

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF
THE NINTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
HEADS OF DEFENCE UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/INSTITUTIONS
MEETING**

10-13 October 2005, Ha Noi, Vietnam

1. As endorsed by the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 29 July 2005, Viet Nam hosted the Ninth Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (HDUCIM) in Ha Noi from 10-13 October 2005.
2. The Meeting was organized by the National Defence Academy of Viet Nam and was chaired by Colonel General Nguyen The Tri, Governor of the National Defence Academy of Viet Nam.
3. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, DPR Korea, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Viet Nam, and the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.
4. In his Welcoming Speech, H.E. General Pham Van Tra, Minister of National Defence of Viet Nam, welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He highlighted the importance of the Meeting and hoped that discussions and exchanges of views in the Meeting would bring out new proposals and initiatives to further enhance confidence building process and help strengthen peace, security and stability in the region and the world. He recalled some major achievements gained by the ARF since its inception and stressed that the ARF participants should further enhance dialogue and cooperation. He reaffirmed Vietnam's commitment and active contributions to the ARF process.
5. Colonel General Nguyen The Tri, Governor of the National Defence Academy of Viet Nam (NDA) in his Opening Remark, expressed appreciation for the attendance of many ARF participants to the 9th HDUCIM and gave a briefing on the mission and activities of the NDA. He outlined the agenda of the Meeting and hoped that the participants

would have fruitful discussions and contribute to enhancing cooperation among the ARF defence and military institutions and establishments.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

7. The Meeting was held in Plenary. During the course of the Meeting, a field trip was made to the Army Officers School No. 1 at Son Tay, Ha Tay Province. The delegates were briefed on the activities of the School in discharging its duties and shown a live firing demonstration. The delegates also paid a visit to the National Defence Academy of Vietnam and the Temple of Literature in Hanoi. The Programme of Activities appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATIONS ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REGION, THE TREND TO PEACE, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA-PACIFIC, THE PERSPECTIVE AND COOPERATION IN THE FIRST DECADES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

8. The Meeting noted that peace and cooperation were the mainstream trend in the region. The Meeting also noted that the security environment had been changing and evolving with the rise of non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, trans-national crime, proliferation of WMD, natural disasters, infectious diseases and others. The Meeting agreed that international cooperation was an imperative to effectively respond to these challenges.

9. The Meeting noted that greater economic interdependence and integration were giving countries shared stakes in the promotion of peace, stability and cooperation.

10. The Meeting recognized that the state of relations among the major powers in the region was a critical factor in the maintenance of regional peace, stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. The Meeting encouraged the major powers to continue their constructive and cooperative relations.

11. The Meeting recognized the importance of the ARF in providing a regional vehicle for the promotion of security dialogue and cooperation in

the Asia Pacific region. Views were expressed that a good foundation had been laid for multilateral security dialogue and cooperation to develop in the coming years.

12. Given new security environment, the participants emphasized in comprehensive approach and collective security cooperation. They agreed that accompanied by enhanced coordination capabilities, collective security cooperation would lead to less competition and more cooperation in the region.

13. The following countries made presentations on the theme “The security situation in the region, the trend to peace, stability and development in Asia-Pacific, and perspective and cooperation in the first decades of the 21st century”: Canada, China, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Russia and Viet Nam. The country presentations appear as **ANNEX 4**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATIONS ON THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN HANDLING NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY AND OVERCOMING NATURAL DISASTERS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

14. The Meeting expressed condolences to the people of India and Pakistan which were affected by the recent earthquake in South Asia and expressed their resolve to accelerate international cooperation in mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

15. The Meeting exchanged views on the experience and important role of the armed forces in addressing non-traditional security issues, including natural disasters. The Meeting agreed that the armed forces had the manpower, good organization, appropriate training, equipment and logistics and were, therefore, in a unique position to respond to both traditional and non-traditional challenges. The Meeting also agreed on the need to integrate not only military organisations but also all national line agencies in order to respond to new threats.

16. The Meeting noted that the armed forces provided valuable assistance to and support for civil authorities and operated as part of an inter-agency task force in handling non-traditional threats including natural disasters and infectious diseases, and at the same time made active contributions to promote common regional and international interests. Many countries cited the exemplary experience of mobilizing

the various armed forces in delivering relief operations to countries affected by the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean in December 2004.

17. The Meeting identified various obstacles and challenges faced by the armed forces while carrying out relief work. In that connection, the participants agreed on the importance of civil-military coordination. The participants also noted that cooperation between regional armed forces and defence establishments helped boost collective efforts in addressing non-traditional security threats.

18. The following countries made presentations on the theme “The role of the armed forces in handling non-traditional security and overcoming natural disasters and infectious diseases”: Cambodia, EU, India, Lao PDR, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The country presentations appear as **ANNEX 5**.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PRESENTATIONS ON THE RELATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF COOPERATION AMONG ARF DEFENCE UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/INSTITUTIONS

19. The participants were encouraged by the improving level of confidence, engagement and cooperation among ARF defence and military educational institutions. The participants agreed on the need to further build on formal or informal links already existed among themselves. In that regard, they agreed to continue dialogue and interaction to increase cooperation and networking among the defence institutions through various forms of cooperation such as exchange of information, including on-line sharing, sharing of experience, staff exchanges, seminars/symposiums, human resource development, capacity building, curriculum sharing, exchange of publications and establishment of working groups for different subjects if necessary.

20. As a result of the 8th HDUCIM’s suggestion, the Meeting was briefed on various memoranda of understanding between defence and military education institutions for cooperation. The Meeting agreed to continue such agreed initiatives with a view to deepening cooperation on defence and military education among ARF participants.

21. Views were expressed that, under the evolving and changing security environment, there was a need to review certain security concepts and approach in order to make them more relevant and appropriate in this new situation. The participants believed that the defence educational institutions, working together, should take the lead

in this endeavour. They agreed on the important role of these institutions in promoting open discussion on issues that might be sensitive or where consensus were yet to be reached.

22. The Meeting agreed that some concrete actions should be done on the recommendation of cooperation among ARF defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions. The Meeting further agreed that before the succeeding Meeting is held, the host country and the ARF Unit prepare a report on the progress of the previous year.

23. The Meeting noted that the Internet-based ARFNet had created a virtual network towards promoting cooperation among ARF defence institutions and agreed to support its further development. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat for maintaining the site at <http://www.aseanregionalforum.org>.

24. The following countries made presentations on the theme “The relations and achievements of cooperation among ARF national defence universities/colleges/institutions”: Australia, Pakistan, United States of America and Vietnam. The country presentations appear as **ANNEX 6**.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

25. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to Malaysia as the host of the 10th HDUCIM in Malaysia in 2006.

The Meeting also noted that Australia, USA and New Zealand are interested in hosting future meetings of HDUCIM.

26. The Meeting noted the Terms of Reference (TOR) for HDUCIM which had been compiled by Singapore based on inputs and feedback from a number of ARF participants. The Meeting agreed to request participants to continue providing their comments and inputs to Malaysia for preparing a consolidated draft which would be finalised and adopted at the 10th HDUCIM in Malaysia in 2006. The TOR appears as **ANNEX 7**.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

27. The Meeting expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Viet Nam, the Ministry of National Defence and the National Defence Academy of Viet Nam for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants.