



CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DEFENCE OFFICIALS' DIALOGUE

Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2 May 2019

INTRODUCTION

1. The Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 2 May 2019. The Dialogue was co-chaired by General Raksak Rojphimphun, Director-General of Office of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Thailand and Mr. Lee Won Ik, Director General for International Policy, Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea and attended by all ARF Participants except Bangladesh, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Papua New Guinea. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CO-CHAIRS

2. In his opening remarks, Mr. Lee Won Ik recalled the 30th anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations which will further elevate the level of cooperation between both parties, including on defence issues. He reiterated the role of the ARF in contributing to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific through dialogues and also the significance of other ASEAN-led mechanisms in promoting defence cooperation, such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus. Mr. Lee Won Ik also updated the Dialogue on the developments in the Korean Peninsula following the convening of the three inter-Korean Summits and the two DPRK – the United States Summits and reaffirmed ROK's commitment in continuing the progress of inter-Korean relationship based on the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Declaration as agreed by both the ROK and the DPRK. Mr. Lee Won Ik also reiterated ROK's support in resuming the dialogues between the DPRK and the United States and expressed appreciation towards ARF Participants for their active support towards the settlement of permanent peace and denuclearisation efforts in the Korean Peninsula.

3. Recalling Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship under the key theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability", General Rojphimphun reiterated the importance of promoting sustainable security in all dimensions, including those carried out under the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus through strengthening capabilities and cooperation among ASEAN Member States as well as Plus Countries. In his opening remarks, General Raksak Rojphimphun also expressed condolences to the victims of horrific attacks in Sri Lanka and Christchurch earlier this year.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Dialogue adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SESSION ONE: MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY CAPABILITY AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING

5. Australia briefed the Dialogue on its policy on maritime domain which was formulated based on several challenges at sea, such as the increasingly congested and contested seas, compromised protection and security of trade routes, transnational crime, illegal fishing, and natural disasters. Australia was of the view that a comprehensive maritime security engagement that is based on international law, freedom of navigation and overflight and open sea lines of communications (SLOCs), are essential for a stable, secure and interconnected Indo Pacific. Australia also shared its maritime engagement with countries in the region, including through the co-chairmanship of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security for the period of 2018-2020 with Viet Nam and the European Union, its active participation in the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security (EWG on MS), as well as the Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019. Australia's presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

6. India briefed the Dialogue on its efforts to enhance maritime domain awareness in the region, such as through assisting the development of coastal surveillance networks in its neighboring countries as well as launching the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in December 2018 to develop a mechanism of comprehensive maritime domain awareness and share information on vessels of interest and maritime safety. In continuing the efforts, India has also signed a white shipping agreement and technical capacity building programmes with other countries in the region.

7. Japan briefed the Dialogue on its efforts to enhance its "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" policy through the following measures: (i) counter-piracy efforts, in which the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Forces has conducted counter-piracy operations in the waters off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden and provided direct escort to 3,879 vessels; and (ii) addressing the challenge of ship-to-ship transfer suspected of

carrying illegal materials to the DPRK through enhanced cooperation with partner countries, more particularly on the implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). As an implementation of the Vientiane Vision: Japan's Defence Cooperation Initiative with ASEAN, the Dialogue was also briefed on Japan's defence capacity building initiatives, such as the Japan's Free Rider Ship Program which involves representatives from all ASEAN Member States and Japan. The Dialogue took note that the Program will take place at the end of June 2019. Japan's presentation appears as **ANNEX 5**.

8. Highlighting the importance of maritime connectivity in regional peace and stability as well as economic development, the Philippines reiterated the significance of ASEAN-led mechanisms i.e. the ARF, the ADMM and ADMM-Plus, the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) in providing avenues for confidence building measures on maritime issues. The Dialogue was also briefed on the Philippines' sub-regional maritime initiatives, such as the Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement (TCA) with Indonesia and Malaysia, whereby the three countries have collectively addressed issues of common concerns in their waters and carried out practical cooperation such as coordinated patrols in the Sulu and Celebes Sea. In moving forward, the Philippines viewed there is a need to review the current maritime initiatives and to assess if there has been key achievements, and if there are duplication of efforts across relevant sectoral bodies.

