**CO-CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
1ST ARF PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS' MEETING,
Port Dickson, Malaysia.
7-9 March 2007**

1. The 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum's Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting was held in Port Dickson, Malaysia on 7-9 March 2007 in order to establish a regional network of peacekeeping experts so as to contribute towards building confidence and inter-operability among regional peacekeepers and to enhance regional peacekeeping capacity. The Meeting was co-chaired by Colonel Naharuddin Shaari, Commandant of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre and Group Captain Keith Brackenbury from Australia. The Meeting was attended by 24 ARF participating countries and the ASEAN Secretariat.

2. Maj. Gen. Dato' Allatif Md Noor, the Asst. Chief of Staff, Defence Planning of the Malaysian Armed Forces HQ delivered his Welcoming Remarks and noted that today's peacekeeping missions has become increasingly multi-dimensional and no longer military operations per se. Missions now require the military to work closely with civilian experts in areas such as human rights, elections, public security, repatriation, society and the economy. In his Welcoming Remarks, Brig. David McKaskill, Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre, stressed the need to discuss and agree upon a stable platform to take this inaugural meeting forward.

3. The Meeting was organized into six sessions – Overview of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre; National Peace Operations Training Briefs; UN Projects; Insights into Peacekeeping Operations; Presentation by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and the Development of an Almanac of Peace Operations Training Activities.

Overview of the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre – Its History, Objective, Courses and Programmes

4. The Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC) aims to prepare personnel of the Armed Forces, police and civil departments including NGOs for operational duties in peacekeeping missions. Its objectives include promoting peacekeeping knowledge for candidates selected for UN Peacekeeping and Peace support Operations (PKO/PSO) and to provide a working knowledge and understanding of observer duties, and the operational, logistics and administrative duties of UN PSO.

National Peacekeeping Operations Training Briefs

5. All ARF participants testified their commitment to UN peacekeeping operations towards maintaining international peace and security.

6. The country presentations focused on their respective national peacekeeping operations training including the functions of their peacekeeping centres/institutes and the seminars/courses/training offered including military observer courses.

Several of the presenters stressed the importance of standardization of peacekeeping doctrine, modules and training carried out by the different countries.

7. The country presentations also focused on their past and present engagements and experiences in international peacekeeping missions, the basic constitutional and legal policies for their engagement in the peacekeeping operations and their commitments to the UN Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS).

8. Some of the presentations also highlighted the challenges experienced by their peacekeeping missions including the need to establish trust between the conflicting parties, to address disagreements on the peace agreement after it has been adopted, difficulties in sustaining a ceasefire and issues on media management. The lessons learnt included the importance of training for peacekeepers on negotiation skills and investigation, knowledge on local customs and culture and the importance of impartiality. The need to ensure sustainability of the missions was stressed upon.

9. Modern peacekeeping operations are changing rapidly with increasing demands far in excess of traditional peacekeeping operations. There are more peacekeeping missions in the world today with a variety of growing complexities such as bigger operations and increased cost, greater diversity in the skills required and the presence of national caveats in international peacekeeping mandates. The 'no one size fits all' was reiterated and the challenge remains as to how to create an effective mix of components for peacekeeping missions.

10. Many of the presentations highlighted the importance of military-civilian coordination as modern peacekeeping operations not only involve the military/defense forces but also increasingly police personnel. A 'Whole of Government' approach towards peacekeeping operations was called for but with the need to take into account the roles and duties of the various components of peacekeeping missions. It was noted that international peacekeeping operations should not preclude any regional or bilateral assistance.

UN Projects

11. First established in 1956, UN peacekeeping missions remain a flexible and pragmatic response to international conflicts.

12. To address peacekeeping missions which are becoming larger and more complex, the UN is currently developing the Capstone Doctrine document, as part of its 2010 reform process, to enhance standardization of peacekeeping missions and inter-operability between the various actors involved. The doctrine would act as an institutional guidance to provide support and direction to personnel preparing for, planning and implementing UN peace operations. The UN peacekeeping doctrine is only for DPKO-led UN peacekeeping operations and does not over-ride national approaches and national military doctrines.

13. The UN's Integrated Training Service, which provides a training curriculum for multidimensional peacekeeping operations, is responsible for induction training and

in-mission training of the peacekeepers as opposed to the troop contributing country which is responsible for the technical military training and pre-deployment training.

Insights into Peacekeeping Operations

14. Evaluations by countries that have contributed to peacekeeping operations noted, among others, the importance of the following:
    - clearly defined and practical UN mandate and rules of engagement;
    - political will on the part of the parties to the conflict to the presence of the peacekeepers;
    - a good working relationship with a clear division of duties and responsibility between all the components in a mission especially between military and other components such as the police peacekeepers and civilians as peacekeeping is now no longer a purely military operation. In this regard, the increasing role of the police force in a peacekeeping role was recognized;
    - the importance of well-designed training programmes;
    - advance planning in order to identify problems early on;
    - a clear command, control and communications structure.
    - an awareness of the multidimensional problems, such as humanitarian, electoral and other issues and the need to engage with the other actors and external parties such as non-UN partners and Non-Governmental Organizations.

15. Gaps in peace operations are currently being addressed by several initiatives such as the US Global Peace Operations Initiative which work through regional/sub-regional organizations to provide well trained and equipped peacekeeping support operations. The training, among others, focuses on specialized areas such as engineering, medical, logistics ad communications with a delivery focus on Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

ICRC Presentation

16. The ICRC's presentation outlined its roles and its mission, especially its operational independence, and the need to have close consultation between the ICRC and the military in peacekeeping missions. The Meeting noted ICRC's activities and its offer of training for peacekeepers including during pre-deployment and deployment, especially on international humanitarian law.

Almanac of Peace Operations Training Activities

17. The Meeting agreed upon and produced an almanac containing a directory, list of courses offered by countries and whether the courses were open to overseas participants. The almanac also provides information on future activities. The almanac would be made available on the ARF website (www.aseanregionalforum.org) to ensure it remains up to date.

Open Forum/Next Steps

18. The Meeting discussed the following issues and the next steps at an Open Forum:

- Global Clearing House - The Meeting noted the initiative by the US to convene a mechanism to coordinate training needs and the training activities so as to avoid duplication of efforts in view of resource constraints.

- UN Standby Arrangements System (UNSAS) – The Meeting noted the standby arrangements that some ARF participants had with the UN to assist the ability of the UN to plan and respond effectively and rapidly to crisis situations.

- The Meeting noted that some ARF participants were already carrying out peacekeeping exercises on a bilateral basis and that the ARF could look into the possibility of joint training/capacity-building measures and joint deployment for peacekeeping operations in the future.

- The Meeting recognized the increasing role of the police force in peacekeeping missions and agreed to consider including police representatives in future ARF peacekeeping meetings.

- The Meeting noted the Co-Chair's information on UN E-learning and the offer to provide the relevant details to interested parties on request.

- The Meeting noted the interest expressed by some delegates that the ARF contribute towards the drafting of the Capstone Doctrine's supporting documents.

- The Meeting noted the invitation by India to participate in the ARF Seminar on UN Peacekeeping – Challenges and Prospects to be held in New Delhi on 26-28 April 2007.

19. The participants welcomed the 2nd Meeting of the ARF Peacekeeping Experts in 2008 and proposed the following topics: observations/lessons from recent missions; planning for peace operations; logistics; peace building-transition from military control to civilian control; "Robust Mandates" – what are the limits; and/or the 'Whole of Government' approach to peacekeeping. The detailed arrangements on co-chairing and the host of the 2nd Meeting would be communicated to the ARF participants in due course.

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