

May 30, 2011

The 9th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes (ISM on CTTC)
- Assessment of Current *Developments (Session 1)*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to you co-chairs for the excellent stewardship of this meeting, and at the same time to the government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality it has rendered us.

Mr. Chairman and distinguish delegates,

On the counter-terrorism front, now Osama Bin Laden is gone, but the decentralized and networked cells of Al Qaeda are very much alive. The tactics employed by terrorists are becoming adaptive and increasingly elusive. We can be complacent only at our peril. Faced with vicious enemy, we can not let our guards down. Instead, we must be ahead of the game. We must be vigilant, determined and more creative and adaptive in working out our strategy to deal with terrorism.

Our concerted and coordinated efforts in counter-terrorism have been successful in pushing back regional terrorist organizations like Jemmah Islamiyah and Abu Sayaff. Nevertheless, we are not out of the woods yet. Terrorist organizations will continue to exploit difficult economic situations and political disturbance to justify its ominous ideology and recruit new members. Recent resurgence of local terrorist groups in Pakistan and Indonesia is a wake-up call for all of us. In this regard, the recent entry into force of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism(ACCT) is a good and welcome news.

Afghanistan still remains a country of our major concern. Although there has been noticeable improvement in security recently, it is far from being stable. The situation calls for our constant attention and effective response.

In combating terrorism, military means is necessary but not sufficient. Our counter-terrorism strategies need to be more closely linked to the developmental goals of the region. In this regard, national capacity-building is effective strategy to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

It is with this understanding and conviction that the Korean government dispatched a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to Parwan Province in Afghanistan last year. This 500 strong civilian-led Korean PRT is conducting various capacity-building activities in the areas of governance, health and medical services, education and vocational training, as well as rural and agricultural development. This year my government has pledged an additional 500 million dollars over the next five years for Afghanistan. The financial aid is to build the capacity of Afghan security forces so that they can bear the responsibility for security of their country on their own.

Bilaterally, the Republic of Korea has been expanding its network of counter-terrorism cooperation in a consistent and steady manner. Since 2005, my government has held regular counter-terrorism consultations with Russia, Japan, China, the Philippines, the United States, and many others. Last March, the 1st Korea-China-Japan trilateral counter-terrorism consultations were held in Korea, thus bringing counter-terrorism cooperation in the Northeast Asian region to a new level.

Globally, as host country of 2012 Nuclear Security Summit which will be held March 26-27 next year, we are paying special attention to nuclear terrorism. No country is immune from this global threat that could bring about unimaginable consequences. The upcoming Summit will focus on assessing the threat of nuclear terrorism, boosting

national security measures and international cooperation, and preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. In the same vein, we are hosting the Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism on June 30 this year.

On the front of transnational crimes, the Republic of Korea is hosting the 4th World Summit of Prosecutors General, Attorneys General and Chief Prosecutors on July 1-2 this year. The event will be organized in collaboration with UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and provide top prosecutors from all over the world with the opportunity of enhancing cooperation in sharing knowledge and expertise on criminal matters and in the prosecution of transnational crimes. We look forward to our ARF partners' support and cooperation to these important global initiatives.

Mr. Chairman,

In the ARF context, my delegation is pleased to note that recent discussions at the ARF ISM on CTTC are becoming more practical, action-oriented, and substantial. The Korean government is fully committed to strengthening this valuable process, and forging strong partnerships with the ARF member countries to achieve our common goal of peace and stability of our region.

Thank you.