



**A** **ASEAN Regional Forum**  
**ANNUAL SECURITY**  
**OUTLOOK 2008**





# 15th Asean Regional Forum

## ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK

Singapore, 2008





## FOREWORD

As ARF Chair, it is my pleasant duty to present you the ninth volume of the Annual Security Outlook (ASO). This publication is based on voluntary contributions from ARF participating countries, giving each country's view on the regional security situation in 2008. The objective of the ASO is to help create mutual understanding and build trust among ARF countries. I thank the countries which have contributed to this year's ASO and hope that there will be even greater participation in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Yeo'.

**George Yeo**  
Chairman of the 15th ARF and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore

Singapore, 24 July 2008



# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Australia .....	1
Canada .....	9
China .....	21
Democratic People's Republic of Korea .....	29
Indonesia .....	33
Japan .....	41
Malaysia .....	51
New Zealand .....	61
Republic of Korea .....	67
Russia .....	73
Singapore .....	79
Thailand .....	89
The United States .....	95
Viet Nam .....	99



# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## AUSTRALIA

### Overview

The Asia Pacific security environment has become increasingly complex. Managing the expanding agenda of security threats poses greater demands on ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) members and governments globally. Terrorism and WMD proliferation are critical challenges requiring concerted responses. New threats also represent challenges - pandemics, climate disruption, transnational crime and food security. These issues have the potential to exacerbate existing security problems - particularly for countries with fragile institutions.

Three pillars underpin the Australian Government's foreign policy. Our alliance with the United States is the first pillar and the strategic bedrock of our foreign and security policy. Closer engagement with the United Nations and other multilateral institutions is the second pillar. Australia wants an effective United Nations (UN), and we are seeking a seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC) in 2013-2014. The third pillar is comprehensive engagement with the Asia Pacific. The Australian Government is committed to strong, close and cooperative relations with countries of the Asia Pacific region.

Dialogue and cooperation are essential to promoting international security. We maintain an extensive network of dialogues with our Asia Pacific partners to share assessments on security issues of common concern. We consult regularly with our key partners the United States and Japan in the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue and with ASEAN through the ASEAN-plus arrangements, the East Asia Summit and the ARF.

Australia was closely associated with the creation of the ARF, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year. The ARF is the region's principal forum for security dialogue and cooperation and we seek to enhance its ability to make practical contributions to regional security challenges. Australia supports increasing security-related dialogue and cooperation in regional bodies such as APEC and the East Asia Summit, as well as in "track 2", such as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia Security Conference (the Shangri-La Dialogue). We welcome the evolution of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and its adoption of an ADMM-Plus concept for engagement with regional security partners.

The entry into force in February this year of the Australia-Indonesia Agreement on the Framework for Security Cooperation (the Lombok Treaty), and ongoing implementation of initiatives under the Australia-Japan Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, will add further to the stability of the Asia Pacific region. In February this year, the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Smith, met his Chinese counterpart in Canberra for the inaugural Australia-China bilateral strategic dialogue.

Australia wants strong regional institutions that will underpin an open, peaceful, stable, prosperous and sustainable region. The region needs to be able to shape effectively its future. To this end Australia wants to begin a conversation with the region about the development of an Asia Pacific Community by 2020. We will consult intensively with the region on this proposal.

*Australia's Security Framework*

Australia is conducting a major assessment ("White Paper") of future defence and security challenges and considering how they can best be addressed. The White Paper will form the basis for developing future Australian Defence capabilities and will help in making informed and cost effective decisions about military capabilities needed to defend Australia and to promote Australian interests.

Australia recognises the importance of consulting with its key allies and partners as it develops the White Paper and will discuss mutually shared interests such as regional security and the need for transparency in defence planning.

**Specific issues of interest and concern***WMD Proliferation and Arms Control*

All countries have a national security interest in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery. International regimes such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have a vital role in preventing WMD proliferation and building the trust and confidence between states essential for deterring proliferation. Australia believes that the commitment of further countries to key international instruments – including the IAEA Additional Protocol, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material – would enhance regional security. Regular, timely submission of annual returns under these instruments is a key to building trust.

Australia supports efforts to bring the CTBT into force, and to finalise its verification system, and urges countries yet to do so to sign and ratify the Treaty.

The NPT remains of central importance and Australia will seek close cooperation with our regional partners in support of a positive result at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In the Conference on Disarmament, Australia will continue to press for negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

In June 2008, Australia announced the establishment of an International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The objective will be to reinvigorate the global effort against nuclear weapons proliferation and shape a global consensus in the lead up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Australia is playing a leadership role in international efforts to prevent the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons through its chairing of the Australia Group. Australia hopes more regional countries will subscribe to The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, which includes an obligation to announce ballistic missile and space launches in advance. Australia will host the 2008 Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Plenary and chair the MTCR in 2008-2009. The aim of the regime is to limit the risks of WMD proliferation by controlling transfers that could make a contribution to delivery systems (other than manned aircraft) for such weapons.

Consistent with UNSC Resolution 1540, Australia encourages regional countries to enhance their export control measures, and looks particularly to transshipping states to be vigilant for cargoes that could contribute to WMD proliferation. We also encourage regional countries to review their domestic regulatory frameworks to ensure the effectiveness of their controls on sensitive and dual-use items.

Australia is a leading participant in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), an informal arrangement among over 90 countries to cooperate with each other, within existing international and national law, to intercept and disrupt illicit WMD

trade. The PSI provides an opportunity for countries in the Asia Pacific region to share information and develop capabilities to address proliferation in a practical way that reinforces and implements existing global non-proliferation norms and measures.

The acquisition of WMD by any state has the potential to weaken global restraints on WMD and ballistic missile proliferation. Australia shares the wide international concern about Iran's pursuit of the proliferation-sensitive technology of uranium enrichment. Iran has provided no convincing justification for its program and is in contravention of UNSC resolutions.

#### *DPRK's Nuclear Program*

Australia regards the DPRK's pursuit of nuclear weapons as a fundamental threat to our region and global stability, and as a serious challenge to international non-proliferation objectives. Australia condemned the DPRK's July 2006 missile tests and its October 2006 nuclear test. Australia is committed to supporting the Six-Party Talks aimed at having the DPRK abandon its nuclear weapons programs.

Australia welcomes the concrete progress made in the Talks over the past year, including the shutdown of the DPRK's Yongbyon nuclear facilities and the substantial progress made on disablement of those facilities. Australia has welcomed the recent provision by the DPRK of a declaration of its nuclear programs.

Australia looks forward to the DPRK providing a full accounting of all its nuclear programs, and the dismantlement of those programs. Australia calls upon the DPRK to complete expeditiously the remaining disablement tasks at its Yongbyon nuclear facilities and to engage constructively in discussions on further actions to implement the 2005 Joint Statement.

Australia urges ARF members to continue to demonstrate to the DPRK the importance the region places on the DPRK abandoning its nuclear weapons programs.

#### *Man Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS) and Small Arms*

Illicit transfer and unauthorised access to and use of MANPADS pose a threat to civil aviation. In recent years the UN General Assembly adopted Australian-sponsored consensus resolutions (59/90, 60/77 and 62/40) which encouraged member states to introduce or strengthen measures to ban the transfer of MANPADS to non-state actors, including terrorist and criminal groups. In 2003, the Wassenaar Arrangement developed export guidelines for MANPADS controls that were subsequently endorsed by the G8, OSCE and APEC. They were further strengthened by revisions agreed at the December 2007 Plenary meeting. Australia continues to engage in outreach with a wide range of countries to encourage the practical implementation of effective MANPADS control measures equivalent to the Wassenaar Arrangement's guidelines.

Illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) continues to be a pressing security concern in the Asia Pacific region. Australia is fully committed to implementing the UN Programme of Action, which provides a framework for eradicating the illicit SALW trade. Australia encourages regional countries to implement the Programme. Australia was one of the original drafters of the UN Resolution calling for progress towards an Arms Trade Treaty and has been an active participant on the Group of Government Experts meeting for this purpose in New York. We continue to provide practical assistance by constructing armouries and magazines for regional defence and police forces, as well as providing training.

