

Welcome Remarks

By

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Kingdom of Cambodia

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Excellency Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the ARF Security Policy Conference in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia!

I would like on behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, especially the Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia, to extend my warmest welcome to all distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends for attending such important conference in order to exchange our views on emerging regional security issues and update the progress on practical maritime security cooperation and discuss on the safety of nuclear energy.

Our region is witnessing dynamic and promising economic growth and regional stability but at the same time experiencing uncertain and unpredictable security challenges and risks. Without proper management of the conflict, our region will face a serious set back in terms of economic growth and community building.

The bottom line is ASEAN unity and centrality; without which the whole Asia Pacific region will face with tremendous security risks and even instability. It is therefore our common interest to think and work together to maintain and strengthen the central role of ASEAN.

We are the ten-member-states family with no ambition to project our power in the region or any other parts of the world. We unite together to serve regional interests, which are **peace, harmony and prosperity**.

The complicated situation on the Korean peninsular, South China Sea, and the strategic competition between the major powers are threatening our regional security to a large

extent. We need to exercise our utmost restraint and try to understand and accommodate each other for the sake of regional interests.

Maritime security and nuclear safety are very relevant and timely topics for further elaboration during today's conference. I share the views that we need to work and implement much more. We need to focus more on practical cooperation mechanisms, specific areas of cooperation and mechanism, and relevant actors and stakeholders in each area of cooperation and implementation. We need to move forward with concrete actions oriented cooperation.

For instance, we have seen progressive and incremental practical security cooperation in our region with promising trend. Under the framework of ADMM and ADMM Plus, practical cooperation in the five areas (maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, military medicine, peacekeeping operations, and counter-terrorism) has been implemented and strengthened gradually with concrete results and achievements.

Confidence and trust have been built and nurtured while practicality and functionality of cooperation have been steadfastly enhanced. But we need to further improve inter-sectoral collaboration, information-sharing, risk assessment and coordinated responses to emerging security threats.

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As we all share common goal or even destiny, which is peace, harmony and prosperity, we can find ways to minimize our differences and disputes and maximize our cooperation and enhance our unity.

By strengthening our regional institutions with the central and capable role of ASEAN, we can maintain peace and stability in the region. It is therefore necessary for us to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN in reducing conflicts and increasing opportunity for all.

To conclude, I would like to once again express my sincere thank to all delegates for the support granted to Cambodian chairmanship this year.

I wish this conference a greater and more fruitful success, which will significantly contribute to promote our cooperation, friendship and mutual understanding.

Thank you!