

Remarks by Assistant Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang

At the Opening Ceremony of

The 2013 ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop

On Measures to Enhance Cyber Security

-- Legal and Cultural Aspects

Beijing, 11 September 2013

Your Excellency Mr. Datuk Mohamed Thajudeen Abdul Wahab,
Secretary of National Security Council of Malaysia,

Your Excellency Mr. Basuki Yusuf Iskandar, Secretary General of
the Ministry of Communication and Informatics of the Republic of
Indonesia,

Distinguished Co-Chairs of the Workshop, Mr. Md. Shah Nuri Md.
Zain and Mr. Jia Guide,

Distinguished Delegates and Experts,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this beautiful season of golden autumn, China and Malaysia are
co-hosting this ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Measures to
Enhance Cyber Security in Beijing. It is the first time that an ARF

Workshop on Cyber Security is held in China. It is also an important step taken by China and Malaysia together with other relevant countries to promote international communication and cooperation on cyber security under the ARF framework. Here on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, I wish to extend my warm welcome to all delegates and guests attending the Workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Internet is one of the greatest inventions in human history. Although it has been less than half a century since its birth, the Internet has permeated into almost all aspects of people's life and has had significant and profound impact on political, economic, social and cultural affairs. With the development and spread of the Internet, the process of economic globalization and social informatization has been accelerated, and the world today becomes more open and dynamic. The cyberspace not only embodies human wisdom and dreams, but also brings us opportunities and benefits.

Like many other things, the Internet is also a double-edged sword. While it has promoted social development, cultural exchange and information sharing, the issue of cyber security is becoming more and more pronounced. Various illegal cyber activities, from privacy infringement to intellectual property violations, from on-line fraud to money laundering, from cyber attack to cyber terrorism, all pose severe threats to national security, public order as well as the rights and interests of individuals. Everything is connected in the cyber

world. In the face of the challenges of cyber security, countries are all interdependent in a "community of common destiny", and no country can stay immune.

As a topic of international attention, cyber security is gaining prominence on the international agenda. To tackle cyber security challenges requires the coordinated efforts of the international community. At the national level, many countries have introduced policies, enhanced systems, enacted laws and regulations and strengthened capacity building on cyber security, which has resulted in practical progress. At the international level, there are more and more bilateral and multilateral exchanges on cyber security. Discussions under the framework of the United Nations are getting deeper, some regional integration organizations continue to coordinate on cyber security affairs, and a number of regional mechanisms such as the ARF have also made a positive contribution to international cooperation on cyber security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ARF is the most inclusive and influential multilateral inter-governmental platform for security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. In the past 20 years since its establishment, the ARF has helped to promote mutual trust and cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries and build a harmonious regional environment. The international recognition and influence of the ARF has been enhanced continuously.

The ARF attaches great importance to cyber security affairs. It has adopted the Statement on Cooperation in Fighting Cyber Attack and Terrorist Misuse of Cyber Space and the Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security, which give direction to greater international exchange and cooperation on cyber security. It has sponsored many workshops and seminars to promote result-oriented communications among parties. It is drafting a workplan in the area of cyber security to facilitate relevant exchange and cooperation. It is worth noting that the ARF is a widely representative mechanism. Its membership includes not only ASEAN members but also other countries who have significant influence in the Asia-Pacific region, not only developing countries but also developed countries, not only countries of the oriental culture, but also those of western culture and the Islamic culture. Thanks to such diversity, the ARF plays a unique role in the area of cyber security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Workshop is an important platform for ARF participants to enhance mutual communication and cooperation. Under the theme of cyber security, it covers a number of important topics including national practices, capacity building, cultural dimensions, combating cyber crimes and the role of states in cyberspace. It also encourages discussing on cyber security from the legal and cultural perspectives.

From the legal perspective, while technical standards and industrial

norms mattered most in the early stage of the Internet, we need laws and regulations to guide its current development. The rule of law should become the basic approach to enhancing Internet governance and cyber security. The development of the Internet does not change the international order with the Charter of the United Nations as its core. International cyber governance should follow the principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in other's internal affairs enshrined in the UN Charter. This is the foundation stone to anchor a just and equitable international order in the cyberspace. So far, there are no universally recognized rules for combating cyber crimes or an international code of conduct in cyberspace or an international mechanism for cyber governance, and hence the need for us to explore new legal rules and regulations. In this regard, the Draft International Code of Conduct on Information Security submitted by China, Russia and others to the UN General Assembly in 2011 can serve as a useful basis for relevant international processes.

From the cultural perspective, cyber security is a systematic issue, which not only needs technical and legal safeguards, but also requires the development of a cyber security culture, greater public awareness and effective cooperation between the public and private sectors. More important, difference in cultural background and tradition is an important cause of diverse Internet policies among countries. In pursuing international cyber security, we should attach more importance to the cultural elements behind the Internet public policies of different countries, and promote international cooperation in the spirit of mutual respect and inclusiveness. As

concluded by the Information Society Summit in 2003, to foster and respect cultural diversity is a key principle for building an inclusive Information Society.

I look forward to your active participation and candid exchanges at the Workshop so as to jointly promote cyber security cooperation in the ARF.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The establishment and development of a just and reasonable international order in the cyberspace is a common goal for the international community. To achieve it, we should attach great importance to and enhance capacity building in developing countries, narrow down the “digital divide”, and promote balanced progress in global informatization. We should promote the establishment of a just, democratic and transparent international Internet governance mechanism to ensure that all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, have an equal right to participate in international Internet governance. We should advance the formulation and implementation of international rules on cyberspace by giving full play to the role of the United Nations as the main channel and broadening communication and cooperation through the ARF and other multilateral mechanisms. What I mentioned above is not only an important step for establishing and developing international order in cyberspace, but also a fundamental safeguard for maintaining and promoting cyber security.

China and Malaysia would like to use this Workshop as an opportunity to strengthen communication, enhance mutual trust and promote cooperation with relevant parties and work together to build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Autumn is the season of harvest. I wish this Workshop a great success and all of you a pleasant stay in Beijing.

Thank you!