### *Terrorism*

International terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to regional and global security. While there have been some noteworthy counter-terrorism successes, particularly in Southeast Asia, terrorist groups retain the intent and capacity to strike, and are evolving new approaches to overcome improved security measures.

In Southeast Asia, while Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) has been significantly disrupted, the threat posed by splinter and like-minded groups remains serious. Terrorists and extremists continue to recruit and to move between countries of the region to access training, refuge and logistical and operational support. There remain local level grievances or tensions which may be susceptible to exploitation by terrorist groups.

The comprehensive CT legal framework established by the UN and its agencies is of fundamental importance to the international community in developing a global response to terrorism. Australia strongly supports the work of the UN counter-terrorism committees. In the Asia Pacific, Australia's counter-terrorism engagement is focused on capacity-building in law enforcement, intelligence, border and transport security, defence, terrorist financing, legal capacity-building, countering the threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism, and countering extremist ideology and propaganda. Our regional counter-terrorism cooperation is underpinned by a network of 13 bilateral counter-terrorism memoranda of understanding with key partners.

The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement (JCLEC), an Indonesia-Australia initiative, was opened in July 2004 and has now run over 140 courses and trained over 3000 law enforcement officers from around the region, with a focus on counter-terrorism capabilities. Countries from the region and beyond are contributing financial and technical support to JCLEC.

### *Maritime Security*

Maritime security is important to the security and economic interests of regional countries. The maritime domain, vital for our trade, is a key arena in the fight against transnational crime and in preventing the illegal transfer of materials for weapons of mass destruction. While some countries are relatively well equipped to tackle these issues, and others are rapidly enhancing their capabilities, major weaknesses persist.

Primary responsibility for maritime security lies with the relevant littoral states. Australia welcomes regional initiatives that strengthen the capacity of littoral states to enhance maritime security. We were pleased with the outcomes of the ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise held in Singapore in January 2007 and look forward to further ARF contributions to build capacity including through establishment of an ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting devoted to maritime security issues. CSCAP is also making a valuable contribution on maritime security issues.

We welcome the evolution of regional contributions to maritime security such as the Malacca Strait Patrols initiative (between Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand) and the Coast Watch South initiative in the Philippines addressing maritime security issues in the tri-border area of the Sulu and Celebes Seas.

Disputed claims in the South China Sea remain a source of regional tension, and potential conflict. We urge restraint and transparency on behalf of all parties, and look for peaceful negotiation of disputes in accordance with international law and agreed approaches, including the 'Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea' (2002) and more recent economic cooperation arrangements.

*Indonesia*

The close cooperation between Australia and Indonesia to address common security challenges in the region, including terrorism, people smuggling and illegal fishing, continues to bear results. Both countries are working to strengthen regional capacity, networking and cooperation to combat transnational crimes through such initiatives as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC).

Consistent with our mutual desire to expand security cooperation, in February 2008 Australia and Indonesia ratified the Agreement on the Framework for Security Cooperation (the Lombok Treaty). The Treaty provides a strong legal framework for strengthening cooperation by encouraging further collaboration in areas such as defence, law enforcement, counter-terrorism, maritime security and emergency preparedness. Both countries are now working together to develop a joint Plan of Action, an evolving document that will reflect priority areas of cooperation.

*East Timor*

Australia, through the International Stabilisation Force, has taken a leading role in helping to maintain stability in East Timor over the past year, including following the 11 February attacks against President Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao. President Ramos-Horta's return to East Timor and the lifting of the state of siege across East Timor were important milestones in East Timor's return to normality following the attacks. Australia welcomes the resettlement of some internally displaced persons from camps around Dili. Indonesia and East Timor have built a productive and harmonious relationship and efforts made by both countries have benefited regional security. Australia will continue to offer considerable bilateral support to East Timor and encourages the international community also to engage on a long-term basis.

*Myanmar*

Australia continues to be gravely concerned about the situation in Myanmar. In the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar faces a huge humanitarian challenge. Australia urges Myanmar to grant unfettered access to humanitarian workers, particularly access to the worst-affected areas such as the Irrawaddy Delta. Australia welcomes the cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in coordinating the relief effort. There has been no movement by authorities to address the need for genuine political reform, to respect human rights, or to arrest continuing economic decline. The constitutional referendum held in May was deeply flawed and the constitution will serve only to perpetuate military rule. We again call for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi whose detention was extended in May 2007. We urge ASEAN member countries and countries of the broader region to use their influence to promote democratic reform and respect for human rights in Myanmar.

*South Asia*

Long-term international commitment remains essential to stabilising Afghanistan, where government capacity is low, security tenuous and challenges to state authority considerable. Still, the International Security Assistance Force and Afghan Forces have made good progress in counter-insurgency operations and reconstruction. The reduction in tension and the building of confidence between India and Pakistan continues to have a positive impact on regional security and stability. The holding of free elections in Nepal in 2008 and formation of a Constituent Assembly were encouraging developments, but the situation remains fragile. Australia has welcomed Bangladesh's successes against terrorism, and has welcomed the Caretaker Government's commitment to hold elections by the end of 2008. Intensifying conflict in Sri Lanka has worsened an already

grave humanitarian situation. Only a negotiated settlement, broadly acceptable to Sri Lankans, will bring an end to that conflict.

### *Cross-Strait Relations*

Australia maintains a firm one-China policy. Adverse developments in cross-strait relations would impact directly on the region's security and economic well-being. Australia believes that, pending a peaceful resolution of differences, the status quo should be maintained and both sides encouraged to avoid provocative or unilateral steps that might be misunderstood or lead to increased tensions. It is important that countries in the region encourage China and Taiwan to look for opportunities for constructive dialogue leading to a peaceful resolution of their differences.

### *The Pacific*

Through its 6 March Port Moresby Declaration, the Australian Government has highlighted its commitment to re-energising relations with Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Australia will pursue new Pacific Partnerships for Development with PICs, based on mutual respect and mutual responsibility for achieving improved governance, economic and social development outcomes. We continue to work to strengthen institutional architecture and effective donor coordination in the Pacific. Key elements of our approach include a greater willingness to address challenges directly, with the support of other members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and a strong emphasis on the security, economic and social benefits of good governance.

Australia remains committed to supporting the Solomon Islands including through leadership of, and financial contribution to, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). RAMSI is a successful example of regional cooperation and significantly contributes in underpinning stability in Solomon Islands.

The situation in Fiji following the December 2006 military coup remains of concern. A return to a democratic government, through Commodore Bainimarama's 2007 PIF commitment to hold elections by March 2009, is critical to Fiji's future security and stability. Australia has provided technical and financial support to assist in this endeavour, and stands ready to provide considerably more. We are continuing to work closely with PICs and the PIF Secretariat to implement the Pacific Plan which aims to create stronger and deeper links between countries in the region in the areas of good governance, security, economic growth and sustainable development.

## **New and Emerging Security Agenda**

### *People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons*

People smuggling and trafficking in persons continue to pose significant threats to regional security. Co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime encourages countries in the region to act cooperatively to prevent, intercept and disrupt people smuggling, human trafficking and related transnational crime. The Bali Process Steering Group recently agreed to continue to deliver practical measures aimed at preventing people smuggling and trafficking, including: developing model legislation; training law enforcement officers on victim protection and assistance; improved cooperation among regional law enforcement agencies to deter people smuggling and trafficking networks; and enhanced cooperation on border and visa systems to detect and prevent illegal movements.

Australia supports a number of anti-trafficking projects in the Asia Pacific region through its aid program. These projects aim to reduce the number of trafficking victims and improve the protection, recovery and integration of those who have been trafficked. The *Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons (ARTIP) Project* is a five year, A\$21 million activity which commenced in August 2006. ARTIP

aims to facilitate a more effective and coordinated approach to people trafficking by criminal justice systems of governments in the region. This is being done through capacity building and training in the areas of law enforcement; judicial and prosecutorial functions; and policy, research and outreach, with partner countries Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Burma and Indonesia. Vietnam is likely to join the program in the near future.

### *Illicit Drugs and their Precursors*

According to the United Nations' 2007 World Drug Report, Asia is the world's largest market for Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) - around 55 per cent of the world's ATS users live in the region.

Australia is committed to promoting global cooperation against the manufacture, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs with a particular focus on preventing the diversion of chemicals into the illicit manufacture of ATS.

The Australian Government established the Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control (ACoG) in October 2006 to promote best practice policy, regulatory and practical responses to the problem of domestic precursor diversion and ATS manufacture in Asia. All ASEAN countries are ACoG participant countries.

Australia looks forward to the endorsement by ARF ministers in July 2008 of a statement promoting collaboration on the prevention of diversion of precursors into illicit drug manufacture.

Australia supports the focus on illicit drugs and their precursors in the Workplan for the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and looks forward to future ARF engagement on this threat.

### *Climate Change*

Climate change is a serious long-term global challenge that will add incrementally to the

intensity of climate-related events, such as extreme weather events, sea level rise and resource availability. Over time climate change will become an additional strategic stress that will add to existing stresses. All countries need to cooperate to minimise the future impacts of climate change, including security repercussions.

The Government is pursuing three key responses to climate change - mitigation, adaptation and global solutions. Australia is working to deliver a comprehensive post-2012 outcome to reduce greenhouse emissions and is working nationally and in our region to adapt, and support others to adapt to climate change impacts.

### *Energy security*

Reliable and affordable access to energy is essential for growth and development in the Asia-Pacific region. With demand for energy growing rapidly, concern about energy security is also increasing. Australia considers that regional states have a common interest in cooperating to enhance energy security, and in ensuring that the world does not retreat from working towards more open and free regional and world markets for energy. The growing cooperation on energy security in regional forums, including APEC, is encouraging, and we welcome the increasing focus on energy security as a political and strategic issue in the region. For its part, the Australian Government is developing its own National Energy Security Assessment which will provide input into a national discussion paper (an energy "White Paper").

### *Food Security*

Food security is an immediate concern for the Asia Pacific region. Over one billion people in the region live on less than US\$2 a day. They face the prospect of being pushed further into poverty by rapidly rising food prices. The international community has committed to making a concerted and cooperative response to this crisis in global food security, and Australia has supported it fully.

Australia contributed A\$30 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) emergency appeal (on top of Australia's existing A\$77 million WFP funding for 2007-08) to allow the supply of additional food aid in countries most affected. We recognise that the first priority is to help the poor and vulnerable in developing countries that are most directly affected. Australia is also looking to build further on its long-standing development assistance efforts to strengthen social protection mechanisms, improve agricultural productivity, rural infrastructure and the effectiveness of markets in developing countries, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

Australia strongly advocates further liberalisation of agricultural trade as one of the most effective long-term measures the global community can take in tackling the challenges of food security.

#### *Avian Influenza*

Global health authorities remain concerned that a new influenza virus with the potential to cause a pandemic will emerge and spread with devastating consequences. Australia is providing financial support to the ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases Program Phase 2 (2006-09), the APEC Support Fund, the WHO's Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases, the World Bank's Trust Fund for Avian and Human Influenza, the OIE's (World Organisation for Animal Health) Project to Strengthen Veterinary Services in South-East Asia, and a range of other regional and bilateral programs in the ASEAN region. Globally, the Australian Government is working actively through multilateral organisations and other initiatives such as the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza.

## ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

### CANADA

Globalization has connected people and places in ways that were previously unimaginable, and has blurred the lines around national economies. While sovereign states remain the fundamental building blocks of international society, they share the landscape with a host of other actors. In this environment, an expanding international commitment to the principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law offers the greatest hope for unprecedented levels of security, prosperity and quality of life worldwide. Nevertheless, challenges remain. Threats have emerged and continue to arise from unconventional sources. Security and prosperity remain unfulfilled dreams for many around the world, and democratic systems of government are often under threat. Our current institutions of governance continue to struggle to address complex problems, while ensuring that the principles of transparency and accountability are reflected.

Canada remains committed to making a distinctive contribution to a safer world. Our efforts are directed at helping to build a more secure world, in particular with regard to fragile states, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, civilians affected by conflict, and human rights.

Canada will continue to work within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to address security challenges in Asia-Pacific and beyond. The *Annual Security Outlook* is an important contribution to transparency and confidence building among ARF partners, and is a useful tool for sharing perspectives and information about activities at national, regional and sub-regional levels in support of agreed

priorities. Building on our 2007 submission, Canada's 2008 *Annual Security Outlook* outlines Canada's activities in a number of areas of direct interest to the ARF and proposes areas for possible cooperation.

#### **The Regional Security Environment**

While the region is largely peaceful, many new global threats to security are present in Asia-Pacific. Terrorism and transnational crime, including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in people and drugs, are increasingly threatening the security and livelihood of the region and its neighbours, underscoring the need for strengthened practical regional cooperation and capacity development. Counter-terrorism and transnational crime cooperation must also be conducted in a manner that respects international human rights norms and standards. The need to ensure that weapons of mass destruction do not spread to states or terrorists is an international responsibility as set forth in UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and reaffirmed in UN Security Resolution 1676 (2006). Non-proliferation and disarmament remain fundamental pillars of our common commitment to international peace and security. Multilateralism has been challenged by dramatic changes in the security climate, and there is a clear need to make our systems stronger and more responsive. Strict verification, as well as a concerted international response, is the key to strengthening non-proliferation and disarmament norms and mechanisms.

This is particularly true in Asia-Pacific given recent revelations of technology transfer,

the continued rise in the number of indigenous development programs and new exporters, significant advancements in some national missile programs, and ongoing tension over the DPRK's nuclear weapons programs. Nevertheless, some progress is being observed. North Korea denuclearization has taken positive steps when the Six Parties announced on October 3, 2007, an agreement which called for a complete declaration of all North Korea nuclear programs, and the disablement of its nuclear facilities at Yongbyon. The DPRK also reaffirmed its commitment not to transfer nuclear materials, technology, or know-how to others. Although North Korea missed the declaration deadline on its nuclear programs, bilateral talks with the US since March appear to have advanced the likelihood for an agreement emerging from the Six Party Talks.

Conflict and instability continue to affect other countries of the region, although improvements are certainly evident. Continued counter-insurgency operations of the authoritarian military government in Burma underline the ongoing instability in that country, with the consequent mounting human rights abuses and continued displacement, including the forced migration of refugees into neighbouring countries. The devastating impact of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, and the unwillingness of the Burmese authorities to provide full and unimpeded humanitarian access to affected populations in its aftermath, hindered the ability to provide lifesaving support to people in need. Absent any progress toward democratic transition, a peaceful resolution of differences appears more distant than ever, while human rights abuses, including forced labour, summary executions, and the use of child soldiers, remain prevalent and Aung San Suu Kyi languishes under a renewed detention order. There continue to be modest improvements in relations between India and Pakistan through the Composite Dialogue process. Concerns remain over instability, insurgent activity and narcotics trade along the porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border. With the surrender of rebels involved in the civil unrest of 2006 and the February 2008 attacks on

the President and Prime Minister, there is a renewed need to support Timor-Leste in its continued efforts to strengthen democracy, ensure public security, and maintain stability in the country. The security and human rights situation in Sri Lanka remains acute. The Government of Sri Lanka officially ended the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as of January 16, 2008, marked a dangerous turn in the long-running conflict that has already caused an acute human rights and humanitarian situation. Government Forces continue to launch artillery and air strikes against LTTE strongholds in the north, while the LTTE retaliates with sporadic bombings in the south. Civilians are often targets of attacks.

Other factors to consider are the increasingly determinant role China is playing in security discussions across the region, and the desire of Japan to undertake greater involvement in peace and security activities such as peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

The proliferation and flow of small arms and light weapons, the weapons of choice in most current armed conflicts in the region, continues to result in the killing of an estimated 500,000 people a year in conflict situations around the world and represents a major threat to human, regional and global security. Anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) still cause thousands of deaths and injuries each year, which, in addition to the human cost, also have a devastating impact on economic development, especially agricultural activities. They also hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance as well as longer term rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in post-conflict situations. It is only through total eradication of anti-personnel mines that we can stop the catastrophe these weapons create. The spread of infectious diseases, as we have seen with the Avian Flu, and earlier with SARS, also poses a significant risk to both the physical and economic health of the world's citizens.

## What Role for the ARF?

Canada was pleased to have co-chaired the 2007/2008 ARF Intersessional Support Group meetings with Brunei Darussalam and to have hosted our ARF colleagues in Ottawa April 2-4, 2008. There continue to be promising developments on the future of the ARF, in particular the ARF's efforts to move towards its preventive diplomacy phase and to ensure that the Forum remains relevant to all members. These developments will facilitate ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity of the Forum to focus its efforts on its value-added in building regional security and to further enhancing its ability to respond to challenges.

From maritime security to disaster relief, the confidence-building measures (CBMs) meetings held in the current ARF year as well as the Intersessional Meetings on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CT-TC) and Disaster Relief (ISM on DR) provided useful recommendations for increased ARF cooperation and practical measures to address these specific issues and enabled ARF members to share information, identify best practises and undertake cooperative measures to address the ranges of security issues facing the region. It is essential that members work together to implement these measures.

Evolving regional integration efforts within Asia-Pacific, including the East Asia Summit, have resulted in the emergence of additional fora for dialogue and cooperation. The rising influence of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the greater focus of APEC on security issues, in particular, make it critical for the ARF to remain focussed on areas where it has a clear value-added in terms of enhancing regional security.

Canada continues to believe that an agreed ARF work plan would have the advantage of clearly identifying the outcomes we want to achieve as well as building towards results with clear links to the ARF's broader and long term agenda.

## Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CT-TC)

The global threat of terrorism remains high, as demonstrated by continuing terrorist incidents in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. This is a phenomenon that requires a global response. The first line of defence in countering terrorism is the promotion of accountable, democratic governments that promote and protect human rights and the rule of law, allow for peaceful dissent, take action to fulfil the aspirations of their people, promote tolerance, and respect diversity. The promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law will remain a core priority for Canada in all fora dealing with counter-terrorism, including the ARF.

No country is immune to the threat of terrorism. Canada is acting decisively to protect Canadians and is playing its part in the global fight against terrorism. Canada is a free and democratic society and our diversity of cultures contributes to our vibrant and dynamic country. Canada also stands firm in the fight against terrorism, and we will continue to pursue our efforts in this regard. Canada has an operational and legal framework that can react quickly and effectively – a key element of our multi-faceted approach to fighting terrorism – which has enabled us to disrupt terrorist networks.

We will also continue to promote international efforts to counteract terrorist organizations and their support networks. Canada is working with its partners in international and regional organizations to achieve the full implementation of the 13 international conventions and protocols on terrorism, including the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Canada welcomed and signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2005 and will work with others to conclude the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the earliest possible opportunity. Canada also welcomed

the adoption, in 2006, of the UN's Global Counter Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly, and is actively supporting efforts to implement of the Strategy as we approach its two-year review in September 2008.

Terrorist organizations can and do exploit the proceeds of international crime and criminal methods to support their activities. As our world becomes more interconnected, global criminal networks have sprung up that are involved in the narcotics trade, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, the illicit trade in weapons, money laundering, identity theft, commercial fraud, extortion and cyber-crime. Civil wars in fragile states have been exacerbated by the illicit import of weapons and the illegal export of natural resources such as diamonds, timber and other highly valued resources.

Canada's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building (CTCB) Program, created in 2005, continues to provide counter-terrorism related training, resources and expertise to ARF partners. The Program's activities assist in preventing and responding to terrorist activity in a manner consistent with international human rights norms, standards and obligations. In 2007, Canada funded approximately 20 assistance projects to ASEAN member states, including programs in the areas of information sharing and intelligence exchange; legislative drafting assistance; the provision of anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing policy; training to enhance response capabilities to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) incidents; in-flight security officer training; developing training manuals for maritime security drills and exercises of port facilities; and various other policy and law enforcement programming. Canada was particularly pleased to support an ARF CBM Seminar on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 in February of 2007 and the ASEAN Workshop on Preventing Bio-Terrorism in July. Canada is committed to

working with ARF partners to combat threats to the safety and security of the region, and continues to work very closely with state and agency partners in identifying appropriate CTCB related projects.

Canada is committed to working with ARF partners to combat threats to the safety and security of the region. From Canada's perspective, the ARF could build upon its valuable work on CT-TC issues to date by working to develop practical measures and best practices to effectively implement current international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and transnational crime, and identify opportunities for regional capacity building. This should include the implementation of the recommendations from the ISM on CT-TC, as well as the establishment of a regional CBRN response support network, an area where the ARF could develop a valuable expertise in the region. We also encourage the ARF to consider the recommendations from the various meetings held on maritime security, and to encourage participation in collaborative initiatives, such as the maritime security and disaster relief exercises within the ARF context, as a means to complement the excellent work being done by littoral and affected states.

### **Non Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament**

A robust global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament (NACD) architecture is an essential framework for international peace and security, including the progressive reduction of nuclear weapons and the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction (WMD), limitations or bans on excessively harmful or indiscriminate weapons and efforts to control the proliferation of missiles and missile technologies. Canada has a longstanding commitment to strengthened international efforts to ensure that WMD do not spread to states or terrorists prepared to use them. Strengthening international export control regimes and supporting

efforts to ensure the ability of countries to enforce effective and comprehensive export controls on proliferation-sensitive technologies, remain priorities for Canada. In this regard, Canada supports the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Canada will continue to play a major role within the international community to strengthen regional and multilateral NACD norms and mechanisms. Canada is an active State Party to all of the major international treaties in the NACD area, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its related protocols and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). Canada also participates in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), is a member in all export control regimes and is a founding subscriber to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOB). We continue to strongly support the strengthening of compliance and verification mechanisms, such as nuclear safeguards implemented by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the ongoing development of the International Monitoring System for the CTBT. Canada is also participating both in the Oslo Process and the CCW to negotiate two legal instruments that address cluster munitions. Cluster munitions have had significant humanitarian and development impact on civilians, both at the time of their use and after fighting has ended. Canada has never produced or used cluster munitions and is currently in the process of destroying its remaining stocks.

In advance of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Canada will work to strengthen the NPT's authority and integrity and to strengthen

the Treaty's commitment to non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

To reduce global WMD and terrorist related threats, Canada has committed up to \$1 billion, over ten years, to the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (Global Partnership) which was launched under Canada's leadership at the 2002 G8 Summit. The Global Partnership is committed to preventing terrorists from acquiring or developing chemical, nuclear, radiological and biological weapons; missiles; and related materials, equipment, technology and related knowledge. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada is responsible for Canada's Global Partnership Program. To date, Canada has expended over CAD \$400 million dollars and has a detailed plan of future activities.

Given the global nature of the WMD terrorist related threat, Canada's Global Partnership Program activities benefit all ARF members, by preventing weapons and materials of mass destruction from being used against any of us for malicious purposes. Focusing initially in Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union, Canada's Global Partnership Program is involved in projects related to the destruction of chemical weapons, the dismantlement of nuclear submarines, nuclear and radiological security, the redirection of former weapons scientists and biological non-proliferation. Canada has fully completed its initial submarine dismantling commitment, having dismantled 11 nuclear-powered submarines in North West Russia, and as a partner in the dismantling of a 12<sup>th</sup>, a typhoon class strategic ballistic missile submarine.

In the area of nuclear and radiological security, Canada is involved in projects to strengthen physical protection at a number of Russian facilities, has contributed to the elimination and safe disposal of radiological sources, which can be used in the making of a "dirty bomb", and has enhanced

border security in Ukraine in order to prevent illicit trafficking.

To address the threat of “intellectual proliferation”, Canada is working with the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow and the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine, in Kyiv. 115 Canadian funded projects have provided civilian employment to over 2700 former weapons scientists. These projects involve cooperative research with Canadian industry, universities and government.

The Global Partnership Program’s biological non-proliferation projects focus on Central Asia. They provide biosecurity and biosafety guidelines and training, create biosafety associations and address inadequate security at biological facilities. Demonstrating the global nature of the threat, the G8 countries have been joined by 13 additional members, including three ARF countries: Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. Amongst the G8 member countries, four are also ARF members as ASEAN dialogue partners: Canada, Japan, Russia and the United States. Canada encourages all members of the Global Partnership to continue their engagement and fulfil their pledges, so that its goals can be achieved. Canada welcomes new donors to join this important international threat reduction undertaking.

The ARF can play a valuable role in promoting NACD cooperation through regional initiatives, including through the development of practical measures and best practices to support national implementation of international NACD treaties and norms, and through support for the universal application of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system. The ARF could work to universalize key NACD instruments in the region, including both international treaties, such as the CTBT, as well as other arrangements, such as the HCOC. Those ARF members who are

also members of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) could support CD/1840, the draft work plan tabled by the six CD Presidents for 2008 that would allow substantive work to begin on four key issues, including negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. ARF members who have not yet done so, could also consider publicly endorsing the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles in order to improve their capacity to prevent and deter illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials. One area where the ARF could have particular value-added is in increasing the effectiveness of national procedures for the implementation of effective export licensing measures. In this regard, Canada is pleased by the concrete results achieved at the ARF Export Licensing Experts Meeting we co-hosted with Singapore in November 2005. The meeting resulted in a regional contact list of export licensing experts and a set of best practices.

The High-Level Panel report and the United Nations Secretary General’s response in his report entitled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”, set out an ambitious agenda on NACD issues, and regional organizations have an important role to play in advancing these goals. Similarly, the Secretary General has highlighted many human security issues which require increased cooperation and action on the part of the international community.

### **The Effects of Conflict on Civilians**

The safety and security of individuals is an important part of our security outlook. This approach is based on the principles of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law and on the understanding that the security of states is necessary, but not always sufficient, for the protection of people. Over the past decade, important progress has been made in closing normative gaps related to protection of civilians including with respect to protection of children and

armed conflict, landmines, peace and security, and strengthening the rule of law to prevent impunity through the International Criminal Court and special tribunals. Despite recent progress, millions of people around the world are affected by armed conflict and remain displaced and dispossessed. Deliberate targeting and attacks against civilian populations, forced displacement, sexual violence, and the denial of land and property rights are far too prevalent for millions of people globally. The targeting of civilians, especially women, and ongoing crises in Burma, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo serve as painful reminders of the gaps which remain between established norms and our ability to implement them.

The most effective method of reducing the human costs of war is to promote peaceful resolutions of conflicts where they exist, and to prevent their re-emergence. Over the past decade, there has been an expansion in international efforts to do this more effectively, from strengthening the capacity of peace support operations to the development of multi-dimensional peacebuilding missions. Increased mediation activities are also needed to this end. Additionally, greater consideration could be given to building upon cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights and humanitarian law in an effort to address the root causes of the insecurity that civilians face.

A recent example of a measure to promote peace and prevent the re-emergence of conflict is the Peacebuilding Commission (PCB). Canada is a strong supporter of the Commission and will rotate on to the Organizational Committee of the body in June 2008. As of December 2007, Canada has provided \$20 million to the voluntary Peacebuilding Fund. Canada is one of the top five international donors to the Fund which supports countries before the PBC, but is also available to countries in similar circumstances as designated by the Secretary-General. The Commission has made

an important contribution to the countries on its agenda, currently Burundi, Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau, both in terms of international attention and financial support. Canada encourages all ARF countries to seek necessary flexibility to fund both Official Development Assistance and non-Official Development Assistance activities supported by the Peacebuilding Fund in order to respond to conflict-affected countries needs and avoid relapse into conflict. Canada looks forward to working with our ARF partners on the Organizational Committee of the PBC to enhance the institutional effectiveness of the Commission.

Another method of reducing the human cost of war is tackling the financial bases of conflict. Since the end of the Cold War, civil wars have increasingly had clear economic dimensions, whether through diamonds in Sierra Leone and Angola, tropical timber in Liberia and Cambodia, or narcotics in Colombia and Afghanistan. Positive developments in dealing with war economies include the Kimberley Process, which established an international certification scheme for rough diamonds that tightens controls over the trade that now includes 48 participants, including 17 ARF member States. There is growing evidence that the scheme successfully helps prevent the trade of “conflict diamonds”.

The ARF could also play a role in diminishing the impact of conflict on civilians through technical assistance to support adherence to and implementation of international treaties such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Similarly, the ARF could play a key role in advocating for universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention, as it has done in April in Malaysia by hosting the ARF Seminar on Universalization of the Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines: Prospects and Challenges. The ARF could also support national and regional level implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Combat the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

To further lessen the impact of conflict upon civilians, Canada encourages all those States that have not yet done so, and who are concerned about the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, to take an active role in the Oslo process and in forthcoming activities within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

With regard to democracy, supporting its global growth offers the best chance for international peace and stability as well as the promotion of human rights for all. Over the last decade, the growth in the number of democracies has levelled out. There has been progress in some countries. However, many are sliding back to non-democratic forms of government. Democracy is up against significant obstacles. The uncertainty around the elections in Zimbabwe underlines how quickly signs of instability can emerge. Canada's goal is to strengthen democracies that give individual citizens a say in the decisions that affect their lives. We place individuals at the heart of our democracy support. To succeed and thrive, democracy must empower individuals to shape their own futures.

Increasingly, the question of humanitarian access remains the critical challenge for the ARF members. We have a collective interest in ensuring safe and unhindered humanitarian access to civilians in need. This is not simply an aspirational statement; it is a fundamental principle of international humanitarian action. It should not be open for interpretation and debate. Yet full safe and unhindered access – so critical to providing life saving relief and support to vulnerable populations - remains an elusive goal.

Populations have the right to live in reasonable expectation that they will not be subject to serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. When it comes to the protection of civilians, early warning is rarely a problem. Early, robust and effective diplomatic action, however, is

not always guaranteed. Ongoing conflicts such as in Sri Lanka, Burma and the Democratic Republic of Congo remind us of the toll that violence takes on civilians. Post-electoral uncertainty in Kenya demonstrated how we must be vigilant, and ready to provide support before crises take hold.

We have a rich and diverse set of norms, laws and principles to protect vulnerable populations, including victims of conflict and persecution. However, if we are to ensure a greater freedom, the ARF must continue to strengthen the normative framework and, more importantly, take concrete steps to end impunity. The message we send to parties to a conflict must be unequivocal; perpetrators of abuse will be held accountable for their actions. Those who commit the most serious international crimes must be brought to justice. Canada welcomes the progress made to date at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Further, we must recognize that no erstwhile principle should be allowed to shield perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The pre-eminent responsibility of states is to provide for the physical safety of the population. When a government fails in discharging that responsibility to protect, the international community has a subsidiary responsibility to act. This is not a license for intervention, but rather an obligation to assist.

One area where we have made some of the most important strides is in the protection of children affected by conflict. Security Council Resolution 1612's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism has been accepted by all countries of concern and we are seeing real results on the ground. In more instances, children are being released from armed groups and we are seeing the arrest and prosecution of some of the worst perpetrators of violations against children.

But more needs to be done to hold these criminals accountable, including travel restrictions on leaders, exclusion from governance structures and amnesty provisions, imposition of arms embargoes, bans on military assistance and the restriction on the flow of financial resources. We also need to see greater attention to other violations committed against children in conflict situations, especially the horrific sexual violence continuing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **Fragile States: the Role of Peace Support Operations**

Among the emerging threats we face are those resulting from weak, ineffectively governed states. Canada's strategy to address the multiple challenges posed by fragile states is focused, first and foremost, on prevention: through development strategies, support for human rights and democracy, diplomacy to prevent conflict, and contributions to build human security as well as through the provision of assistance to stabilization and reconstruction, particularly for those states emerging from conflict.

Recent conflicts and emergencies have taught us that we need to develop an integrated approach in responding to international crises when they occur, so that military operations, police and civilian assistance form part of a coherent operational plan. Military intervention has to be rapid in order to stabilize the situation on the ground and restore security for the local population. The stabilization of post-conflict societies needs to be undertaken in parallel with efforts to re-establish effective public institutions, law enforcement and judicial systems, education and health care, functioning legislatures, governance and regulatory regimes. We have learned that there is a need for an early, comprehensive and coordinated approach to building national security capacities under the rubric of security system reform (SSR). Such multi-faceted action also sets the stage for long-term economic development, through international assistance and private sector initiatives.

Canada is currently building its capacity to support national SSR efforts through the development of a Canadian whole-of-government policy framework which will guide Canada's engagement in SSR. The policy framework is complimented by whole-of-government training of Canadian government officials who work in SSR and related fields. This training is based on the OECD DAC Handbook on Security System Reform.

Canada's experiences in Sudan, Afghanistan, Haiti and following the Indian Ocean tsunami and earthquakes in Pakistan and Indonesia, clearly demonstrate the importance of a well-coordinated and rapid response to international crises. In order to facilitate this process, in September 2005 Canada created a Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force (START) and a Global Peace and Security Fund (GPSF), located within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, initially resourced at CDN \$100 million per year until 2009/10. In June 2007, additional resources were provided for the GPSF, increasing it to \$235 million for 2007/08, and \$146 million per year for 2008/09 and 2009/10. In February 2008, the GPSF was extended by an additional three years, at CDN \$146 million per year, until 2012/13. These initiatives will enable the Government of Canada to ensure timely, coordinated responses to international crises requiring effective whole-of-government action and to plan and deliver coherent, effective conflict prevention, crisis response and stabilization initiatives in fragile environments, such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Haiti and the Middle East.

Canada remains a strong supporter of international peacekeeping and peace operations. Canada champions the evolution of integrated peace operations, which involve a range of activities (political/diplomatic, human rights, governance, corrections, judicial, police, development, etc.) in order to produce the most effective international response to conflict and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace. Over the 25 multinational

peacekeeping and peace operations worldwide (of which 18 are UN-led), Canada participates in 15 peace operations worldwide, including in 9 of the 17 UN-led peacekeeping missions. Canada was represented at ARF peacekeeping conferences in 2007 and 2008. In addition to the 2500 Canadian Forces personnel deployed to Afghanistan, Canada has about 260 troops, police, corrections and justice officials deployed to a combination of UN-led and UN-mandated missions worldwide.

Of particular relevance to the ARF, Canada is implementing a whole-of-government strategy to address the challenges in Afghanistan in a holistic integrated way, to ensure robust, well-coordinated interventions, to maximize the results of Canada's investment, and to ensure better protection to Canadians serving at the front-lines of our engagement. Canada has shown leadership by committing development assistance and deploying diplomats, development workers, troops and civilian police to help the Afghan government secure a better future for its people. Our engagement is guided by an integrated strategy which identifies clear Canadian priorities and three primary objectives: 1) stabilisation; 2) good governance; and 3) reconstruction and poverty reduction. Complementary civilian and military engagement help deliver concomitant support to Afghan governance and development under an umbrella of security. Our multi-faceted contribution consists of: over CDN \$1.3 billion in development and reconstruction assistance through to 2011; a permanent Embassy in Kabul; a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kandahar and more than 2500 Canadian Forces personnel as well as approximately 40 civilians and civilian police in support of operations in Southern Afghanistan.

The speed with which we intervene, together with the right mix of assistance, can be crucial in saving lives in a crisis situation. Sudan's Darfur region is an example of a humanitarian crisis that requires concerted international action and

where a regional organization, the African Union, has played a leadership role. Canada was a principal supporter of the African Union Mission in Sudan, and continues to provide voluntary support to its successor the hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) as well as the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). Canada's whole-of-government approach to our commitments in Sudan involves diplomatic, humanitarian, peacebuilding and reconstruction assistance, and support for improving the security situation. Since 2006, Canada has provided over \$430 million, including \$18 million in mine action, in support of efforts to bring peace to Sudan. In 2008-09, Canada will invest in Sudan \$191 million over and above our assessed contributions for UN peacekeeping missions. Spread across three pillars - security, diplomacy and development - this figure includes up to \$40 million in voluntary support for the enhanced capacity of African troop contributing countries in UNAMID in 2008-09, and makes Canada the second-largest voluntary financial contributor to the UN-AU hybrid mission.

In Haiti, Canada supports an integrated peacekeeping and peacebuilding operation. Canada currently has 94 civilian police, 8 corrections experts, and 4 military officers serving in MINUSTAH. Additionally, DFAIT's GPSF provides CDN \$15 million per year to improve peace operations capacity, reform the police and correction systems (including refurbishing prisons), improve border and migration management and reduce community level violence and insecurity. These efforts complement Canada's development assistance and make us the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest bilateral contributor to Haiti's stabilization and reconstruction.

From Canada's perspective, ARF members must consider practical ways to collaborate in terms of training for and participation in complex peace support operations, involving both civilian and military actors. To this end, Canada has been pleased to provide training support to

some of our ARF partners through our Military Training Assistance Program. Canada is also active in supporting G8 actions to build global capacity for peace operations with a focus on Africa and looks forward to working closely with the G8 Japanese Presidency on this issue next year. Canada has also been working to promote G8 engagement and cooperation in Afghanistan and the region by encouraging targeted G8 assistance to support the Afghan and Pakistani governments in fostering economic and social development in the border region. These sorts of exchanges of experiences and best practices, as well as the creation of peace support training programs between ARF countries, can make an important contribution to building regional capacity for peace support operations and promote a better coordination of efforts within peace support operations.

### **Cooperative Conflict Prevention**

There is a general consensus within the ARF that preventive diplomacy can contribute to preventing disputes and conflicts from arising between states that could pose a threat to regional peace and stability. The time is ripe for the ARF to move towards building concrete capacity for cooperative conflict prevention within the region. This capacity building should focus on the provision of technical assistance to member states, and take a cooperative, problem-solving approach. In this regard, Canada welcomes recent initiatives on streamlining the working methods of the ARF to make it a more responsive organization. In the development of a proposed annual work plan, the ARF should consider how best to provide the Chair and the Unit with the capacity to coordinate cooperative preventive diplomacy initiatives.

Investing in conflict prevention will contribute to preventing costly peace support operations. In this regard, the ARF should seek to strengthen partnerships with other regional organizations with experience in preventive

diplomacy and conflict resolution, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States (OAS), in order to promote cooperative, problem-solving approaches based on the exchange of best practices and expertise. In addition, while the ARF is notably the primary official multilateral political and security forum in the region, we should be mindful of the roles played by other regional fora where many ARF members also participate, such as APEC and the East Asia Summit, and seek opportunities for synergy where appropriate.

### **Transparency Measures**

The international community has made important advances in promoting transparency in the area of conventional arms through two voluntary global instruments: the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the instrument of standardized reporting on military matters, including transparency on military expenditures. The UN Register has set an example for regional initiatives, such as the landmark Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, which entered into force in 2002 and which requires all OAS states to provide annual reports to the OAS Depository on imports and exports of conventional weapons covered by the UN Register, and to notify the Depository of acquisitions of certain conventional weapons within a specified time frame.

While recognizing that the ARF is not in a position to adopt such a legally-binding instrument as the OAS Transparency Convention, it could support global transparency efforts through technical exchanges aimed at facilitating adherence and implementation of international transparency instruments (the UN Register, the instrument of standardized reporting on military matters and the UN Register on Conventional Arms (UNCAR)). The ARF could also consider the development of a voluntary regional transparency instrument.

One important contribution to enhanced transparency is the sharing of information about national security and defence programs and policies. The Canadian Forces continue to serve Canadians at home by conducting search and rescue and disaster relief operations, and by supporting other government departments such as the Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada. The CF also contributes to the Government's overall strategy to protect Canadians against the threat of terrorism. The Canadian Forces will increase their efforts to ensure the sovereignty and security of our territory, airspace and maritime approaches, including in the Arctic, and improve the gathering, analyzing, integrating and use of information gained from a combination of maritime, land, air and space surveillance systems. Partnering with the U.S., Canada participates in the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), which monitors and tracks man-made objects in space and detects, validates and warns of attack against North America by aircraft, missiles or space vehicles and provides surveillance and control of Canadian and US airspace. The role of NORAD has expanded to include providing warning of maritime threats. Internationally, the Canadian Forces remain capable of participating in a wide range of operations. These include complex peace support and stabilization missions, maritime interdiction operations, traditional peacekeeping and observer operations, humanitarian assistance missions, and evacuation operations to assist Canadians in countries threatened by imminent conflict and turmoil. The Government of Canada also recently announced the Canada First Defence Strategy which sets out a vision for future operations as well as the funding required to support it.

## Conclusion

The new security context has challenged all of our nations to reconsider how best to address the complex and multidimensional threats which face us all, while ensuring appropriate roles and responsibilities for different security actors, and appropriate international cooperation on security challenges of shared concern.

There are many areas where the ARF could play a valuable role in fostering increased cooperation to enhance regional and international security. Canada is pleased to work with interested ARF members to advance practical cooperation, to promote the exchange of best practices and to provide technical assistance where we can. To help us in charting our course and using our intellectual and financial resources most effectively, Canada supports efforts to consider where we want to focus our efforts, with what priority, and within which time frame. ASEAN leadership will be key to helping the membership as a whole to advance towards this goal but all members must remain central to this process. There continues to be a very positive spirit of constructive dialogue around these issues and we look forward to working with the ARF membership to further support efforts to enhance regional security in the Asia-Pacific.

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM 2007/2008 ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK

## CHINA

### I

In 2007, the situation in the Asia-Pacific remained stable on the whole, and peace, development and cooperation continued to be the general trend in the region.

The economy of the Asia-Pacific was full of vigor and vitality. China and India, with their strong economic growth, were the major forces behind the economic growth of the whole region. The Japanese economy continued to recover, albeit slowly. Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Viet Nam and other ASEAN countries enjoyed continued economic growth. Many Asian countries saw increase in their export, domestic demand and foreign exchange reserve. All this made Asia-Pacific the most dynamic region in the global economy.

Regional cooperation continued to deepen. ASEAN issued the *ASEAN Charter*, which marked another step forward in the establishment of an ASEAN Community. The second *Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation* and the *ASEAN+3 Cooperation Work Plan 2007-2017* were issued, taking the 10+3 mechanism to a new starting point at the beginning of its second decade. The East Asia Summit continued to be a leaders-led strategic forum. Cooperation among China, Japan and ROK showed sound momentum of growth. Progress was made in the integration of SAARC.

Regional security dialogue was fruitful. The ARF endeavored to promote political mutual trust and closer cooperation in non-traditional security field. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization held its 7<sup>th</sup> summit during which the *Bishkek Declaration* was adopted. It played an

increasingly prominent role in promoting regional peace, stability and development. The Six-Party Talks made progress despite difficulties. The situation in Northeast Asia was improved. India and Pakistan opened a new round of peace talks with continued improvement in bilateral relations. The reconstruction of Afghanistan moved forward. The political situation in Timor Leste was gradually stabilized.

At the same time, the Asia-Pacific also encountered threats and challenges of a global nature. Terrorism, separatism, religious extremism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remained causes for concern. Many countries were grappling with issues such as energy security, climate change, natural disasters and epidemics. The sub-prime mortgage crisis, soaring oil and food prices, turbulences in the financial market, the rise of trade and investment protectionism, and the slowdown of major economies in the world have taken a heavy toll on the economic and social development of Asia-Pacific countries, particularly the poor ones.

### II

With the acceleration of globalization and regional integration, non-traditional security issues became more prominent. They posed real threats to regional peace and stability and became increasingly important factors affecting the regional security situation.

#### **Non-proliferation**

The non-proliferation endeavor faced both important opportunities and severe challenges. Over the years, the international community had

worked hard and put in place an international non-proliferation regime under the guidance of the *UN Charter* and with the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, the *Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction)*, and the *Biological Weapons Convention (Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological [Biological] and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction)* as the legal basis. Global non-proliferation cooperation continued to deepen. Significant progress was made in the Six-Party Talks on the Korean nuclear issue and the denuclearization of the peninsula moved forward steadily. The process of settling the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiations, however, experienced twists and turns. Economic globalization, the development of information technology and the involvement of non-state players added to the complexity of the non-proliferation endeavor. The international community remained divided on the approaches to non-proliferation, and on how to eliminate the root cause of proliferation and strike a balance between non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Further progress in non-proliferation efforts will not be possible without improvement in international relations, guaranteed security for all countries and just and fair settlement of relevant regional security issues. The goal of international non-proliferation should be achieved through political, diplomatic and other peaceful means. Efforts should be made to improve the international non-proliferation regime and make the export control system of all countries stronger and more effective. Proliferation issues should be handled through dialogue and international cooperation. Non-proliferation efforts must be based on broad participation of the international community, and the fairness and non-discriminatory nature of the regime must be upheld. Initiatives aimed at strengthening the existing mechanisms or establishing new ones must be based on broad

participation of all countries and democratic decision-making. The practice of unilateralism and double standards should be discarded. The due role of the UN should be valued and brought into full play.

### Counter-terrorism

The counter-terrorism situation in the past year remained grave with the frequent occurrence of international terrorist activities. North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia were among the most seriously affected regions. The security situation in Iraq and Afghanistan deteriorated, terrorist and extremist forces became active in Pakistan, and there was a resurgence of the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. The United States and Europe faced continued threat from terrorist acts. In Africa, terrorist forces stepped up their penetration into the region. East Turkistan terrorist organizations, including ETIM and ETLO, were active in Central and Southeast Asia, resulting in continued increase in terrorist attacks.

Terrorism is a common threat to humanity. The fight against terrorism is in a crucial stage, which requires enhanced international cooperation. China believes that first, counter-terrorism efforts should aim at addressing the problem at its source. Over-emphasis on the role of military means won't solve the problem. The United Nations and the international community should pay more attention to the issue of development and help developing countries with counter-terrorism capacity building. Second, counter-terrorism efforts should be based on the *UN Charter*, international law and other universally recognized norms governing international relations. Effective international cooperation is necessary to mobilize concerted efforts of the international community to tackle the threat of terrorism on the basis of multilateralism and with the United Nations and its Security Council playing the leading and coordinating role. Third, the diversity of civilizations should be respected and efforts should be made to promote dialogue among

civilizations and their harmonious coexistence, as well as greater mutual understanding and tolerance. Counter-terrorism efforts should not be undertaken on the basis of ideology.

### **Maritime Security**

The maritime security situation in the Asia-Pacific is in general stable. There have been more dialogues on maritime security issues and enhanced maritime cooperation. The overall security environment in the Asia-Pacific has improved. However, complicated factors affecting maritime security in the region still exist. Relations among countries concerned are still affected by disputes over maritime sovereignty and interests. Piracy, armed robbery, illegal smuggling, drug trafficking and people smuggling remain major factors that endanger the security of navigation, international trade, and ships and port facilities. The Malacca Straits and other strategic maritime passages still face potential security risks.

The issue of maritime security is related to a wide range of issues as it has complicated historical reasons and involves the interests of countries concerned. In this context, maritime security of this region should be better upheld through equal consultation, dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders based on universally recognized international law and modern law of the sea, including principles provided for in the *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea*. Efforts should focus on capacity building of countries concerned to enhance their ability to guard against and fend off the above-mentioned risks and threats. The security of the Malacca Straits as a key international passage concerns the immediate interests of countries in this region as well as the economic stability and growth of the region. China supports efforts by littoral countries to uphold the sovereignty and security of the Straits pursuant to the *UN Charter* and other universally recognized norms of international law and supports their leading role in this regard. China hopes that relevant countries will work together to

ensure security in the Straits through dialogue and the cooperation mechanism in the Malacca Straits while fully respecting the sovereignty of littoral countries and taking into account the concerns of all stakeholders.

