

**SPEECH BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL NGUYEN QUOC KHANH,
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**“VIETNAM PEOPLE’S ARMY IN DEALING WITH NON-
TRADITIONAL SECURITY ISSUES”**

Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and myself, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Thailand for inviting the Defence delegation of Vietnam to attend and address at this important meeting. Wish you good health and conference great success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years, the international and regional situation has been seen complicated developments however peace, cooperation and mutual development remains a major trend. The current economic recession in the world has have negative effects on all nations, especially energy and food security issues. Countries have also been interested in global non-traditional security issues such ASEAN terrorism, separatism, ethnic and religious conflicts, maritime security, financial crisis, epidemics, environmental pollution, climate change, natural disasters...which are affecting seriously lives of millions of peoples in the world.

In the same context, Vietnam is facing such non-traditional security challenges as natural disasters, drug trafficking, trade in women and children, epidemics, environmental pollution and recently energy security and financial security issues.

2. Vietnam People’s Army or VPA plays the role as the core force in coordinating with other forces to respond and tackle promptly emergency situations and surmounting consequence of typhoons, storms and floods. In implementation of this heavy mission, VPA has soon taken the following measures:

- Establishing the Rescue Department under Ministry of National Defence. The Department also plays the role as the Office

of National Committee of Search and Rescue. The Committee chaired by Minister of National Defence gives the guidelines and direction for the nationwide task of search and rescue. Arms, Military Regions, Bordering Guard and Engineering Service also have rescue divisions; In order to implement the governmental motto of “four on site” (steering, coordination, manpower and vehicle in local areas), military units have used hundreds of turns of naval ships, Border Guard’s ships, Air Force’s helicopters, aeroplanes to save hundred thousands of lives and property of people, protect crops, and surmount consequences of typhoons and floods across the country.

- Border Guard has coordinated with localities to provide boats and fishermen operating on sea with necessary information so that they could initiatively avoid the typhoons; mobilized many turns of soldiers, officers and vehicles to rescue hundred thousands of lives and boats. Ministry of Defence has extracted hundreds billions VND (Vietnamese Dong), from “the Fund for Relieving the People in the Areas of Natural Disasters, Accidents and Fire” to aid the flooded areas.

- The Vietnamese People’s Navy coordinates with the Maritime Police to patrol against piracy and take part in rescue operations at sea, contributing to maintenance of security in islands and territorial waters of Vietnam.

- Military Medical Service has had many essential initiatives and activities contributed to the governmental objective of caring for community health. Military medical service has built hundreds of “military-civilian infirmaries” to treat the people and prevent epidemics; Military hospitals send theirs medical teams to mountainous hamlets and villages annually to examine and treat the people free of charge; organize medical working teams to locality to propagandize prevention of diseases, reinforce grassroots medical networks, build medical infrastructure, provide equipment, supplement specialized personnel and guide technical practice and train community medical workers.

- Bordering Guard Force has coordinated with Public Security Force, local authorities and people to promptly discover

and arrest many cases of drug trafficking and border crossing trade in women and children.

3. Our VPA also takes part in hunger eradication and poverty elimination. Hunger and poverty is also one of causes of non-traditional security threats. In implementation of the governmental guidelines and policies of hunger eradication and poverty elimination and pushing up economic development in mountainous and remote areas to narrow the development gap between rural and mountainous areas and urban areas, Ministry of Defence has established defence-economic units as the core force in building defence-economic zones in remote and difficult regions mostly located along land borders. These defence economic units have employed thousands of local and ethnic people in the areas. Besides, many military units of VPA have organized spells of field strips to remote hamlets and villages to stay, live and work with local people, help them to set up their production, build infrastructure of roads, schools and medical aid stations..., and guide them to plant crops, do raising and do business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

VPA always attaches the importance to cooperation with regional militaries in dealing with non-traditional security issues. For the complexity of regional and transnational non-traditional security issues, no single country could afford to deal with the issues. Therefore Vietnam is ready to cooperate with regional countries in finding effective solutions to the challenges.

- Being a non-permanent member of UN Security Council for the term of 2008-2009, a member of ASEAN, VPA has initiatively participated in regional security mechanisms and fora such as ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting; ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting; ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting, ASEAN Air Forces Chiefs Conference, ASEAN Navy Interaction; the ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting to exchange information, specify challenges and measures of cooperation in security including non-traditional security issues.

- VPA is now sharing information on terrorism with some regional countries; Vietnam's Navy is coordinating with The Thai

Royal Navy, the Cambodian Royal Navy and China's Navy in patrolling at sea and is progressing to have this coordination with Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei in coming years; has established hotlines with the Philippines and continues to cooperate with other ASEAN countries in this field to prevent maritime crimes, making contribution to peace and stability in East Sea.

- Vietnam's Border Guard also cooperates with the public security forces and border guards of China, Cambodia and Lao in patrolling and controlling land borders to prevent and promptly dealing with cases of drug trafficking and border crossing trade in women and children, transnational smuggling, illegal immigration...

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Non-traditional security issues are attracting the interests of many nations. In order to more effectively deal with non-traditional security challenges, VPA continues to expand their cooperation with other militaries on the basis of "the foreign policy line of independence, self-reliance and foreign policy of openness, multilateralization, diversification of international relations" and in the motto of "Vietnam is ready to be a friend and reliable partner of all countries in international community for peace, cooperation and development". We are ready to exchange experience and coordinate with other countries in the region to deal with non-traditional security challenges.

In coming years, countries in the region should continue to step up bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities as information sharing, coordination in investigation, pursuit and eradication of transnational crimes, establishment of hotlines between corresponding forces of countries to promptly deal with arising circumstances; conducting coordinated patrols at sea and adjoining borders; sending observers to regional exercises, exchange of visits, cooperation in education, exchange of military culture and sports... We hope to receive more cooperation and sharing from militaries in the region.

Thank you./.