

Concept Paper

ASEAN Regional Forum

Third ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue

1. Background

The overall situation of disaster and incidents is closely related with the social and economic development. With the enhanced urbanization and expanded infrastructure in the world, the incidents in urban areas have also been on the rise. In countries and regions with special geological structure and in special geographical environment, frequent natural disasters including earthquake, landslide, debris flow etc., have caused great loss of property and life, especially in densely-dwelled cities. In May 2018, floods, hail, earthquakes and other natural disasters affected a total of 11.1 million people in China, with 82 dead and 8 missing. Arson, explosion, dangerous materials release and other unusual incidents have brought new challenges to the urban emergency rescue in countries in the Asia Pacific and the world at large.

The ARF has been committed to promoting the cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster management since its establishment. The annual Inter-

sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief and relevant workshops have played an important role in achieving consensus and strengthening cooperation in this area. On this basis, more specific and focused discussions in urban disaster rescue can further promote regional cooperation in this regard.

In 2016, China and Malaysia co-hosted the First ARF Urban Emergency Rescue Workshop in Shanghai, China, participated by more than 80 delegates from 10 ARF participating countries and three international organizations. In 2018, the Second ARF Urban Emergency Rescue Workshop, co-hosted by China and Malaysia, was held in Nanning, China, participated by more than 200 delegates from 12 ARF participating countries and four international organizations. Participants highly commended the achievements of the workshops and looked forward to further dialogues in the future.

To this end, China proposed the Third Workshop on ARF Urban Emergency Rescue. The workshop aims to strengthen international and regional cooperation to tackle the problems from modern urban disaster emergency rescue, enhance the capability of regional countries to resist the threat of disaster and incidents, and provide a platform for exchange of experiences and techniques on urban emergency rescue.

2. Content and Form

The workshop will combine technical training, joint exercise, seminars and games on fire and rescue, which will be,

- 1) Enhancing participants' understanding of the current security situation in modern urban area, conducting a comprehensive analysis and judgment of risks and challenges, and gathering the consensus on the urban emergency rescue.
- 2) Exchanging rescue experience and practical techniques concerning urban disasters such as structural collapse, urban inland inundation, high-rise building fires, incidents in subway and underground construction, and hazardous materials incidents, etc.
- 3) Seeking consensus on enhancing the national capability to resist the modern city security threats through multilateral cooperation and exploring effective ways to improve the ARF cooperation in urban emergency rescue such as technical exchange and training, exchange of rescue technologies.

3. Participants

Each ARF participant is expected to send to 2-3 delegates from foreign ministry, fire and rescue, police and civil defense related agencies, or relevant academic institutions and rescue force, as well as a team with appropriate scale to participate

the games on fire and rescue if possible.

4. Date and Working Language

The workshop will be held in the first half of 2020 with duration of 4 days. English will be the working language.

5. Administrative Arrangements

ARF participants are welcomed to be Co-Chairs of this workshop. The host will cover costs of the training facilities, conference facilities, daily working meals, two banquets and visits during the workshop.

Any comments or questions may be directed to following contacts:

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