

**REPORT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE
YANGON, MYANMAR, 7 JUNE 2014**

1. The ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was held in Yangon, Myanmar, on 7 June 2014. The Dialogue was chaired by Major General Tin Maung Win, the Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces Training, Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training, Myanmar Armed Forces, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Representatives from the Ministry of Defence of all ARF participants except Bangladesh, Canada, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste attended the Dialogue. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were also present. The List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS

2. In his opening remarks, Major General Tin Maung Win welcomed the delegates to the Dialogue and expressed appreciation to all ARF participants for the support extended to Myanmar as the Chair of the ARF DOD. He noted the inimitable role of the armed forces in the traditional and non-traditional security challenges and human security. He explained the rationale of the two topics selected for the Dialogue. He also recalled the recommendation of the ARF DOD in Brussels on 8 April 2014 on the invitation for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to brief the ARF DOD. He informed the Dialogue that Myanmar had extended invitation to the AHA Centre and regretted that the AHA Centre was not able to send representatives to the ARF DOD. His remarks appear as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. The European Union proposed a new agenda item on the outcomes of the 16th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) under Agenda Item 5 on Voluntary Briefing. The Dialogue adopted the Provisional Agenda which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: THE ROLE OF ARMED FORCES IN NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

4. The Dialogue highlighted the roles of the armed forces in addressing diverse non-traditional security threats facing the region including terrorism, maritime security, piracy, cyber security, trafficking of illicit drugs, arms smuggling, environmental security, disaster relief, armed robbery, energy security, unexploded remnants of war, peacekeeping, and search and rescue. The Dialogue viewed that the ARF plays a valuable role in addressing these

challenges, particularly in fostering civil-military cooperation by providing the venue for defence and civilian agencies to interact with one another.

5. The Dialogue observed that the armed forces could play both leading and supporting roles in addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The Dialogue underlined that the whole-of-government approach and coordinated regional response are key to the success of the ongoing efforts to tackle such challenges. At the same time, the Dialogue acknowledged that the armed forces are often tasked to conduct development activities as part of nation building efforts. In several ARF participants countries, such roles and involvement of the armed forces in non-traditional security issues have been supported by national legislations.

6. The Dialogue identified the special characteristics of the armed forces in addressing non-traditional security challenges, such as readily available assets and personnel for quick deployment and the highly adaptable, self-sustaining and self-directing nature of military units which enable them to conduct coordinated relief operations in times of emergency. Some participants viewed that the modernisation of the armed forces as well as improving the military's capabilities and resources are critical for the military to be able to address the emerging non-traditional security threats as well as to respond to regional emergencies.

7. The Dialogue recognised that the armed forces have the skills and knowledge to enhance the regional capabilities in addressing non-traditional security threats. The Dialogue underscored the need to develop the region's capacity to counter both traditional and non-traditional security threats in the region and beyond. In this respect, military personnel can be utilised to provide education and training.

8. The Dialogue acknowledged that communication between the armed forces in the region is essential in reducing tensions. In this regard, the Dialogue welcomed the initiative of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in establishing a direct communications link between ASEAN militaries. The Dialogue also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Military Medicine Coordination Centre (AMMCC) in Thailand later this year which will, among others, support the work of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Military Medicine (EWG on MM).

9. The Dialogue took note of the practical exercises conducted under the ARF and the ADMM-Plus' frameworks in which the armed forces have been involved. The Dialogue took note the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise that has been held three times since 2009, the ADMM-Plus Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief/Military Medicine Exercise in Brunei Darussalam on 17-20 June 2013, the ADMM-Plus Counter-Terrorism Exercise (CTX) in Sentul, Indonesia, on 9-13 September 2014, and the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX) in Jarvis Bay, Australia on 30 September – 1 October 2013.

10. Australia, China, United States, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and Myanmar presented their views on this topic. The presentations appear as **ANNEXES 4-10**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: THE ROLE OF MILITARY IN HUMAN SECURITY

11. The Dialogue discussed the scope, perspectives and approaches to human security. Human security is the result of the conceptual shift from a state-centred approach to security to a people-centred approach. Human security places people at the centre of international relations and encompasses education and health, democracy and human rights, protection against environmental degradation, and the proliferation of deadly weapons. The Dialogue viewed that in the current environment, the security of the people impacts the security of the state and vice versa.

12. The Dialogue was of the view that the international community has the responsibility to protect human security through appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means including through timely action through the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In this regard, the military plays a crucial role in providing protection from actions that endanger human security, particularly in the event of armed conflict or humanitarian crises. The potential roles for the military in protecting civilians include protection as an obligation within the conduct of war, protection as a mission in the prevention of mass killings, protection as a task within United Nations-mandated peace operations, protection as providing area security for humanitarian action, protection through operational design, and protection as the use of traditional force. Some participants outlined the guiding principles for an effective humanitarian intervention mission.

13. In the context of civil-military relations, the military is a helping agent of the state and present the part of a state's instruments. The Dialogue viewed that closer links between the military and civil society should be promoted at different levels to create stronger cooperation in times of humanitarian crises.

14. The Dialogue agreed that addressing human security issues necessitates a collective and coordinated approach. On this note, the Dialogue acknowledged ASEAN's defence cooperation in promoting human security through the ADMM and ADMM-Plus mechanisms.

15. Myanmar, New Zealand, and Viet Nam presented their views on this topic. The presentations appear as **ANNEXES 11-13**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: VOLUNTARY BRIEFING

5.1. 3rd Moscow Conference on Security, presentation by Russian Federation

16. The Dialogue noted the briefing by Russia on the outcomes of the 3rd Moscow Conference on International Security which was held in Moscow in May 2014. The conference has been hosted by the Russian Ministry of Defence since 2012 and has provided invitees with a venue to discuss regional security issues of common concern. Topics discussed included anti-missile defence, the phenomena of the colour revolutions in Europe, and the security situation in Afghanistan. The 2014 Conference was attended by over three-hundred participants from forty countries and presided by the United Nations Secretary-General, H. E. Ban Ki-Moon. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 14**.

5.2. Debriefing on the 16th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

17. The Dialogue noted the briefing by the European Union on the outcomes of the 16th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) in New York on 4 May 2014. Although there have been no attacks against merchant vessels in the past two years, a number of seafarers continue to be held hostage by pirate groups. The CGPCS is currently focusing on capacity building and strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders to reduce the economic incentives for piracy. The briefing highlighted that the European Union presidency of the CGPCS has placed emphasis on outreach and corporate communication in its cooperation on counter-piracy. The briefing appears as **ANNEX 15**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS

18. No other matter was discussed under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING REMARKS

19. In his closing remarks, Major General Tin Maung Win summarised the outcomes of the discussion. He recalled that the ARF participants have highlighted the contributions of their respective armed forces to the promotion of regional security, in particular on the areas of disaster relief, counter-terrorism, maritime security, peacekeeping operations. Participants also shared valuable experience and perspectives in collaborating towards the promotion of human security. He also expressed his wish that the ARF participants continue the cooperation on defence and security in view of realising the ASEAN Community 2015. The closing remarks appear as **ANNEX 16**.

20. The Dialogue expressed appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to all ARF participants.