

ARF ASPC: Briefing on the Outcomes of the 9th ADMM

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

1. The 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) was held on 16 March 2015 and was attended by all the ten Defence Ministers of ASEAN and Secretary-General of ASEAN, at Langkawi International Convention Centre (LICC), Langkawi, Kedah, Malaysia.

2. The 9th ADMM was updated on the recent developments in ASEAN, and adopted important Concept papers on:

a) ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) from Malaysia;

b) Guidelines to Respond to the Request for Informal Engagements or Meetings by the ADMM-Plus Countries, also from Malaysia; and

c) Concept Paper on the Establishment of the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM) from Thailand.

3. The 9th ADMM was followed by the signing of the "Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Maintaining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People" and a press conference thereafter.

4. During the meeting, the Defence Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international security and defence issues. The issues shared included maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), and terrorism.

5. On terrorism, all the ASEAN Defence Ministers took note of the threat of the Islamic State (IS) and its growing influence and linkages across the globe. The Ministers shared the opinion that the root causes should be identified and the public should be educated to create more awareness. Collaboration to tackle this grave security threat should also include sharing of intelligence and monitoring of the progress and development of the IS.

6. The 9thADMM reflects the significance and importance of ADMM as the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. ADMM in general aims to encourage mutual trust, and promotes transparency and openness across the Member States through greater understanding of defence and security challenges.

Thank you.