



CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT
15TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL
CRIME

Semarang, Indonesia, 6-7 April 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. M. Chandra W. Yudha, Director of ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of India.
2. All ARF participants except Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka were present. Representatives from the Council of Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of participants appears in **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING SESSION

3. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

4. Mr. Yudha welcomed all participants to the 15th ARF ISM on CTTC and highlighted that in responding to global threats such as terrorism and violent extremism, there is a need for the global community to strengthen cooperation on CTTC to build a more secure and safer world. He further mentioned that new trends in transnational crime are pointing

towards the need to address new priorities such as Trafficking in Persons (TIP). In this connection, he invited all participants to contribute to the implementation of TIP mechanisms such as the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) which entered into force this year.

5. In his opening remarks, Mr. Singhvi highlighted terrorism as the most serious threat to international as well as regional peace and security and concomitantly described the dangers posed by transnational crimes. In order to meet these grave challenges, he underscored the need for collective as well as comprehensive response and recounted the vital role of ARF by means of ISM on CTTC which was in its fifteenth year. He further mentioned that there was a critical need to increase cooperation among law enforcement agencies and society to effectively respond to emerging threats.

Business Arrangement

6. The Meeting was held in plenary. The Programme of Activities of the Meeting appears as **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: DEVELOPMENTS OF CTTC IN ASEAN-LED MECHANISMS

2.1. Efforts taken by AMMTC by Chair of SOMTC

7. Indonesia as the current Chair of the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) briefed the Meeting on efforts undertaken by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and SOMTC in countering terrorism and transnational crime. It was noted that the last series of Meetings were held in May 2016 and included new initiatives such as finalisation of the Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (PoA in CTC), amendment of the trafficking in persons (TIP) component of the SOMTC Work Plan to include elements of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA), and recommendations to establish Working Groups on Arms Smuggling and Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber. The Meeting was further informed of recent achievements including the agreement on the contribution aspect to the Trust Fund to support Emergency Humanitarian and Relief Efforts in the event of the Irregular Movement of

Persons in Southeast Asia and the agreement to update and revise the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) in order to adapt to emerging threats and therefore provide more comprehensive responses. The Meeting noted that Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar and the Philippines have ratified ACTIP and welcomed its entry into force on 8 March 2017. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 4**.

2.2. Efforts taken by ADMM-Plus by ADSOM WG Leaders

8. Thailand briefed the Meeting on the development of efforts under the ambit of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus and informed the Meeting that all ADMM-Plus participants are committed to strengthening the capacity of defence establishments and armed forces in combating terrorism and related crimes. The Meeting noted that Thailand and China have assumed the co-chairmanship of the ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (EWG on CT) from Australia and Singapore on 5 November 2016 and that the Work Plan for the next three years is currently being developed. The Work Plan includes efforts to strengthen cooperation through joint exercises and inter-operability exercises on counter-terrorism as well as exchange of information and knowledge. The Meeting further noted that the first EWG on CT will be held in July 2017 and the planning conferences for the joint exercises will be held in 2018, followed by a table top exercise in Thailand and a field training exercise in China in 2019. The briefing appears in **ANNEX 5**.

2.3. Efforts taken by AMMD by Chair of ASOD

9. The Meeting took in the briefing by Thailand on the outcome of the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) held in October 2016 and noted that since then, four major meetings on drugs have been held which include the (i) Ministerial Meeting between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR on the Safe Mekong Joint Operations on 14 December 2016; ii) Meeting on ASEAN Cooperation Work Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle on 10-14 January 2017; iii) Joint Operational Meeting for Safe Mekong Coordination Project between Lao PDR and Thailand on 9 February 2017; and iv) The Meeting on the Assistance Plan for the Golden Triangle Operation with Donor countries/Agencies on 1-2 March 2017. The Meeting further noted that the ASEAN Cooperation Work Plan to Tackle Illicit Drug

Production and Trafficking in the Golden Triangle will be presented to the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) and AMMD for consideration. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 6**.

10. The Meeting commended the efforts in combating transnational crimes and noted the suggestion to take into consideration the Work Plans of other Sectoral Bodies in developing the new ARF Work Plan on CTTC in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 3: OVERVIEW AND PROSPECTS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME IN THE REGION

3.1. Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism

11. The Meeting exchanged views on the growing threats of terrorism. It was noted that there is a pressing need for countries to continue working together with the United Nations to address terrorism, to further contribute to the financing of counter-terrorism efforts and to conduct regular exchange of threat analysis in the region. Further, the Meeting noted that matters related to this challenge should continue to be included in the consecutive agendas of the ARF and in the ARF Work Plan on CTTC for the 2018-2020 implementation period.

12. Noting the challenge faced by the region in addressing violent extremism and terrorism, the Meeting was of the view that partnership at the bilateral, regional and multilateral level is needed to effectively address such threats. In addition, it was noted that there is a need to foster community resilience and further strengthen cooperation in this area through sharing of best practices and experiences on prison management strategies, intelligence and investigation techniques, preventing misuse of the internet and social media for propaganda and recruitment, as well as to further utilise INTERPOL resources. The Meeting noted that a number of efforts to tackle these threats have been undertaken, such as the amendment of national legal frameworks and development of counter-narrative strategies by engaging all stakeholders including youth and civil society organisations (CSOs). The Meeting emphasised on the need for a whole of government and society approach and noted that the ARF provides a platform to enhance dialogue and sharing of information as well promote confidence building and mutual trust. Further, the Meeting reiterated the ARF's commitment to work together to combat terrorism and

transnational crimes in the region.

3.2. Promoting Regional Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crimes at Sea, such as Trafficking in Persons, Illicit Drugs Trafficking, Natural Resources-related Crimes, Piracy/Armed Robbery Against Ships

13. The Meeting exchanged views on the rising threat of crimes at sea and the multi-faceted nature of transnational crime in the maritime domain and acknowledged the nexus between maritime criminal activities and other organised crimes which pose serious threat to maritime security in the region. Fisherman vessels have often been used to cover illegal criminal conducts such as money laundering, arms smuggling, smuggling of endangered species, smuggling of goods and people smuggling. As such, there is a need to expand cooperation in this area to provide comprehensive response to these threats including through the strengthening of cooperation among maritime law enforcement agencies and ensure effective implementation of international laws. The Meeting noted that ARF Workshops provide valuable opportunities for officials to exchange information, share best practices and promote mutual trust.

14. The Meeting noted that maritime security is one of the thematic areas of priorities under the Philippines' Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017. Further, the Philippines informed the Meeting on several maritime related activities to be hosted by the Philippines this year including the ARF Workshop on Safety of Navigation co-chaired with India, the 4th ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security, scheduled to be held in September, the ASEAN-China High Level Workshop on the Implementation of the DOC in September, and the 7th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and 5th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) with Indonesia in December.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARF WORK PLAN FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME 2015-2017

4.1. Review of the Implementation of Projects by Priority Areas

4.1.1. Priority Area #1: Illicit Drugs

15. The Meeting noted the briefing on the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on the Establishment of the ARF Transnational Threat Information-sharing Centre (ATTIC) which was held in Bangkok on 6-7 March 2017, co-chaired by Thailand and the U.S. The Workshop was aimed to promote intelligence and information sharing among ARF Participants and recommended for the establishment of the ATTIC. Further, the Meeting noted China's proposal pertaining to the Statement on Illicit Drug Trafficking and welcomed ARF participants to co-sponsor the statement.

4.1.2. Priority Area #2: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN)

16. On the rising challenge of the misuse of chemical agents, the Meeting noted the United States' proposal to co-chair an awareness and risk mitigation workshop on CBRN in 2018 which will build upon previous activities co-chaired by the EU and Philippines.

4.1.3. Priority Area #3: Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

17. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of confidence building in ICTs security as affirmed by Ministers at the 23rd ARF in July 2016 in Vientiane. Noting that while development of ICTs is beneficial, there is also a risk for ICTs to be misused as tools for propaganda and cybercrime. In this connection, the Meeting further reiterated the importance of strengthening cooperation to avert the risks of misuse of ICTs.

4.1.4. Priority Area #4: Counter Radicalisation

18. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the ARF Workshop on Mainstreaming the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the ARF Region co-chaired by the Philippines, Australia and the EU in Brussels on 15-16 February 2017 and the ARF Workshop on Medium-to Long-Term Support for Victims of Terrorism, co-chaired by Philippines and the U.S. in Manila on 7-8 February 2017.

19. The Meeting was briefed on the planning progress of the ARF Workshop on Legislative and Non-Legislative Challenges to Countering On-line Extremist Messaging,

scheduled to be held on 19-20 July in Kuala Lumpur and co-chaired by Malaysia and Australia. The Workshop would cover various themes including trends, challenges and responses to online radicalization; developing a framework for responses to online terrorism propaganda; assessments of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches; perspectives of the digital industry to countering terrorist propaganda; and perspectives of civil society and communities in challenging terrorist propaganda.

20. The Meeting noted the U.S.' proposal to convene a series of workshops on Aviation Security and Border Management on Countering FTFs Workshop among ARF participants to be implemented in the inter-sessional year 2017-2018.

4.1.5. Priority Area #5: Trafficking in Persons

21. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the first-ever ARF Workshop on TIP co-chaired by Indonesia and the EU on 4-5 April 2017 in Semarang. The Workshop assessed the threats of TIP and discussed existing efforts and frameworks in combating TIP as well as criminal and police aspects of the issue. The Workshop also discussed the difference between people smuggling and TIP and stressed the need to engage all stakeholders including the private sector and to enhance cooperation with relevant international organisations.

