

CONCEPT PAPER  
Second ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on  
Maritime Domain Awareness

**Background**

Japan, together with Malaysia, Lead Countries of the Priorities Areas, “Confidence Building Measures based on International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation”, convened the first ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in Tokyo, Japan on 7 March 2018.

The workshop was a practical step toward implementing “Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement” which called on the ARF to “serve as a regional forum for maritime security issues that promotes and enhances maritime domain awareness, and develop concrete and effective regional responses to maritime security challenges” by 2020.

In accordance with the ARF statement, agreed by ARF Foreign Ministers in 2018, which stresses “the importance of enhancing cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies, such as capacity building assistance, joint exercises, and information sharing, including MDA and other related initiatives”, ARF members share the recognition on the importance of cooperation on MDA.

The workshop offered the opportunity to share participants’ knowledge and experiences on the concept and their respective national implementation of MDA. The workshop found that there existed various views and understanding among participants on MDA and its implementation. The meeting also highlighted that there was a strong demand in Southeast Asia to utilize enhanced MDA capabilities to effectively address various challenges in maritime domain, such as piracy and armed robbery against ships, IUU fishing, disaster relief and environmental preservation.

**Proposal**

Japan and Vietnam will convene a second workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness in Tokyo, Japan in the 2019-2020 inter-sessional year.

The second workshop will focus on concrete areas of interest identified in the discussions of the previous workshop: namely, **piracy and armed robbery against ships, IUU fishing and maritime terrorism**. The workshop will be aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of their MDA capabilities to address these maritime challenges. It further envisages discussing to identify potential areas for cooperation.

### **Co-Chairs**

Japan and Vietnam

### **Participants**

ARF members are invited to send high level representatives from ministries/agencies overseeing foreign affairs, maritime law enforcement, fisheries and other relevant issues. Track 2 experts are also invited. Participants will be expected to present their views and ideas on relevant topics.

### **Date, Venue and Language**

The workshop will be held during the 2019-2020 inter-sessional year in Tokyo (TBD). English will be the working language.

### **Administrative Arrangements**

International travel, accommodations and other related costs necessary for participation will be borne by the participants in principle.

### **Comments**

For any questions or comments on this proposal, please contact:

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