

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE 4TH ARF PEACEKEEPING EXPERTS' MEETING
BANGKOK, THAILAND
11-12 March 2010**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision by Ministers at the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting on 23 July 2009 in Phuket, Thailand, Thailand and the Republic of Korea co-chaired the 4th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 11-12 March 2010. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Anuson Chinvanno, Director-General of the Department of International Organisations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. Cho Baek-Sang, Director General of the International Policy Bureau, Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of all ARF Participants, except Malaysia, Pakistan, and Timor-Leste. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat was also present. Representatives from the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) were also present. The Agenda and Programme appear as **ANNEX 1** and the List of Participants appears as **ANNEX 2**.
3. The Theme of the Meeting was "Towards integrated, multi-dimensional and comprehensive peace operations." Building on the results of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meetings held in Malaysia (7-9 March 2007), Singapore (4-6 March 2008), and Cambodia (24-26 June 2009), respectively, the 4th Meeting focused on discussion of three related and mutually reinforcing issues of capacity building, civil-military cooperation and regional cooperation in peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations. Such issues are particularly pertinent given the increasingly multi-dimensional nature of peacekeeping operations today, which often incorporate elements of peacebuilding and involve the participation of civilian actors, as well as the trend towards increased cooperation between the United Nations (UN) and regional organisations in peacekeeping.

Opening Session

4. In his Welcoming Remarks, H.E. Mr. Asda Jayanama, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, focused on three major areas of cooperation – peacebuilding, HADR, and regional cooperation. He stressed that peacebuilding has been increasingly emphasised by the UN to strengthen and consolidate peace. The markedly civilian components of peacebuilding have also entailed that peace operations become more multi-dimensional in nature such as those in Cambodia and Timor-Leste. Furthermore, he noted that the region of the ARF has increasingly seen the occurrence of major natural disasters where rapid HADR is required more than ever. Indeed, he highlighted that HADR is one of the potential successful areas for ARF cooperation but insofar as it receives the consent of the affected countries themselves. HADR is also a probable area for ARF cooperation without the necessity of UN involvement apart from in those cases where UN involvement would ensure a sense of political neutrality. He further outlined Thailand's capacity building in multi-dimensional peace operations, and stressed the need for cooperation both internally between national agencies and externally with other regional countries or the UN. He raised issues for further discussion such as how to maintain the peace in so-called failed states, how to ensure smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, and how best to develop intra-regional and extra-regional cooperation. The Remarks appear as **ANNEX 3**.

5. In his Welcoming Remarks, H.E. Mr. Cho Baek-Sang, Director General for International Policy Bureau from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of National Defense mentioned that today's security environment can be characterised by a decreasing possibility of large-scale war and increasing tendency of transnational and non-traditional threats such as terrorism, natural disasters and piracy activities. He noted that many attempts and efforts have been made to jointly respond to these threats at the regional and international level and the ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting is at the center of these efforts, constructing the cooperative network between peacekeeping experts. Thus, he said, peacekeeping operations can be the leading sector to facilitate regional and international cooperation against new security threats. The Remarks appear as **ANNEX 4**.
6. In his presentation, Mr. Takahisa Kawakami, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Security Sector Support and Rule of Law (UNMIT), on behalf of the UNDPKO, briefed about the dialogue on peacekeeping operations conducted in New York, which aimed at collectively strengthening the UN Peacekeeping Capability. He presented to the meeting the priorities identified from the dialogue on four areas: Planning and Oversight, Capability Development, Policy Development and Field Support. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

Session One: Integrated civil-military cooperation in peace operations and disaster relief/humanitarian assistance

7. The lead discussants (UNOCHA, Japan, New Zealand, the United States, and the Republic of Korea) reviewed their experiences, processes, principles and lessons learned in peacekeeping operations and suggested measures for an effective integrated civil-military cooperation.
8. The discussant from UNOCHA presented the overview of the organisation's mission statement, three priority areas and its relationship with other UN organisations and other parties in ordinary and emergency situations. He also introduced the three aspects of the humanitarian assistance reform, which are the cluster approach, the humanitarian coordinators, and the humanitarian financing, along with challenges in integrating the efforts of various participants for peacekeeping operations. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.
9. The discussant from Japan presented the overview of the international peacekeeping cooperation activities by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. For detailed case studies, he firstly introduced the UN mission activities such as the UN Disengagement Observer Force, UN Missions in Nepal, Sudan and Haiti, followed by the current status on their international disaster relief operations, major policies on disaster relief, and their achievements in Haiti disaster relief operations. He also presented the command structure, activities, partnerships with civil and international organisations, international seminars, education and training of the Japanese Central Readiness Force. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.
10. The discussant from New Zealand explained the complexity of the civil-military cooperation process and proposed the six principles for effective civil-military cooperation. He introduced the current status of the New Zealand Forces' overseas deployments with in-depth explanations on the activities in the Bamiyan Province of Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, and Samoa. He also presented the environments, mandates, partnerships and responses in each case. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

11. The discussant from the United States presented the three functions of the United States Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS) for the effective reconstruction and stability mission completion. He highlighted the tools for the successful reconstruction and stabilisation efforts, funding, civilian response corps and the organisation's efforts on global partnership. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.
12. The discussant from the Republic of Korea (ROK) presented the Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) of the ROK division in Iraq. The division's CIMIC activities were composed of 3 stages: Stabilisation, Winning the hearts and minds, and Reconstruction support. He, especially, stressed the importance of respecting the local culture and custom, thinking in the shoes of local residents and government, and approaching the locals with the image of friends, and not as the supporter-recipient relations. In addition, he emphasised the importance of establishing civil-military cooperation system through preparation education, and understanding local culture prior to the deployment. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 10**.
13. The Meeting recognised the importance of the military's role in peacekeeping and disaster relief operations, and noted that the civil-military cooperation issue is a crucial agenda in the mission execution process. The Meeting also agreed on the need for establishing effective command structures for civil-military cooperation and communication systems, sharing information, forming close partnerships between various actors, setting clear mandates, enhancing inter-operability, and conducting thorough preparation prior to the deployment for the effective response, as the environment for civil-military cooperation is complicated and diverse. The Meeting also noted the importance of sharing lessons learned and best practices among the countries through international seminars and workshops.