9. The ROK briefed the Dialogue on its efforts to reinforce maritime security capabilities and confidence building through active participation at various levels, including those involving Track 1 participants such as the ARF and the ADMM-Plus, Track 1.5 such as the North East Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD) and the Shangri-la Dialogue, as well as Track 2 activities including the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). Recalling the ROK's "New Southern Policy" which is built upon the pillars of people, prosperity and peace and as part of ROK's vision for regional cooperation and mutual development including on maritime issues, the Dialogue was also briefed on ROK's confidence building measures through upholding of law, rule and maritime order, information sharing on conventional threats as well as practical cooperation to secure SLOCs. ROK's presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

10. Singapore briefed the Dialogue on the critical role of defence establishments in facilitating a peaceful and stable regional security environment through: (i) leveraging existing regional and sub-regional platforms to strengthen capacity building and build mutual confidence and partnership; and (ii) upholding and shaping an international rules-based system, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Dialogue was updated on the implementation of activities under the ADMM-Plus EWG on MS under the co-chairmanship of Singapore and the ROK for the period of 2017-2020, including: (i) the adoption of the Code of Unplanned

Encounters at Sea (CUES) by all ADMM-Plus Members; (ii) the EWG-MS Field Training Exercise (FTX); (iii) the convening of the 6th International Maritime Security Conference (IMDEX) and the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Conference; and (iv) the convening of the ADMM-Plus EWG on MS Future Leaders' Programme in June 2019. Singapore also updated the Dialogue on the outcome of the ASEAN-China Maritime Exercise in October 2018 and the upcoming ASEAN-the United States of America Maritime Exercise in September 2019, as well as its efforts in anchoring maritime security cooperation through a Regional Hub-Informational Fusion Centre (IFC). Singapore's presentation appears as **ANNEX 7**.

11. Brunei Darussalam briefed the Dialogue on the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI), which is a secure, bilateral hotline between all ten ASEAN Defence Ministers aimed to assist in avoiding undesired incidents at sea. The Dialogue noted that the ADI will be implemented in several phases, wherein Phase 1 included secure voice and fax capabilities and Phase 2 and 3 included a pilot project and full delivery of secure e-mail capabilities. The Dialogue further noted that the ADI is currently at Phase 2 in which the terms of technical planning, timelines and sourcing strategy are being deliberated by the ADMM. The Dialogue further noted that discussions to expand the ADI to ADMM-Plus Countries are currently being deliberated. Brunei Darussalam's presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: SESSION TWO: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (HADR) MEASURES AND CASES

12. Cambodia briefed the Dialogue on its efforts in disaster management at the national level, which is overseen by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), and at the sub-national level, which is managed by the Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM). The Dialogue was also briefed on the role of gendarme (or *gendarmarie*) in Cambodia, which refers to military officers who, in peacetime, do ordinary police works including on HADR. The Dialogue noted that the Royal Cambodian Gendarmerie has been authorised as the first responder in conducting HADR operations during which they have provided assistance throughout a number of drought and flood incidents in Cambodia. Cambodia also shared a number of challenges encountered by the Royal Cambodian Gendarmerie, including the limited numbers of human resources as well as the limited financial resources which affects the ability to recruit new personnel. Cambodia's presentation appears as **ANNEX 9**.

13. Canada briefed the Dialogue on its civil-military coordination in disaster response abroad wherein as natural disasters are becoming more frequent and complex, there has been a considerable increase in the use of military assets in humanitarian responses. The Dialogue noted that Canada's response to request for military assets is made on the basis of humanitarian principles, wherein such assets

should be utilised as the last resort and will be conducted upon request of the affected government, and that such missions are deemed permissive for deployment by the Canadian Disaster Assessment Team (CDAT). The Dialogue also noted that potential Canadian military support may include airlift, naval assets, logistics, intelligence and reconnaissance, essential engineering, command/control communication as well as Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). Canada also highlighted the challenges encountered in civil-military coordination, such as the multiplication of initiatives dealing in civil-military issues, maintaining the civilian nature of humanitarian action, and the media effects in which the response given should be needs-based and not media-driven. Canada's presentation appears as **ANNEX 10.**

14. The European Union (EU) provided an overview on their HADR efforts and operations in emergency situations, which are overseen and coordinated by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). Highlighting that the ERCC also liaises the requesting and providing countries in such situation, it was noted that the emergency operations are civilian-led, although military assets and capabilities can be used in reference to the UN Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies as well as the EU Concept on Effective Civil-Military Coordination in Support of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Noting the importance of strengthening ASEAN-EU collaboration, the Dialogue noted the EU's continued support towards the implementation of the 2016-2020 ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme by working closely with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre). It was also noted that the EU has provided financial contribution and support to five disasters in the Southeast Asian region, i.e. in Lao PDR, Indonesia and the Philippines in the amount of 4.18 million Euros in 2018. The EU's presentation appears as **ANNEX 11.**

15. Indonesia briefed the Dialogue on the lessons learned and coordination between the military and civil society organisations (CSOs) from the emergency situations in Aceh tsunami in 2004 and the Palu and Donggala earthquakes in 2018. The Dialogue noted that the CSOs play a complementary role to the militaries, more particularly in mitigating the impact of natural disasters on affected communities and reducing the number of casualties. The Dialogue was also briefed on Indonesia's confidence building measures (CBMs) and capacity building enhancement (CBE), whereby the Indonesian government is promoting disaster mitigation programmes in disasters-prone areas by taking into account their local culture hence making the local communities more receptive towards the programmes. Indonesia was also of the view that an already existing ASEAN-led mechanism, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), can play a complementary role to those of the AHA Centre in coordinating foreign assistance. Indonesia's presentation appears as **ANNEX 12.**

