

ANNEX 5: Closing Remarks by Korea National Defense University President, LTG. Park, Sam Duck

My fellow Presidents of National Defense Universities, and distinguished participants! Time has flined, and it is already time to close the 18th ARF-HDUCIM.

First, as the representative of the hosting nation and President of Korea National Defense University, I am most delighted to say that the 18th ARF-HDUCIM was successful. Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude to all our distinguished participants from around the world, for your enthusiasm in academic discussions and dialogue over the last two days.

During the 18th ARF-HDUCIM, we have generated in-depth discussions through various presentations and dialogue on the topic of 'Military cooperation for the promotion of trust and peace in the Asian-Pacific region and the role of National Defense Universities'.

Moreover, through mutual group sessions and meetings among participating nations, we have discussed each nation's areas of interest, and I believe that we have exchanged friendships and achieved a deeper understanding of one another.

Although it is difficult to summarize in one sentence each country's presentations from this meeting, the 18th ARF HDUCIM highlighted the fact there is a need for cooperation and exchange among various defense universities. Also some members have emphasized the importance of cooperation with other organizations and

the Defense University's meeting.

I have absolutely no doubt the Defense University's meeting has improved every year, and there will be further improvement in the coming years. In order to expedite this improvement, as a co-chair of this year's meeting, I have three recommendations.

First, sufficient understanding of participant countries' policy direction is needed as each nation's condition and stance differ.

Secondly, if the suggestions made by each member serves its national interest, we should put effort to actively apply the recommendation. In the course of doing so, if it is necessary, expanding individual exchange is also a feasible method.

Finally, as we just had our discussions in Session 3, in order for the Defense University's meeting to achieve sustainability and institutionalization, I expect other comments and feedbacks including those of Brunei, China, and Korea to be consolidated at the 19th ARF held in Myanmar resulting in a more pragmatic cooperative framework is necessary.

There were different methods presented in this meeting regarding further institutionalization of the Defense University's meeting. If we could accomplish an unanimous agreement on the specifics of this method at the next meeting in Myanmar, this would further enhance the quality and level of our meeting.

Once again, I convey my appreciation to each nation's top delegates for their great ideas at this meeting, and this meeting, I believe, has greatly contributed to fortifying the basis of stability in the Asian-Pacific region and world peace, as well as to the promotion of mutual understanding and trust among member state.

The official meeting ends today with the farewell banquet that shall be hosted by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea. Though we part in firm belief of the day we meet again, I trust that the contents of our discussion here shall become the vital roots of peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region.

Culture tours are planned for tomorrow. Through your visit to Panmunjeom, you may see for yourself the reality of Korea's national security. Also, during your visit to KINTEX you may witness Korea's state of the art defense industry and Gyeongbokgung Palace will show you the beauty of our tradition.

Everyone, thank you for your participation. My best regards to the successful 19th ARF-HDUCIM. Thank you.

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