Session Two: Comprehensive capacity building for multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations

14. The lead discussants (Thailand, Australia, Bangladesh, and the United States) shared their national experiences in peacekeeping operations, capacity building of their peacekeepers, and suggested ways to enhance regional cooperation in this respect, for instance, through joint training and exercises. The discussant from Thailand presented the historical context of Thailand's roles in peacekeeping operations.
15. The discussant from Australia outlined an Australian multi-dimensional peacekeeping activity in the South Pacific. He also highlighted comprehensive capacity development activities in Australia to strengthen future contributions and peacekeeping cooperation activities in the South Pacific and elsewhere. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 11**.
16. The discussant from Bangladesh stressed his country's significant peacekeeping contributions. He pointed out some weaknesses reflected from recent deployment and made recommendations for enhanced cooperation on capacity building, such as pre-deployment and mission area training. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 12**.
17. The discussant from the United States proposed areas for collaboration, for instance, exchanging best practices and community policing experiences, and stressed the need for training a pool of qualified trainers for such multi-dimensional peace operations. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 13**.
18. The participants generally agreed that peacekeeping operations have become increasingly multi-dimensional in nature, requiring skills that traditional peacekeepers, namely military personnel, are not well equipped with. Such skills may include establishing and

maintaining law and order, reintegrating former combatants into society, organising and monitoring elections, rebuilding governmental institutions, protecting and promoting human rights, and overall economic development. Thus, peacekeeping operations should involve civilian experts more and there should be more comprehensive capacity building of peacekeepers, be they civilian, police or military. The UNDPKO representative stressed capacity building in two aspects. Firstly, the capacity building of peacekeepers themselves, as highlighted in the UN's New Horizon initiative, and secondly, the capacity building of national authorities of the host country by peacekeepers.

19. The participants further agreed on the necessity of increased cooperation among ARF Participants. Such cooperation would help improve the inter-operability, operational effectiveness, and personal and collective safety and security of the multi-national and multiple actors involved in the peacekeeping operation. Multi-dimensional skills that involve elements of peacebuilding, should be shared between ARF Participants and built upon. The representative from Thailand proposed that ASEAN as an organisation could start by working together on such issues as post-conflict peacebuilding, establishing a network of peacekeeping centres, and cooperating in disaster management. Such cooperation could also be extended to the wider ARF framework.

Session Three: Enhancing regional cooperation in peacebuilding

20. The lead discussants (the EU, Indonesia, and Japan) recounted their national or organisational experiences in post-conflict peacebuilding. The best practices and lessons learned in peacebuilding of some of the participants were outlined and discussed. Avenues for enhanced regional cooperation on peacebuilding were explored.
21. The experiences and practices of the EU in the Aceh Monitoring Mission was of particular interest as an example of a regional organisation's role in peacebuilding as well as an example of how the EU coordinated effectively with ASEAN partners. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 14**.
22. The discussant from Indonesia proposed ideas for regional cooperation, including within ASEAN, such as joint military exercises, and the exchange programme of experts and trainers. He further noted that regional cooperation on peacebuilding could be enhanced through mechanisms such as the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre Association. The Meeting was informed that ASEAN cooperation on issues such as post-conflict peacebuilding, networking amongst peacekeeping training centres and on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief were already contained in key ASEAN documents. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 15**.
23. The discussant from Japan outlined Japan's principles and initiatives in peacebuilding. He briefed about Japan's projects to enhance the capacity of peacebuilders in the region, namely the Programme for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding. It was stressed that there was a need for greater awareness and respect for local sensitivities and needs, and to win the hearts and minds of the local populace, as a key to successful peace operations. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 16**.
24. Views were expressed that an increase in such regional cooperation was necessary not only to build up the peacebuilding capacity of ARF Participants but also their capacity to contribute to peacebuilding in countries and regions outside of the ARF as well. The participants stressed the need for a more rapid regional response to natural disasters and viewed that ASEAN could play a central role in this regard as well as extending cooperation to the wider ARF framework. The Meeting was informed that the ARF was undertaking initiatives on HADR, through the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster

Relief co-chaired by Thailand and the United States, such as developing standard operating procedures including, *inter alia*, the draft Strategic Guidance, disaster relief work plan, tabletop exercises and voluntary demonstration of response/ARF disaster relief exercises, and possible voluntary model arrangement for the use of foreign military and civil defense assets in disaster relief.

25. The Meeting agreed that post-conflict peacebuilding is rising as an important characteristic of peacekeeping operations today. Capacity building in peacebuilding is thus essential and should be increasingly focused upon. The representative from Thailand recounted Thailand's experiences in providing technical assistance to neighbouring countries, especially with their local communities, which could be seen as an element of peacebuilding.

Other matters

26. The Co-Chairs of the 5th ARF Peacekeeping Experts' Meeting in 2011 will be coordinated and communicated to all ARF Participants through diplomatic channels in due course.
