

## **Joint Work Report of EWG on HADR**

### **Vietnam:**

According to the *Concept Paper and Initial Work Plan of the Experts' Working Group on HADR 2011-2013* adopted by ADSOM-Plus in May, 2011 in Indonesia, the objectives of the EWG include:

To establish specific and effective mechanisms for HADR amongst defence forces of ADMM-Plus countries; to develop and implement decisions of the ADMM-Plus on HADR cooperation; to strengthen mutual understanding and confidence among ADMM-Plus Members; to share experiences on HADR; to enhance HADR capacity building; to explore ways of promoting coordination and cooperation in HADR activities; to respond to serious natural disasters in the region and strengthen international cooperation on HADR; and to formulate plans of action for concrete cooperation activities.

In implementation of the work plan, Vietnam and China, as the co-chairs, have held two EWG meetings in 2011 and 2012 for promoting mutual understandings and professional sharings in HADR operation. In addition, Vietnam and China have also been actively working together with Brunei Darussalam and co-chairs of EWG on Military Medicine, Singapore and Japan, in preparing for the inaugural ADMM-Plus HADR & MM Ex in June in Brunei.

### **China:**

The first HADR-EWG meeting was held in Beijing, China from 2 to 5 November, 2011. The meeting focused on 3 topics, namely (1) Country Presentations on HADR organizational structure and experience; (2) International Cooperation Experience in HADR operations of the Military; (3) The priority areas of HADR cooperation within the framework of ADMM-Plus and initiatives for practical cooperation. During the meeting, the delegates visited the National Training Centre for Earthquake SAR Operations with a

professional demonstration in the SAR response to collapsed buildings by China International SAR Team (CISAR). The first meeting took note of the following recommendations for HADR cooperation: (1) exchange of information, experience, ideas and best practices to enhance interoperability; (2) conduct capacity building activities through seminars, workshops and training programs in the following areas: early warning, rapid force delivery, on-scene management, emergency response, command and coordination, and logistics; (3) codify experiences and procedures by leveraging on SOPs for the utilization of military capacities for HADR as a baseline to enhance interoperability; Establish point of contacts for immediate relief response operations; (4) establish points of contact for immediate relief response operations; (5) promote synergy and avoid duplication of efforts with the activities of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); (6) SASOP to continue to be implemented and expanded to include the ADMM-Plus countries; (7) explore the possibility of diplomatic clearance to ease mobilization of assets and personnel in responding to disasters.

**Vietnam:**

Building upon the momentum of the first meeting, the second HADR EWG meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 7 to 10 August, 2012. This professional workshop discussed on (1) Legal Aspect of Using Military Capabilities and Assets in Regional and International HADR Operations and Cooperation; and (2) National Training in HADR. HADR operations in response to natural disasters in the region were also shared by participants in a simulated situation of typhoons. During the meeting, the delegates were arranged to visit a SAR unit of Vietnam's People Army and witness a field demonstration of SAR operation in response to a simulated situation of floods. As the outcome of the meeting, following suggested measures to address challenges in the participation of armed forces in HADR operations were taken note: (1) identify principles to provide guidance for the armed forces to participate in HADR operations; (2)

strengthen communication and coordination; and (3) promote relevant legislation to provide legal guarantee for the armed forces to participate in HADR operations. Furthermore, the meeting put forward the following proposals for HADR EWG cooperation, including (1) identification of focal points; (2) appoint a coordinator for HADR mission of ADMM-Plus countries, who will be responsible for ensuring better coordination; (3) establish cooperation mechanism for HADR operations, which is designed to create SOP on legal matters; (4) set basic criteria for documents to define a common understanding on issues to be coordinated among the ADMM-Plus countries; (5) joint exercises, workshops and seminars are essential tools to further strengthen multilateral relationships and promote cooperation, confidence and mutual trust; and (6) for the future exercises, some countries suggested that refinement of multinational joint task force SOPs and engagement with UNOCHA to coordinate NGO contributions be further discussed. The meeting also agreed with the proposals by Brunei for hosting the inaugural ADMM-Plus HADR and Military Medicine Exercise in 2013.

#### **China:**

On both meetings, the significant and unique role of the military in either national or international HADR operations is highlighted and strong desire in cooperation among ADMM-Plus member countries is noted. It is also acknowledged that different understandings, perceptions, procedures and approaches existing in this region indicate continuous needs for sharing experiences and building capacities in a cooperative and practical manner. The EWG thus is now focusing on the HADR and MM exercise, which is the first action-oriented achievement since the advent of ADMM-Plus.

In November, 2012, a Steering Committee of the ADMM-Plus HADR and MM Exercise, comprising of the host nation Brunei, co-chairs of HADR EWG Vietnam and China and co-chairs of MM EWG Singapore and Japan, was established to guide the preparation and conduct of the exercise. The IPC,

Steering Committee's Meeting and MPC were successfully conducted in Brunei and Singapore respectively. As the co-chairs, we appreciate the great efforts by Royal Brunei Armed Forces in hosting this important event, and contribution of personnel and assets of all ADMM-Plus member states. Vietnam and China are firmly committed to the success of this inaugural ADMM-Plus exercise and we look forward to productive planning in the forthcoming Final Planning Conference in April.

Thank you.