16. Lao PDR briefed the Dialogue on its HADR efforts and highlighted the establishment of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on Multi-National Coordinating Centre (MNCC), which were developed by Lao PDR and Japan during their co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus on HADR. The Dialogue noted that the SOP on MNCC will serve as a template for a pre-negotiated multilateral agreement to facilitate foreign forces deployment in HADR situations. The Dialogue also noted that the draft SOP was tested at the Command Post Exercise portion during the ADMM-Plus Military Medicine and HADR Exercise (AM-HEX) held in Chonburi Province, Thailand in September 2016 and adopted by the 11th ADMM in Clark, Pampanga, the Philippines, in October 2017. It was further noted that the SOP has been transmitted from the defence sectoral to the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) to be annexed to the Chapter VI of the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP). On the humanitarian aspect, Lao PDR also briefed the Dialogue on their efforts in eliminating unexploded ordnance (UXO) under its co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) with Russia.

17. New Zealand briefed the Dialogue of its HADR efforts during state emergencies, which is coordinated by the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC). The Dialogue noted the role of the NCMC in monitoring and assessing emergencies, collecting, analysing and disseminating information to relevant stakeholders, as well as coordinating actions and response from the national to the local level. The Dialogue was also briefed on the New Zealand Defence Forces' (NZDF) experience in emergency situations, including during the rebuilding of the Waiho River Bailey Bridge which was washed away from the heavy rain in April 2019 and during the tropical cyclone Gita in February 2018. New Zealand's presentation appears as **ANNEX 13**.

18. Russia briefed on the role of the Russian Armed Forces in HADR at the national and international level, including under the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR. The Dialogue further noted that Russia has proposed to develop a unified plan on joint actions in emergency response in the territory of the ASEAN Member States, and to organise a preliminary training for emergency response team which could be held in either the territory of the ASEAN Member States or the Plus countries. In this regard, Russia shared its experience in the deployment of the Russian Armed Forces in assisting with the rock displacement incident in the Bureya River in December 2018. The Dialogue was also briefed on Russia's joint efforts with Lao PDR under their co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus EWG on HMA.

19. Viet Nam updated the Dialogue on its HADR efforts under the ARF and the ADMM-Plus frameworks and commended the different approaches taken by ARF Participants in responding to emergency situations, wherein some countries are led

by the militaries while others are led by civilians. Viet Nam was also of the view that the role of defence establishments in HADR, as well as its synergies with civilian entities should be enhanced to ensure rapid response in emergency situations.

20. Malaysia briefed the Dialogue on its HADR efforts under the ADMM and the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR, which Malaysia is currently co-chairing with the United States. The Dialogue was updated on the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR (AMRG on HADR), which aims to prepare for an ASEAN military team for quick deployment to areas of crisis in coordinated manner, in which joined services at the national level would work under a single ASEAN banner at a multilateral level. The Dialogue further noted that the SOP for the AMRG on HADR is currently under development with continuous testing through the ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR exercises, and that the next phase will take place in the form of Staff Exercise and Communication Exercise (STAFFEX/COMMEX) in Kuala Lumpur on 30 July – 2 August 2019 and aimed to test the coordination mechanism of the AMRG on HADR personnel during a disaster.

21. The Dialogue further noted that large-scale natural and man-made disasters have cross-cutting effects which can create political, economic and social impacts crucial for the security, stability and prosperity of countries in the region. The Dialogue further noted that one of the remaining challenges in HADR is to promote closer integration and linkages across ASEAN sectoral bodies, as well as between ASEAN and other ASEAN-led regional frameworks such as the ARF, the EAS and the ADMM-Plus.

22. The Dialogue noted that Thailand will host the 16th ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC) in Bangkok, Thailand, on 23 May 2019. The Dialogue further noted that the ROK will host the 8th Seoul Defense Dialogue on 4-6 September 2019, which will also include an ROK-ASEAN Defence Vice-Ministerial Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CLOSING REMARKS

23. The Co-Chairs thanked the ARF Participants for their active contributions and fruitful discussions demonstrated throughout the Dialogue. The Co-Chairs also expressed hope that the topics of the ARF DOD on maritime security and HADR will be useful and applicable in enhancing defence cooperation in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

24. The Dialogue expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for the effective chairmanship. The Dialogue also commended the frank discussion and active participation of all the ARF Participants that contributed to the success of the

Dialogue and conveyed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for their hospitality and their excellent arrangements of the Dialogue.

