

23 June 2014

Dear Colleagues,

The Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America cordially invite the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) members to a Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response Workshop to be held in Manila, Philippines from 26-28 August 2014. This ARF Ministers-endorsed event focuses on "Best Practices for Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event" and will produce a national guideline template on bio-preparedness and response system.

It also builds upon five previous ASEAN bio-preparedness workshops and best business practices established on countering biological preparedness from 2009 to 2013. The most recent ASEAN workshop completed was the ARF Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response: Inception Planning Workshop of 3-5 September 2013 in Makati, Philippines.

This workshop will facilitate discussion on the way ahead for follow-on events in 2015 and beyond. Attendees should consist of four executive level participants from each ARF member:

- (1) Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy Maker;
- (1) Law Enforcement (Civilian or Military);
- (1) Civilian-Military Defense Officials;
- (1) Healthcare, Public Health, Agriculture or Veterinary (Civilian or Military).

Attached you will find the coordinated PHL-USA Draft National Guideline Template on Bio-Preparedness, adopted Concept Paper with enclosures and Administrative documents. Your collective input to the provisional bio-preparedness guideline is requested no later than 26 July 2014 as directed in the administrative enclosure.

The administrative section of this invitation also includes registration information and all other supporting documents.

I look forward to your delegation's participation in what will be a meaningful workshop.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,



MA. TERESITA C. DAZA

Acting Assistant Secretary and
ASEAN-Philippines Deputy Director-General

Copy to:
All ARF Members
ARF Unit/ASEAN Secretariat
Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN