

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

22nd ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
HEADS OF DEFENSE UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/INSTITUTIONS MEETING***Building Partnerships and Capacities to Meet
Emerging Security Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region***

September 25-29, 2018
Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Introduction

1. The 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM) was held on September 25-29, 2018 at Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo, in Japan. It was cochaired by National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) of Japan and SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI) of Singapore.
2. Of the 27 ARF HDUCIM members, 23 attended the meeting. The participants present were from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States, and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat also participated in the meeting. The full list of participants is attached as ANNEX 1.
3. The purpose of the 22nd ARF HDUCIM was to engage senior leadership of the participating defense universities, colleges, and institutions (DUCIs) in discussions about many issues of mutual interest, primarily in the domains of defense education and research, defense exchanges and international cooperation, and regional security. The 22nd ARF HDUCIM was also expected to foster trust within the region. These ideas had been shared beforehand with participants through the Concept Paper as shown in ANNEX 2. The main theme was "Building Partnerships and Capacities to Meet Emerging Security

Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Region,” which involved three topics: “Emerging Security Challenges, Capacity Building, and International Cooperation”; “Roles of Defense Universities, Colleges, and Institutions in Fostering Future Strategic Leaders”; and “Building and Enhancing Partnerships in the Present-Day Security Environment.”

4. The full program is shown in ANNEX 3.

Welcome Remarks by Mr. Tomohiro Yamamoto, State Minister of Defense

5. Japan’s State Minister of Defense, Mr. Tomohiro Yamamoto, referred to the importance of maintaining and developing a stable international order in an age of complexity, and stressed the importance of fostering strategic leadership therein. He also expressed his hope that the 22nd ARF HDUCIM would serve as a platform for good discussions, provide an opportunity to share knowledge, and help build confidence among the participants.

Welcome Remarks by Mr. Yukinari Hirose, NIDS President

6. NIDS President, Mr. Yukinari Hirose, bearing in mind the emerging security agenda, referred to the key questions of the 22nd ARF HDUCIM as expressed in the Concept Paper. He emphasized that the main aim of the meeting was to engage senior participants from DUCIs in discussions about education, research, and international exchange and cooperation that would build and strengthen mutual trust.

Welcome Remarks by Colonel Simon Lee, Deputy Commandant of SAFTI MI

7. Colonel Simon Lee Wee Chek of Singapore expressed his pleasure in co-hosting the meeting and his hope of witnessing fruitful discussions and strengthening ties among the participants.

Session I: Emerging Security Challenges, Capacity Building, and International Cooperation

8. This topic of discussion encompassed security challenges emerging in the Asia-Pacific region, the efforts made to deal with these challenges, and prospects for international cooperation in terms of capacity building, including the development of human resources.

9. The following members made presentations: Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam.

10. Highlights of the presentations and discussions:
 - a. The participants identified the emerging security challenges common to different states such as cyber threats, hybrid warfare, evolution of artificial intelligence, international terrorism, energy security, demographic trends, and climate changes. Many of these challenges involve issues regarding the latest trends in technology, which requires a defense college curriculum that makes officers adaptive to such trends.

 - b. Some participants also expressed concerns about the graveness of traditional security issues among states, such as maritime boundary disputes, nuclear proliferation, and competition of great powers.

 - c. There were discussions on measures to address common challenges and different perceptions of priorities. These included rule-based order principles, confidence-building measures, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) cooperation, ASEAN centrality, crisis management mechanisms, and integration of the military and civilian sectors. While it was pointed out that there was no region-wide and rigid security architecture established in the region, examples of growing cooperation in certain areas were referred to.

 - d. Many agreed on the importance of sharing their perspectives and approaches with other countries on various occasions, with this ARF HDUCIM being one of the best opportunities in this regard.

Session II: Roles of Defense Universities, Colleges, and Institutions in Fostering Future Strategic Leaders

11. Following the discussions on emerging security challenges, capacity building, and international cooperation in Session I, Session II moved on to the desirable qualities of strategic leaders of armed forces in this changing world, as well as, strategies and methods for fostering them to assume those

important roles. It also focused on roles that DUCIs could play in preparing such future leadership.

12. The following members made presentations: Canada, China, India, Russia, Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

13. Highlights of the presentations and discussions:

- a. Participants identified qualifications found in history for strategic leadership such as conceptual capacity, creative thinking, and strategic thinking as well as, changing tools to deal with varying new challenges.
- b. DUCIs presented their education systems and organizations, all honoring broader visions, practical and creative thinking, communication skills, and international exchanges, to produce the highest-level leaders, including political leaders and chiefs of staff.
- c. The curriculum to achieve the goals, as was pointed out in the discussion, should include factors of organization management, decision making, strategic planning, policy paper writing, inter-agency cooperation, crisis management, academic dissertation, and interviews with leaders inside and/or outside the military. The quality of the curriculum should be evaluated and updated.
- d. The tasks and methodologies pointed out included the integration of strategic and political goals, the coordination of military and civilian sectors of the government, and scenario-based games.
- e. Some participants remarked that having foreign students in military educational institutions would develop a sense of diversity and help in future international exchange and cooperation.

Session III: Building and Enhancing Partnerships in the Present-Day Security Environment

14. Following previous sessions, this session was intended to consider possible ways in building and enhancing partnerships among member countries to foster regional cooperation and stability, the role of DUCIs in enhancing such partnerships, and the function of international exchanges in the educational curricula of DUCIs.

15. The following countries made presentations: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Timor-Leste, and the United States.

16. Highlights of the presentations and discussions:
 - a. Participants noted recent examples of the damage caused by typhoons in Japan, Laos, and the Philippines, and the international efforts in humanitarian assistance.

 - b. Joint military exercises and mutual visits by DUCIs' field work delegations, as discussed by participants, are helpful not only for mutual understanding but also for practical cooperation in tackling common non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, illicit drug trade, illegal human trafficking, immigration crisis, and piracy.

 - c. DUCIs recognized that accepting international students contributes not only in mutual understanding but also in human networks and the scope of education. The alumni networks encourage officers in different countries to continue to learn from other alumni members. Diverse perspectives from different experiences and cultural backgrounds, as well as gender diversity, can give students opportunities to think in a new way.

 - d. DUCIs shared that they could further strengthen cooperation, supporting each other to enhance capacity, resources, mutual understanding, trust and confidence. DUCIs also expressed that they could also work together to seek the possible areas of cooperation, such as sharing information

and best practices, school values, curriculum, as well as collaborating on research, analysis, and assessment, among the defense establishments.

- e. The idea of the “Asia-Pacific Command and Staff Colleges Network” was presented. Participants noted that such a proposal, if it intends to establish a formal relationship with the ARF HDUCIM, should be referred to the formal processes of the ARF.

Closing Remarks by Mr. Yukinari Hirose, NIDS President

17. NIDS President, Mr. Hirose, appreciated the fruitful contributions made by all the participants. He confirmed the achievement of purposes of the 22nd ARF HDUCIM in strengthening confidence by sharing knowledge and experiences regarding new security challenges, roles of DUCIs, and enhancing partnerships. With his gratitude toward Colonel Simon’s excellent work as the co-chair, Mr. Hirose handed over the role of chairmanship to SAFTI MI for the next meeting in 2019.

Closing Remarks by Colonel Simon Lee, SAFTI MI Deputy Commandant

18. Colonel Simon expressed his congratulations for the successful result of the meeting, and appreciated all the presentations and discussions. He also announced that SAFTI MI would host the 23rd meeting of the ARF HDUCIM in early November 2019 in Singapore, with the co-chairmanship of Pakistan.

Conclusion

19. NIDS President, Mr. Hirose, declared the conclusion of the 22nd ARF HDUCIM Tokyo 2018.