

**CO-CHAIRS' REPORT**  
**ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting**  
**on Security of and in the use of Information and Communication**  
**Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security)**  
**2019-2020**  
**Malaysia, Singapore, Japan**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Co-Chairs of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security), Malaysia, Singapore and Japan, were unfortunately not able to hold the 3rd ARF ISM on ICTs Security in the 2019-2020 Inter-Sessional year. To take forward the operation and activities of the ARF ISM on ICTs Security in the context of the pandemic, the Co-Chairs have implemented electronic provisional measures, as outlined by ASEAN.

The Co-Chairs are pleased to report as follows on: proposed co-chairmanship arrangements for the ARF ISM on ICTs Security; the progress of ARF ISM on ICTs Security activities in 2019-2020; and proposed ARF ISM on ICTs Security activity for 2020-2021.

**I. ARF ISM on ICTs Security Co-Chairmanship**

**1. Extension of the current Co-Chairmanship**

Taking into consideration the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the management and activities of the ARF ISM on ICTs Security, and in order to ensure continuity of the activities of the ARF ISM on ICTs Security and the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the use of ICTs, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan communicated our proposal to extend our tenure as the Co-Chairs until August 2021, by email to ARF participants dated 6 May 2020.

As no ARF participant raised any objection, the Co-Chairs will formally convey this proposal to the ARF ISG and ARF SOM for endorsement, before formal adoption at the 27<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting.

The Co-Chairs will continue to implement the ARF Work Plan on Security of and in the use of ICTs until the conclusion of our extended tenure as Co-Chairs in August 2021.

**2. Co-Chairs for the next ARF ISM on ICTs Security cycle**

In accordance with ARF procedures, the Co-Chairmanship for the next period will be decided by consensus at the next ARF ISM on ICTs Security, which at this stage is expected to take place in Japan during early months of 2021. Co-Chairs will be formally designated at the 28<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2021.

**II. Progress of ARF ISM on ICTs Security activities: 2019-2020 intersessional year**

**1. The following approved ARF ISM on ICTs Security activities were held in the 2019-2020 intersessional year:**

*(i) The ARF Workshop on Awareness – Raising and Information Sharing on*

*Emergency Responses to Security Incidents in the Use of ICTs* (14 January 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) - co-sponsored by Singapore, Cambodia and China.

(ii) *5th ARF Open Ended Study Group on Confidence Building Measures to Reduce the Risk of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies* (15-16 January 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) – Co-Chaired by Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

**2. The following approved activity will be moved to the 2020-2021 intersessional year due to the disruption caused by COVID-19:**

(i) *The ARF Workshop on Protection of ICT-Enabled Critical Infrastructure* – to be co-sponsored by Singapore and the EU.

The proposed workshop was put on hold due to the postponement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the ARF ISM. The co-sponsors have tentatively decided to hold the workshop at the side lines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting next year.

**III. Proposals Received for the 27<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting to be Circulated for Comments**

ARF Participants have put forward various proposals for activities for the 2020-2021 inter-sessional year for consideration at the 27<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting - concept papers for proposed initiatives are attached. ARF participants are invited to provide comments on, and inputs to, concept papers directly to proponents for each proposal.

(i) *Concept Paper on the Development of an online resource in support of ASEAN Regional Forum work on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) proposed by New Zealand and Malaysia:* The proponent would welcome expressions of interest from ARF participants. The Concept Paper is attached:



(ii) *Concept Paper on the Terminology in the field of Security of and in the use of Information and Communications Technologies ASEAN Regional Security Forum proposed by The Russian Federation:* The proponent would welcome expressions of interest from ARF participants, including at least one ASEAN member, to co-chair this workshop. The Concept Paper is attached:

