

As of 3 January 2014

**THE 8TH MEETING OF THE
ARF EXPERTS AND EMINENT PERSONS (ARF EEPs)**

17 & 18 February 2014
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Provisional Agenda

- 1. Co-Chair Welcoming Remarks**
- 2. Opening Remarks**
- 3. Session 1**

Taking Stock of the ARF PD Work Plan

Preventive Diplomacy (PD) has been an integral component of the ASEAN Regional Forum's remit since its inception in 1994. However, moving PD from paper to practice has proved challenging, as the Work Plan was only approved in 2011. The Work Plan is an important instrument to advance PD as it sets the parameters and outlines the focus of PD. This session aims to review the implementation of the Work Plan by highlighting elements and programmes that have been successful, as well as examining areas that have not been adequately addressed.

- 4. Session 2**

Prospects for Enhancing the ARF PD Work Plan

The ARF PD Work Plan lists 11 priority areas for functional cooperation to get PD off the ground. Mindful that there may be other modalities to implement PD, this session invites participants to look beyond the Work Plan and suggest new approaches and strategies. What are the gaps in the existing Work Plan? What new areas of PD and functional cooperation could be considered for inclusion in the Work Plan?

5. Session 3

Opportunities and Challenges for Implementing Preventive Diplomacy in Asia Pacific

Notwithstanding the fact that there is a need for PD in the region, its implementation remains frustratingly slow. The progression from Stage 1 (CBM) to Stage 2 (PD) has been hampered by various considerations and interests. This session examines the “points of resistance” and concerns toward the implementation of PD. It also aims to strategise how PD could obtain more buy-in from stakeholders.

6. Session 4

Putting PD into Practice: Explore Practical Applications and Modalities

While PD is often recognised as an important and useful approach in managing and containing conflicts, in reality, it is rarely used as an ARF initiative. This session attempts to simulate the application of PD in three real-life regional issues to gain an insight into the practical considerations of applying PD. The three case studies are the South China Sea, East China Sea and the Korean Peninsula issues/disputes. Organised into three break-out sessions, each discussion group will analyse how preventive diplomacy could be applied in managing and reducing tensions in their assigned case studies.

7. Session 5

Reviewing the Roles and Terms of Reference of the EEPs

The EEPs serves as the brain trust for the ARF. More specifically, the Guidelines for the Operation of the ARF EEPs lists the role of the EEPs as “providing non-binding and professional views and policy recommendations” and to serve as resource persons. This session examines if it is desirable and feasible to expand the functions of the EEPs. What would the expanded functions look like? How do we make the EEPs more proactive and integrated into the ARF structure on a sustainable and institutionalised basis? Should the EEPs be formalised into an institutionalised entity with its own sources of funding?

8. Session 6

Summary of the Co-Chairs Report

The focus of the concluding session is two-fold. Firstly, it outlines the Co-Chairs' summation of the meeting for discussion and endorsement by the participants. Secondly, it will present the statement of recommendations for the meeting's consideration.