CBRN Risk Mitigation: Australia and the South-East Asian Region

ARF Workshop on CBRN Risk Mitigation

Manila, 8-10 September 2015

Shasta Fisher, Australian Embassy Manila

Foreign Affairs and Trade

Overview

- Australia's approach to CBRN risk mitigation

- Australia's engagement with the South-East Asian region, especially on:
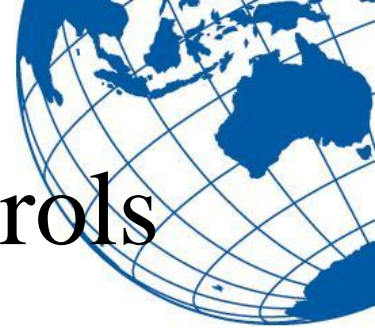 - Australia Group
  - UNSC Resolution 1540

Australia's approach to CBRN risk mitigation

- legislative provisions

- controls on WMD-related materials and technologies

- support for international treaties

- participation in export control regimes

- cooperation and assistance in our region

Implementation of National Controls

– **Defence** controls export or supply of military and WMD-related goods

– **Foreign Affairs and Trade** coordinates participation in arms control treaties and action regarding sanctions

– **Australian Border Force** manages border security

– **Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office** implements the NPT and CWC

– **Australia's states and territories** are responsible for reacting to specific incidents, with appropriate federal government support (managed through a crisis committee involving **numerous state and federal agencies**)

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CBRN risk mitigation:Australia and the South-East Asian region

Examples include:

- Bilateral engagement

- Asian export control seminars

- ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meetings on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

- Regional workshops

- Proliferation Security Initiative

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Export control regimes

Australia is active in the four major regimes:

- Australia Group (chemical and biological weapons)

- Nuclear Suppliers Group

- Missile Technology Control Regime

- Wassenaar Arrangement (conventional weapons)

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Australia Group

- The Australia Group harmonises export controls so that exports do not contribute to chemical or biological weapons
  - core work is the development of control lists
  - many other countries use the control lists and guidelines
  - supports trade for peaceful purposes
- Australia is the permanent chair

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Australia Group Outreach

- Encourage states to implement robust national export controls

- Provide transparency of Australia Group activities

Australia Group Plenary, Perth June 2015

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UNSC Resolution 1540

- Key element of the international non-proliferation regime
- Aims to limit opportunities for non-state actors to obtain weapons of mass destruction
- Responsibility of all States
- Complementary with export control regimes.

UNSCR 1540: Australia in the Region

- Providing capacity building and assistance
  - Practical approach
- Collaborative efforts with
  - International organisations (e.g. OPCW)
  - ASEAN
  - Regional countries
  - International partners

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Looking Ahead

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