

**ARF Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers**  
**Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia**  
**February 21-22, 2001**

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# **Annex F**

Opening Remarks

By H.E. Mr. Gotaro Ogawa  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of Japan to Cambodia

**Opening Remarks  
by Ambassador Gotaro OGAWA  
at the ARF/CBMs Seminar  
on Conventional Weapons Transfer  
21, February, 2001 at Phnom Penh**

Your Excellency, Senior Minister Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia,

Your Excellency, Mr. Rey Pagtakhan, Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific, Government of Canada,

Excellencies, Participants, Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to extend a hearty welcome to you all. As a representative of one of the two co-sponsoring governments, I would like to express our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting this very important and timely seminar. In my view, the reasons for our appreciation are three-fold.

First, it is a timely meeting since the result of our discussion will serve as a useful input for the up-coming UN Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects to be held in New York in July.

Secondly, the holding of this conference in Cambodia is particularly relevant inasmuch as the question of controlling small arms and light weapons is one of the key issues confronting Cambodia, where efforts of reconstruction are earnestly pursued after the decades of severe internal conflicts and the excessive availability of small arms can threaten such efforts.

Finally, this ARF seminar in Phnom Penh has a particular significance in that Cambodia is the newest member of ASEAN and will assume the ASEAN Presidency next year. I would like to congratulate the Royal Government of Cambodia for taking increasingly active diplomatic roles in the ASEAN community.

## Distinguished participants, Ladies & Gentlemen

As a nation which “ forever renounced war . . . . as means of settling international disputes”, Japan has exerted steady and earnest efforts in the field of arms control and disarmament. This is one of the key element of our diplomacy. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms which was established in 1991 is one of the early examples of Japanese initiatives in this regard. The Register, established pursuant to the resolution on “ Transparency in armaments”, has been highly appreciated as a global confidence-building measure undertaken by the UN and today 90 countries participate in the Register. This year commemorates the 10th anniversary of this important regime. In the past decade, significant amount of factual information on the trade of arms and weapons has been accumulated. I believe that in this commemorative year, it is worthwhile making a careful analysis and evaluation of the accumulated information and presenting recommendations for the future. ARF participants would also be encouraged to work together to promote a greater global participation in the UN Register.

As for small arms, the post Cold War world has witnessed a rapidly increasing number of international and ethnic conflicts, in which transfer and excessive accumulation of small arms contributed to the aggravation of conflicts. Small but easy to carry, the lethality of these weapons is such that they are said to be responsible for no less than 90% of war casualties, including numerous innocent civilian victims. The presence of excessive small arms jeopardizes peace, hinders development and threaten human security.

Since the UN Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali made an important appeal to address the problem of small arms in his report entitled “ Supplement to the Agenda for Peace ” in 1995, Japan has been playing an active role in tackling this issue, by submitting draft resolutions to the UN General Assembly, through the UN Panel of Governmental Experts and the UN Expert Group chaired by Ambassador DONOWAKI who is present here today. This is an extremely complex issue and in order to curb illicit transfers of small arms, we have to deal with a wide range of aspects such as drug-trafficking, legal and administration systems involving police and border control, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and so on. What is required is the political will and determination of the countries concerned both developing and developed.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

As I referred earlier, Cambodia is one of the affected countries of small arms in Asia-Pacific region. Japan and European Union launched cooperation on small arms since last year and agreed that we assist Cambodia in its efforts to resolve the issue.

In this context, Japan is preparing pilot projects called “ Weapons for Development ” in two provinces in Cambodia, Pursat and Kratie, in cooperation with EU, the Government of Cambodia, the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the UN headquarter and related organisations like UNDP as well. These projects aim at disarming the people of the provinces, collecting and destroying surplus small arms in villages, improving relations between villagers and local police forces, building the capacity of the police, restoring security environment and at the same time assisting rural development. These pilot projects, if they turn to be successful, will serve as an example to be carried out in other provinces of Cambodia. We hope that these projects will trigger efforts to address the problem of small arms and light weapons in Asia-pacific region.

