

2ND ARF SEMINAR ON ENERGY SECURITY
15-17 April 2008
SINGAPORE

Co-Chairs' Summary

Introduction

1. The 2nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Seminar on Energy Security was held on 15-17 April 2008 in Singapore. The Seminar was organised by the Republic of Singapore and the European Union (EU). It was co-chaired by Mr Khoo Chin Hean, Chief Executive, Energy Market Authority of Singapore, and H.E. Pierre Buhler, Ambassador of France, representing the EU Presidency.

2. The Seminar was attended by representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, the EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, United States of America, and Viet Nam. The list of delegates is attached as Annex 1. The Seminar Agenda and Programme are attached as Annex 2 and Annex 3 respectively.

Opening Session

3. At the Opening Session, the Singapore and EU Co-Chairs delivered their respective Opening Addresses (attached as Annexes 4 and 5 respectively). This was followed by a photo-taking session.

SUMMARY OF SEMINAR SESSIONS

Session 1: Energy Security Risks and Strategies (Part 1)

4. Session I (Part 1) was chaired by Singapore. Presentations were made by the following:

- (a) Mr Geoffrey Barrett, Adviser, External Relations Directorate-General, European Commission;
- (b) Dr Elspeth Thomson, Senior Fellow, Energy Studies Institute

(Presentation is at [Annex 6](#));

- (c) Mr Seán O Regan, Principal Policy Adviser (Energy Security), Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit of the High Representative, EU Council General Secretariat; and
- (d) Mr Tan Huai Tze, Senior Assistant Director, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (Presentation is at [Annex 7](#)).

Co-Chair Khoo Chin Hean invited delegations to comment on the presentations and to share their views. Interventions were made by the delegations of Thailand, China, ASEAN Secretariat, Brunei, the Philippines, India, ROK, the EU, Canada, and Singapore.

Session I: Energy Security Risks and Strategies (Part 2)

5. Session I (Part 2) was chaired by the EU. Presentations were made by:

- (a) Mr Thierry Pflimlin, President & CEO, TOTAL Oil Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd (Presentation is at [Annex 8](#)); and
- (b) Mr Fabrizio Barbaso, Deputy Director-General, Energy and Transport Directorate-General, European Commission (Presentation is at [Annex 9](#)).

The Chair for this session, Mr Seán O Regan, invited delegations to comment on the presentations and to share their views. Interventions were made by the delegations from the EU, Singapore, ROK, New Zealand, ASEAN Secretariat, and Russia.

Session II: Contingencies and Emergency Response

6. Session II was chaired by Singapore. Presentations were made by:

- (a) Mr Aad van Bohemen, Head, Emergency Planning and Preparations, IEA (Presentation is at [Annex 10](#)); and
- (b) Mr Takonai Susumu, First Secretary (Political), Embassy of Japan (Presentation is at [Annex 11](#)).

The Singapore Co-Chair, Mr Khoo Chin Hean, invited delegations to comment on the presentations and to share their views. Interventions were made by the delegations of the United States, the EU, Singapore, ASEAN Secretariat, and Indonesia.

Session III: Alternative Sources

7. Session III was chaired by the EU. Presentations were made by:
- (a) Mr Fabrizio Barbaso, Deputy Director-General, Energy and Transport Directorate-General, European Commission (Presentation is at Annex 12);
 - (b) Professor Xiao Yun Han, Deputy Director-General, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Presentation is at Annex 13); and
 - (c) Ms Sangeeta Bahadur Mann, Director (Energy Security), Ministry of External Affairs, India (Presentation is at Annex 14).

Following the presentations, the EU Chair for the Session, Mr Fabrizio Barbaso, invited delegations to comment on the presentations and to share their views. Interventions were made by the delegations of Thailand, ROK, Indonesia, India, Laos, Brunei, and Canada.

8. In addition to the presentations, several delegations also submitted intervention points for circulation to participating delegations. The intervention points by Thailand, ROK, and Indonesia are attached as Annexes 15 to 17. ASEAN Secretariat also circulated two information papers which are attached as Annexes 18-19.

Closing Session

9. The Co-Chairs briefly summed up the discussions that took place at the Seminar. They then sought the views of the participants on possible future activities for the ARF in the area of energy security. A draft Co-Chairs' Summary was circulated for participants' comments. Views were expressed by the delegations from Thailand, ASEAN Secretariat, and Laos. Following brief statements of appreciation, the Seminar was formally closed at 12 noon on Thursday, 17 April 2008.

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

10. Participants shared their respective national efforts to enhance energy security, and exchanged views on how to deal with the challenges they face. They also commented on views and recommendations expressed by the speakers and presenters.

