

## **Closing Remarks**

**By General Neang Phat  
Secretary of State of National Defence, Kingdom of Cambodia**

### **ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC)**

**Phnom Penh,**

#### ***Distinguished Delegates***

Now we come to the conclusion of our meeting today. It was really fruitful discussion. We have elaborated on three key issues namely maritime security, nuclear safety, and civil war termination experiences in the region. We have identified some solutions to address these issues.

We have exchanged views on a wide range of emerging security issues from traditional to non-traditional security issues such as maritime security with some focus on the South China Sea, the recent developments on the Korean peninsular and Myanmar, domestic political changes in the region and its implication for regional security cooperation, Mekong water resources security, small arms and light weapons, and the development in Afghanistan and Syria.

We all emphasize on cooperation based on trust and confidence and rules based institutionalization of security relations in the region. Strategic trust through consistent and sustainable engagement is important to reduce miscalculation.

Regarding the maritime security issue, we underscore the significance of sea based cooperation and freedom of navigation. It is our common interest to ensure the safety and security of Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOC). Good order at sea and maritime connectivity need our cooperative efforts and collective leadership. We need ensure that sea is a unifying factor rather than dividing one. We need to work together towards to building trust and confidence in establishing a sea of peace and cooperation.

As far as the South China Sea is concerned, it needs to strictly respect and implement the Declarations on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) adopted in 2002 between ASEAN and China and work towards the eventual realization of the Code of Conduct (COC). We need to strengthen our cooperation in the South China Sea in the areas of common concern such as transnational crimes and environmental management.

With respect to the nuclear security and safety, we have learnt a great deal of experiences especially from the Japanese case. The energy demand in our region is increasing in tandem with economic development, modernization, and population growth in the region. In Southeast Asia, there are some projects and plans to develop nuclear power plants especially in Vietnam. So technology transfer and knowledge sharing on nuclear safety is crucial for regional. Regional cooperation and capacity building is necessary. Early warning system and transparency mechanism need to be developed and strengthened.

### ***Distinguished Delegates***

In general, we have touched upon key emerging regional security issues of common concern. Based on our discussion, there are relevant policy inputs for future cooperation in the three areas.

Our discussion today has taken another step towards building trust, confidence, and mutual understanding; especially it has contributed to practical cooperation. Regional peace, harmony and prosperity rely on our collective efforts and real cooperation.

Once again thank you very much. I would like to wish you all the bests and hope you will enjoy your trip back to your respective country! Bon Voyage!

*May I now declare the closing of the meeting!*