Distinguished participants,

In July, “ the UN Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects ” will be held in New York. We are now in the preparatory process of elaborating a draft final document including a program of action. Based on the outcome of the conference, we will strengthen international and regional cooperation in assisting the affected countries in coping with various problems caused by the excessive accumulation and transfer of small arms.

Before concluding, I would like to stress the importance of ASEAN Regional Forum as the only forum in the Asia-Pacific Region to discuss issues related to security with the participation of a large number of countries having interest in and responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the region; the region of enormous diversity whose peaceful and sound development would benefit the future of the international community at large.

My very best wishes for a success of this important conference.

Thank you very much

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# Annex G

## Speeches of Delegates

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM DECLARATION ON SMALL ARMS AND  
LIGHT WEAPONS

In recognition of the impact on regional and global stability of the illicit accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons (SA/LW), member states of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

*Respecting* the inherent right of States to self-defence as recognised in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter,

*Reaffirming* the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention,

*Preserving* the right of member states to transfer or deny the transfer of SA/LW at their own national discretion,

*Noting* the right of member states to operate more restrictive national policies than contained in this declaration,

*Confirming* the importance of preserving regional peace, security and stability,

*Regretting* the cost to civilians of the illicit spread and misuse of SA/LW,

*Emphasising* the importance of reaching negotiated solutions to promote effective post-conflict reconstruction and stability,

*Recognising* the value of regional initiatives aimed at reducing the effects of the proliferation of SA/LW,

*Acknowledging* the progress made in negotiations in Vienna for a protocol on Illegal Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, as part of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organised Crime,

*Recognising* the necessity for cooperation and assistance to support and facilitate efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SA/LW,

*Supporting* the efforts of States to address the problems posed by SA/LW through the United Nations international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, to be held from 9-20 July 2001, *Welcoming* the development of a "Programme of Action" as the key outcome of the 2001 international conference, containing political commitments and practical measures to combat the illicit SA/LW trade, which all countries will be invited to sign,

Agree to the following Declaration of Responsibilities:

1. In recognising the importance of effective and comprehensive national measures to regulate the manufacture and trade of SA/LW, ARF members agree
  - to combat the illicit transfer of SA/LW through the implementation of effective national controls at exit and entry points
  - to regulate the activities of manufacturers and traders of SA/LW
  - to establish and enforce criminal sanctions, where these are not in place, against the illicit manufacturing of and trade in SA/LW.
2. ARF members acknowledge the need for effective monitoring of the activities of arms brokers to ensure they do not contribute to destabilising transfers of SA/LW.
3. ARF members agree to exercise caution and vigilance in issuing SA/LW export licenses or authorisations, and in so doing agree to have due regard to the importance of
  - maintaining regional peace and stability.
  - not provoking or prolonging armed conflicts or aggravating existing conflicts in the country of destination.
  - SA/LW being used only for legitimate national security and defence.

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- ensuring importing states provide officially-authorized end-user certificates, consistent with any national legislation, to reduce the risk of diversion of SA/LW to third countries without the exporting country's authority.
4. ARF members will adhere to the obligations imposed by United Nations arms embargoes.
  5. ARF members will exercise caution and vigilance in the transfer of the ammunition used for SA/LW.
  6. To build confidence and transparency, in particular among customs control and law enforcement agencies, ARF members are encouraged to circulate, on a voluntary basis and consistent with any national legislation, relevant information on matters such as
    - legislative experiences and practices to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in SA/LW.
    - relevant scientific, technical and procedural information useful to law enforcement.
  7. ARF members agree to ensure that SA/LW stocks, including surplus stocks and SA/LW confiscated or forfeited as the result of illicit manufacturing or trade, are stored and disposed of in a safe and secure manner.
  8. ARF members are encouraged to collect and destroy illicit SA/LW where stocks of these weapons are surplus to national needs.
  9. ARF members will seek to ensure the proper maintenance of records relating to the possession and sale of SA/LW, and will seek to establish and maintain accurate national inventories of weapons owned by their national authorities.
  10. ARF members will seek to ensure the maintenance of information necessary to trace and identify illicitly manufactured and illicitly traded SA/LW.