEAN Heads of State and Government in Nay Pyi Taw had emphasized the need for expeditions work towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. This is not an easy process, but with the positive cooperative spirit of all parties concerned, the process has started with two more meetings on the Code of Conduct scheduled for this year.

10. Malaysia believes that continued peace, stability and security in the South China Sea would, in the end, benefit all parties.
