

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ARF Security Policy Conference Development of a Regional Peace Operation Network

#### Objective

Malaysia and Australia seek in-principle agreement at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Security Policy Conference in Malaysia to the merits of establishing a regional network of peacekeeping experts.

#### Rationale

Modern peace operations are increasing in frequency and in complexity due to a rise in intrastate conflict and globalisation. There is a growing realisation that resolving conflict requires a sustained, holistic approach.

Modern peace operations often include peacebuilding, preventative diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping, stabilisation and reconstruction and peace enforcement. These activities require increasing numbers of military personnel as well as humanitarian and civil actors. This in turn requires improved interagency planning and coordination at an operational, national and international level.

Within the region there are a growing number of peace operations centres. These include but are not limited to:

- The Malaysian Peace Training Centre (MPTC),
- Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT),
- The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping Training in India (CUNPK),
- The ADF Peacekeeping Centre (ADFPKC),
- The Cambodian Peace Operations and Strategy Studies Centre,
- The US Army Peacekeeping and Stabilisation Operations Institute,
- Thailand Peace Operations Centre of the Royal Thai Supreme Command,
- Singapore, Mongolia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Fiji and Sri Lanka have emerging centres.

The region would benefit from exchanges and information flow between peace operation experts.

#### Proposal

Malaysia and Australia see merit in, and seek the support of ARF members to establish a regional network of peace operation experts as a method of exchanging lessons learnt, promoting regional approaches, harmonisation of doctrine and promoting peace operations training and exchanges by establishing a network of experts.

The aims of the network would be to facilitate communication and exchange of information and ideas between regional peacekeeping policy makers. The network could also beneficially engage and increase information flow with humanitarian and civil actors who are increasingly involved in complex, modern peace operations.

#### Modalities

We note that there is currently an International Association of Peace Training Centres that meets annually in October. This initiative builds on discussions between the

Australian, Indian and Malaysian peace operation representatives about establishing a regional forum.

As there are already a number of exchanges at the operational level, this proposal seeks the establishment of a network of higher level policy makers on peacekeeping.

This regional network could function through an annual meeting similar to the ARF meeting of Heads of Defence Colleges.

Australia and Malaysia offer to co-host the first meeting at the newly established Malaysian peacekeeping centre in Port Dickson. The meeting could be held annually in the first half of the year to allow members to report to the International Association of Peace Training Centres that meets annually in October. Hosts for the second meeting are sought.

The aims of this network would be to build confidence and interoperability among regional peacekeepers and increase regional peacekeeping capacity.

- The network could work towards the harmonisation of peacekeeping doctrine and promote regional approaches to peacekeeping,
- Promote education and training of peace operations personnel (military, police and civilian),
- Promote the standardisation of, and guidelines for peace operations education and training,
- Aid regional consultation with the UN Peacebuilding Commission,
- Work towards establishing centres of excellence and specialisations amongst countries for international peace operations.

Practical activities could include;

- Exchanges on peacekeeping policy and experience,
- Engaging humanitarian and civil actors to increase information flow to aid increased coordination and planning for in modern, complex peacekeeping,
- Establishment of a lessons learnt database,
- Establishment of a list of ARF peacekeeping experts,
- A broadening of contacts amongst Regional Peace Operations Training Centres and peacekeeping policy makers,
- Development of other regional countries ability to engage in peace operations,
- Development of training for military, police and civilian actors,
- The development of opportunities for international training,
- Exchange of instructors,
- Exchange of syllabus,
- Exchange of training scenarios,
- Sharing of Training Calenders.

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