

## **Session III. Review further action for the Hanoi Plan of Action to implement the ARF Vision Statement Briefing Notes**

### **Background**

1. The Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement (PoA) stipulates that its progress of implementation shall be reported at every ISG and SOM. Since the PoA was adopted by the Ministers at the 17<sup>th</sup> ARF in Hanoi on 23 July 2010, the ASEAN Secretariat has reported the progress of the PoA implementation at the previous two ISG meetings.

### **I. Areas of Cooperation**

#### **1. Disaster Relief**

2. Efforts to enhance regional capacity in responding to disaster as prescribed in recommendation 1.3 have been actively undertaken. The ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (DiREx) was successfully completed in Manado, Indonesia, in March 2011, co-chaired by Indonesia and Japan. The ARF DiREx was the first exercise where significant number of military and civilian assets, capacities and personnel were mobilised across borders to test the capacity of participating countries and organisations on disaster response mechanisms. The exercise was very complex as three components (i.e. Table Top Exercise, Field Training Exercise, and Humanitarian Civic Action) were conducted simultaneously involving over 3,000 participants from 24 ARF participants, as well as ASEAN's mechanisms, and the United Nations.
3. Other activities in line with recommendation 1.4 of the PoA have been ongoing. The ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and the ARF Voluntary Model Arrangement for the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief are now in place. To ensure that these documents are operable and useful, the ARF needs to consider socializing them at the national level and continue to refining them. Added to this, a new tool to facilitate disaster relief cooperation, termed the ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service, has recently been launched. The site is password protected with passwords to be issued to ARF participants. ARF participants were encouraged to input data on a voluntary basis, in coordination with the Australian Department of Defense.

#### **2. Counter Terrorism - Transnational Crime**

4. In line with recommendation 2.8, the ARF is now considering the proposal for the establishment of the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Center (ATTIC) which has been initiated by the United States. Under the ARF Work Plan on CTTC, a project entitled "ARF Workshop on Biorisk Management" was completed. The Workshop was held in Manila on 28-30 September 2010. The project was co-sponsored by the Philippines and the United States. This project is an implementation of the recommendation 2.13 of the PoA.

### **3. Maritime Security**

5. In view of promoting regional maritime security capacity-building, Japan has taken the initiative of collecting information on the ARF participants' best practices on maritime enforcement capacity-building through questionnaires. This exercise is in line with recommendation 3.5 and it is ongoing under the purview of the ARF ISM on Maritime Security.

### **4. Peacekeeping Operations**

6. Recommendation 5.2 has been implemented by the ARF Unit. The ARF directory of Contact Points on Peacekeeping which includes the existing peacekeeping centres has been established and published on the ARFNet. ARF participants are encouraged to continue submitting updates on their respective focal points to the ARF Unit.

### **5. Defense Dialogues**

7. The 14<sup>th</sup> HDUCIM was held in Washington D.C. on 6-10 November 2010. In line with the recommendation 6.4 of the PoA, the Meeting discussed the topics of defense universities involvement in strategic policies and operations, cooperation among defense universities to meet the challenges of non-traditional security issues, and possible methods to exchange information about data, curricula, publications among the defense universities.

## **II. CBMs and PD**

### **1. Consolidation of CBMs**

8. The PoA encourages non-ASEAN ARF countries to appoint and accredit Ambassadors to ASEAN and to consider appointing a mission and/or dedicated official to also work on ARF matters in Jakarta. As of today, 12 non-ASEAN ARF participants have accredited their Ambassadors to ASEAN.<sup>1</sup>
9. In the current inter-sessional year 2010-2011, the ARF continues the current practice of initiating and implementing CBMs by at least one ASEAN participant and one non-ASEAN ARF participant. Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines have collaborated with China, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Timor-Leste, and the United States to co-chair and co-host ARF activities from August 2010 – March 2011.
10. As mentioned in the earlier section of this report, a field exercise on disaster relief, termed the ARF DiREx was successfully conducted in Manado, Indonesia

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<sup>1</sup> 12 ARF participant countries that have accredited their Ambassadors to ASEAN are, namely, Australia, Canada, China, the EU (Delegation), India, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, the RoK, Russia, Timor-Leste, and the United States.

from 15-19 March 2011. This activity is in accordance with the recommendation 1.8 of the CBMs and PD section of the PoA.

## **2. Implementation of PD Activities/Measures**

11. In line with recommendation 2.1., the development of an ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan is currently underway. The Work Plan will be submitted to the ARF SOM and the 18<sup>th</sup> ARF this year.

## **2. Implementation of PD Activities/Measures**

12. As prescribed by the PoA under this section, the development of an ARF Work Plan on PD is currently underway with Indonesia and Australia leading the process.

## **Conclusion**

13. The implementation of the PoA is at its early stage now. To monitor the progress of its implementation, the PoA is reviewed at every ISG and ARF SOM. For this purpose, the future ISMs should include the implementation of the PoA in their agendas. The Co-Chairs of the ISMs should also report the progress of the PoA's implementation in their respective areas to the ISG and ARF SOM.

14. There are some areas of the PoA, such as disaster relief and counter-terrorism, which have been progressing significantly. Meanwhile, there are also areas in which ARF needs to develop more initiatives or undertake more activities to ensure full implementation of the PoA by the year 2020. One way to achieve this is to synergize the activities in the existing or forthcoming ARF Work Plans for Disaster Relief, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Maritime Security, and Preventive Diplomacy with the recommendations of the PoA.

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