

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE ARF-ASPC IN MYANMAR 8 JUNE 2014
BG. Jan Pieter Ate (Indonesia Delegate)
Myanmar, 8 June 2014

Let me begin Indonesia's views by making the point that our region today is presenting the dynamic in the security realm as indicated by strategic tension and deficit of trust between and among nations. Parallel to this, security challenges in the form of nontraditional security challenges continue to be imminent that have challenged our region and interests of many nations. This development has appear to contribute to the shifting of geopolitical situation that continues to unfold in a dynamic manner.

In particular, the peace and stability of our region are still challenged by geostrategic rivalries, mutual suspicions, lingering historical animosities, long standing territorial and jurisdictional disputes. Under of this fact, relations among countries including relations among major powers are becoming in turbulence.

It is undesirably that, at a time when the Southeast Asia is closely approaching to the final stage towards the ASEAN Community 2015, the wider region is showing signs of rising tension and uncertainties. At a time when the economies of the region are more intertwined and interdependent than ever before, signs of trust deficits are prevalent. At a time when our common desire of such a peaceful settlement of disputes is to be fulfilled and self-evident, there are signs of turbulence in the relations among countries, particularly those directly involved in the settlement process.

We, in this region have had some good and bad experiences in the past of which many lessons learned we gained from that. Decades ago, countries in the region were divided by Cold War competition, and in addition to several wars including proxy wars and conflicts that many nations have suffered from. Upon the fragmented situation, many countries had low confidence in one another, and they did not feel of becoming the drivers in the regional affairs that lead to peace, stability and prosperity.

Indonesia reminds us all to the conflicts that have always resulted a complex burden to peoples and nations, especially once the relations among countries failed to be managed in a good and positive manner. We should be aware that all of us in this Forum are now in the critical juncture to redefine peace and security for our world and region. We must create conditions where big wars that may divide us again is totally impossible.

In this context, Indonesia would like to take this opportunity to share the experiences which are hoped to be good models in resolving disputes and to rebuild strategic trust confront among nations. Indonesia is a country experienced conflicts and disputes internally and with some other countries bordering us. In the past Indonesia had internal conflict in Aceh. But Indonesia managed to peacefully end the long-standing conflicts in that area, and now managing the development to provide better living standard for the people.

The East Timor question was permanently settled in 1999, and now both countries witness a matured relations undergoing not only between Government to Government, but also through the increase of people-to-people links.

A number of bilateral overlapping maritime borders were resolved peacefully. The process usually took decades, and sometimes even had to resort to an international tribunal, but in the end they were resolved peacefully. Take a look at Indonesia and the Philippines who peacefully signed an agreement

during the visit of the Presidents of Indonesia to the Philippine a few weeks ago. The signing of delimitation agreement has been a remarkable achievement in the bilateral relationship between the countries. Some years earlier, Indonesia and Vietnam under took a historical step in their relationship by reaching an agreement on their delimitation of overlapping EEZs in the South China Sea. It is in the need that the achievements made by Indonesia and Philippines and Indonesia Vietnam inspire other countries in seeking a peaceful resolution of their own disputes, and at the same time transform good relations marked by peace and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Mr Chairman,

Indonesia would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the convening of inter-Korean family reunions at a mountain resort in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in February 2014. Indonesia is confident that such connectivity engagement will lead to trust-building between the two Koreas and beyond and to restoring peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, Indonesia would like to express its concern on the incident of artillery firing by armed forces of both Koreas which happened on the maritime borders in May this year.

Indonesia reiterates its support to the Six-Party-Talks and call upon all the countries concerned to resume dialogue process through the Six-Party-Talks, and urge the DPRK to return immediately to the Talks without precondition. Indonesia also reiterates its support in putting into practice the notion of maximum self-restraint.

On the issue of South China Sea, Indonesia is particularly concerned that despite its earlier call for self-restraint and avoidance of actions that could undermine peace and stability in the area, dangerous maneuvers by ships and naval vessels at sea continue unabated, causing injuries and material damage. Furthermore, tensions have escalated following incidents of protest and violence that have led to loss of lives, and the damaging of properties.

In this regard, Indonesia calls on parties concerned to provide concrete evidence – in deeds and action – of their often-expressed commitment to the principles embodied in the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DoC) as further reaffirmed in the Joint Statement of the 15th ASEAN-China Summit on the 10th Anniversary of the DoC.

I thank you.