11. There was agreement among participants that energy security encompasses a broader agenda that includes not only energy diversification and mix, but also energy diplomacy, energy conservation, infrastructural challenges, environmental protection, and the development of alternative and renewable sources of energy. Participants shared the view that governments should take a holistic approach to enhancing energy security in an increasingly interdependent world, where climate change imperatives have to be taken into consideration. There was recognition that this interdependence also opened opportunities for greater regional and international cooperation on difficult energy issues. Some delegations referred in this respect to the continuing need to promote constructive exchanges at the international level. Other delegations expressed the view that the objectives for energy security and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing, and proposed the collective development of alternative and indigenous energy sources, such as biofuels, solar, hydro, and other non-conventional energy sources. Other modalities for enhancing energy security include open and competitive energy market, demand management and the maintenance of adequate oil stockpiles. In addition, the impact of price increase and the need for adequate response to market signals were recognised.

12. Security of transit routes received broad recognition by the participants. They acknowledged that the safety and security of vessels transiting through the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) would be crucial to the energy security concerns of all ARF Member States. Any disruption to vessel traffic through the SOMS will have massive repercussions on the world economy. Participants noted that the littoral states were fully committed to ensuring that the Straits remain safe, secure and open to international shipping and trade at all times. Participants also acknowledged that cooperation and engagement between littoral States and user States have evolved steadily from confidence building to greater concrete cooperation in recent times, including through the Cooperative Mechanism, which provides for littoral-user States to cooperate on navigational safety and environmental protection.

13. Participants discussed the potential of alternative energy to enhance energy security by allowing for a more diverse energy mix, and also by contributing positively to the international effort to mitigate the threat to climate change. Alternative energy sources like wind, solar, hydro, ocean, etc. give countries a larger array of options. They provide the opportunity for countries to meet the objective of fostering economic development with lesser emissions of greenhouse gases. There were also frank discussions on the various options for alternative energy, and their implications. In this regard, participants noted the EU's aim to meet its target of 10% biofuel in the transport sector by 2020 without compromising sustainability and food prices; and also its commitment to apply the sustainability criteria in both its domestic production and for import of biofuels. Sustainable production and consumption of biofuels was acknowledged as the only large-scale alternative for the transport sector. It was also recognised that many ARF Member States have limited options available to them, given their size, geography, and other factors. In the foreseeable future, technologies like carbon capture and storage will need to be developed and made available to less developed countries in recognition that the world will still rely on fossil fuel for some time to come.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. Recalling security risks related to energy use and climate change, including potential competition for available hydrocarbon reserves, risks related to production, conversion and physical transport of energy, and environmental, social, economic and political implications of climate change, the delegates stressed the need for further international and regional cooperation on energy security issues. They reaffirmed the importance of deepening cooperation on energy security within the ARF context.

15. Participants agreed that serious challenges faced by all ARF members require an adequate response through the promotion of strategies to reduce energy security risks, including increasing the number of fuels and technologies in the energy mix; increasing the number of energy suppliers; raising energy efficiency; setting conservation goals; building storage capacity; and continued strengthening of international cooperation.

16. They also stressed the significance of open, transparent, stable, and predictable regulatory regimes in enhancing energy security, increasing market transparency and predictability, facilitating investment, and improving the understanding between energy producers and energy consumers.

17. To strengthen cooperation on energy security within the ARF framework, the meeting recommended to build on the work undertaken in other regional organizations and to focus future activities on the following:

- (a) Build on the existing policy dialogue, and establish information exchange and assistance on best practices and policy developments, including a consultation mechanism that could be used in cases of energy supply and transport disruptions of whatever nature;
- (b) Enhance cooperation on safety and security of critical energy infrastructures and routes of particular relevance to ARF Member States, e.g. conduct a scenario planning exercise, say on the impact of a disruption to the flow of maritime traffic through a major chokepoint, and build on existing international initiatives and efforts to safeguard the sea lanes of communication;
- (c) Conduct practical data exchange and activities and strengthen cooperation with other fora on emergency response measures relating to oil, natural gas, and other energy sources, including stockpiling;
- (d) Strengthen cooperation on the development of and investment in new infrastructure;
- (e) Enhance cooperation on nuclear safety and security issues; and
- (f) Enhance cooperation on addressing the links between energy security, climate change, and global security, including sustainable production and consumption of biofuels.

For that purpose, the Meeting agreed to transmit these recommendations through the ARF Senior Officials for consideration by the ARF Ministers.

CONCLUSION

18. In closing, participants expressed appreciation for the Seminar, which they found helpful for the development of their own domestic policies regarding energy security, and also as the groundwork for possible future ARF exchanges. Participants also appreciated the opportunity for the site visit to Jurong Island Petrochemical Complex.

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