4.2. Future Direction of ARF ISM on CTTC

4.2.1. Development of the ARF Work Plan for CTTC 2018-2020

22. The Meeting noted that the 2018-2020 Work Plan may be built upon the current Work Plan and reiterated the need to avoid duplication of efforts. The Meeting also noted the suggestion from some ARF Participants to include pertinent issues such as the activities of returning FTFs, as well as countering money laundering and terrorist financing. In addition, India announced the intention to host a Workshop on Drug Trafficking in the next inter-sessional year, to which the concept note will be shared for comments in due time.

4.2.2. Co-Chairs of the 16th ARF ISM on CTTC

23. The Co-Chairs encouraged ARF Participants to indicate their interest in co-chairing the next cycle of ARF ISM on CTTC and noted that further consultations will be undertaken to determine the next Co-Chairs.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS

5.1. Briefing by the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) on the Cyber Study Group

24. The Meeting took note of CSCAP's briefing on the key findings and outcomes of the Cyber Security Workshop which was held in Semarang on 5 April 2017 including: (i) the need to strengthen policies at the national and regional levels and enhance dialogue among all stakeholders including between the private sector and government; (ii) acknowledged the need for continued regional cyber security confidence building measures (CBMs), such as through the establishment of the ARF ISM on ICTs Security and compilation of the ARF Directory of Cyber Points of Contact; (iii) recommended ARF Participants to develop and share national cyber strategies that reflect whole-of-government role and responsibilities as well as to compile and compare national cyber threat assessments; (iv) recommended all stakeholders to share lists of key cyber terms to improve regional communication; (v) recommended countries and organisations to offer assistance in capacity building and to coordinate in order to minimise duplication; and (vi) reaffirmed that ARF is an important venue to promote efforts on cyber security, especially in the Asian region and reiterated CSCAP's readiness to assist these efforts.

5.2. Basic Idea for the Establishment of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Information and Communication Technologies Security (ARF ISM on ICTs Security)

25. The Meeting took note of Japan and Malaysia's presentation on the proposed establishment of an ARF ISM on ICTs Security. The Meeting was of the view that due to the rapid growth of cyber-security threats, there is a need to delineate ICTs security and to separate it from CTTC issues in the ARF. Some ARF Participants were of the view that clear provisions on the reporting line of this ISM should be included in the concept paper to ensure that it is in line with the ARF reporting process. The Meeting expressed in-principle support of the proposal and looked forward to the circulation of the concept note

for further comments and inputs prior to the submission to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in May 2017. The concept note appears as **ANNEX 7**.

26. The Meeting further noted the suggestion to create an open-ended study group on CBMs as a first activity of the ISM and looked forward to the circulation of the concept note for further comments and inputs. The proposal will then be tabled at the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD in May 2017 and subsequently submitted to the ARF SOM and the 24th ARF for consideration and endorsement. The Meeting noted that this initiative will complement the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy which was recently adopted by the ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers' Meeting (TELMIN). On this note, Singapore informed the Meeting that it would promote cybersecurity initiatives during its 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship and expressed interest to co-chair the ARF ISM on ICTs Security with Malaysia and Japan.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING REMARKS

27. In his closing remarks, Mr. Singhvi expressed thanks to Indonesia for the hospitality and cooperation throughout the co-chairmanship of this ARF ISM on CTTC, which has provided a platform for discussion on pertinent issues including TIP and counter-terrorism. Mr. Singhvi also thanked the Meeting for the fruitful discussions and valuable contributions. He hoped for a concrete outcome from these discussions.

28. Mr. Yudha thanked India for a year of fruitful collaboration and thanked all participants for the productive and active contribution. He further noted that while the ARF has been successful in moving forward with cooperation in the area of CTTC, more work still needs to be done. In this connection, he expressed confidence that the discussions in this Meeting will further strengthen cooperation in combating transnational crime in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

29. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their effective leadership and fruitful discussion. The Meeting extended its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to all ARF participants.

ISSUES TO BE FOLLOWED UP

30. Issues arising from the Meeting that need to be followed up are:

No	Key Decisions/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	To draft and review the ARF Work Plan on CTTC 2018-2020	16 th ARF ISM on CTTC, 2018	Co-Chairs of ARF ISM on CTTC of the next cycle
2.	To identify the Co-Chairs of ARF ISM on CTTC for next cycle	Prior to the 24 th ARF in 2017	ARF Participants
3.	To seek comments/inputs to the concept paper on the establishment of an ARF ISM on ICTs Security	Prior to the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD	Malaysia and Japan
4.	To submit concept notes of new activities for comments/inputs	Prior to the 24 th ARF	Proponents of the activities

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