### **Disaster Relief**

Natural disaster is a major obstacle to the sustainable development of the world. China and other countries in the region are frequently hit by natural disasters, including earthquake, typhoon, flood and tsunami. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and many of them do not have the capability to monitor or give early warning of major natural disasters. The recent strong cyclone in Myanmar and the devastating earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale in China's Sichuan Province caused tremendous casualties and property losses. These disasters have highlighted the urgency and necessity of international and regional cooperation on disaster relief.

As globalization advances, to guard against and cope with natural disasters require capacity building and international cooperation. The international community, developed countries in particular, should increase material and technical aid to disaster-hit developing countries in the spirit of humanitarianism and help them raise their capabilities of disaster preparedness and mitigation. International and regional cooperation on disaster relief should focus on the establishment of early warning mechanisms and information sharing. At the same time, trainings and joint exercises on disaster relief should be carried out to help developing countries learn disaster management expertise and increase their emergency response capabilities. During international disaster relief operations, countries providing assistance should follow the principle of humanitarianism, neutrality and fairness, fully respect the sovereignty of the disaster-hit countries, step up consultation and coordination with local governments and increase

disaster relief capacities of all countries in the region.

### III

The ARF has become increasingly influential since its inception 15 years ago and played an active role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust among its participants and promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. It has become the most important channel for official security dialogue and cooperation in the region and a major platform for Asia-Pacific countries to discuss security issues.

The ARF is a creative undertaking by countries in the region in their exploration for a new model of security dialogue and cooperation. It has become more mature through 15 years of development. A range of principles and a model suited to cooperation in the region have been established, new security cooperation concepts have been developed and solid work has been done in non-traditional security cooperation. It is necessary to sum up the experience of the ARF.

The ARF has promoted a regional security dialogue model in which security is enhanced through cooperation and trust deepened through dialogue. To settle disputes through dialogue, consultation and peaceful negotiations has become the consensus of countries in the region and is gradually replacing the old practice of seeking security through power, conquering and even war.

The ARF has established a work model which seeks incremental progress by tackling the easier tasks first. Given the diversity and complexity in the Asia-Pacific, the ARF began with human resources training and experience sharing in non-traditional security cooperation which is less sensitive and then moved to the setting of regional rules, desktop exercise and the planning of a real-time exercise.

The ARF has set up a model of relations based on mutual respect and equality. The ARF, initiated by ASEAN, a group of medium- and small-sized countries, has always respected the driving role of ASEAN and, as a forum for equal-footed dialogue, has promoted the awareness of equal participation and mutual learning among its participants.

The ARF has formed an operational model of building consensus and seeking common ground while putting aside differences. Since its inception, the ARF has identified such operational principles of consensus building and accommodating all parties' comfort levels and an open and non-mandatory operational modality which has ensured that all participants can enhance their mutual understanding and trust through equal exchanges and dialogue. This has laid a good foundation for practical cooperation.

The security situation in the Asia-Pacific region keeps changing and developing, and security cooperation mechanisms and platforms in various forms have appeared. The ARF should make more efforts in the following aspects so that it will be the most effective regional security cooperation platform and play an even bigger role in upholding regional peace and stability.

The ARF should continue to strengthen confidence-building measures (CBMs) to enhance mutual understanding and trust among its participants. The lack of political mutual trust remains an obstacle to security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, the ARF needs to further consolidate and deepen its CBMs and carry out more programs to reduce misgivings among its participants and enhance mutually-beneficial cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

There should be greater involvement of national defense officials and more exchanges and

dialogue on defense issues among ARF participants. As a regional security forum, the ARF should encourage defense officials to increase exchanges and interactions and host more programs on CBMs in the field of defense. Armed forces of ARF countries should also be encouraged to take part in the non-traditional security cooperation.

Effective measures should be adopted to gradually implement the consensus reached by ARF participants on non-traditional security cooperation, which is a highlight in substantive cooperation within ARF. The ARF should focus on increasing capacity building of its participants to raise their ability of fending off non-traditional security threats.

On the basis of respecting sovereignty of the participants, in-depth discussions should be held on ways and methods of carrying out preventive diplomacy. Confidence building measures, exchanges and dialogue and cooperation in all fields are part and parcel of preventive diplomacy. Given the diversity and complexity of the region, existing principles, the *ARF Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy* of 2001 in particular, should continue to be followed in the process of preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region so that measures of preventive diplomacy will be implemented on the basis of respecting sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

To meet the need of regional security cooperation, cooperation should be more efficient and effective. China supports the driving role of ASEAN and hopes that all members will take part in or host activities of the forum and make proposals and suggestions for improving the operation of the ARF. China hopes that the ARF cooperation will be more effective through such measures as the Friends of Chair and Expert/Eminent Persons that promote scientific and democratic decision making of the ARF and coordination in implementing relevant programs.

## IV

China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and adheres to the objective of maintaining world peace and promoting common development. China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development and adopt an opening-up strategy featuring mutual benefit and win-win results. China maintains that all countries in the world should join hands to bring about a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. In short, China is committed to peaceful development, exchanges and cooperation, win-win outcome and harmony.

On this basis, China's policy on Asia-Pacific security is built on the new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination. China maintains that ARF countries should respect the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, transcend ideological differences and carry out extensive security cooperation to jointly settle various traditional and non-traditional security issues. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region should promote mutual trust through dialogue, solve problems through consultation, seek stability through cooperation and work together to build a harmonious region of lasting peace and common prosperity.

China not only actively advocates the above-mentioned ideas but also earnestly put them into practice.

### **China's Relations with Major Countries**

China-US relations kept a momentum of stable growth. There were frequent contacts at all levels. President Hu Jintao and President George W. Bush met, talked over phone and wrote to each other on a number of occasions. The two countries also maintained effective consultation, coordination and cooperation on main areas in bilateral relations and on major international and regional issues. China and the US successfully held five rounds of

Strategic Dialogue and three rounds of Strategic Economic Dialogue.

China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination enjoyed all-round, in-depth and rapid growth. Leaders of the two countries agreed on the principles and goals for the second decade of the partnership.

China-Japan relations sustained momentum of improvement. The two sides maintained regular exchange of high-level visits, and promoted strategic relations of mutual benefit that they agreed to build. High-level military-to-military exchanges resumed after being suspended for ten years. Chinese naval vessel “Shenzhen” visited Japan, the first visit by a Chinese naval vessel to Japan after the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Consultations continued on the issue of East China Sea.

China-India relations maintained good momentum of all-round growth. The two countries kept regular high-level contacts and successfully held their third strategic dialogue. They were committed to properly settling issues left over from history, and worked for a fair, reasonable and mutually-acceptable framework for the settlement of the boundary issue at an early date.

China-ASEAN cooperation moved ahead steadily. The two sides followed through on the *Joint Statement of China-ASEAN Commemorative Summit*, accelerated the building of China-ASEAN free trade area, and deepened mutually-beneficial cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, social and other areas.

China-EU dialogue and cooperation were strengthened. China and the EU formally launched negotiations on Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). Political consultation and dialogue mechanisms between them were improved at all levels, and their friendly and mutually-beneficial cooperation in various fields were expanded and deepened.

China, together with other Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members, made the implementation of the *Treaty on Long-term Good-neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation* the central task of the next stage. Practical cooperation in such areas as security, economy and humanities started to bear fruits. SCO’s contacts with other international and regional organizations also continued to expand.

## Regional Cooperation

President Hu Jintao attended the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting. Premier Wen Jiabao attended the East Asia leaders’ meetings and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

China took an active part in ARF activities. The *ARF General Guidelines on Disaster Relief Cooperation*, which was drafted by China, was adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> ARF, laying the foundation for regional disaster relief cooperation. China ran successful cooperation projects with Thailand and Indonesia on counter-narcotics, maritime security and other non-traditional security issues, and facilitated cooperation in relevant fields.

China was actively involved in cooperation across the board at various levels under the 10+3 framework. It contributed to the release of the *Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation* and the *ASEAN Plus Three Work Plan 2007-2017*, documents providing strategic guidance and specific plans for future 10+3 cooperation. China also pledged an additional fund of US\$15 million to the special fund for Asia regional cooperation to provide new impetus to 10+3 cooperation.

China was committed to closer trilateral cooperation among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Premier Wen Jiabao attended the 8th China-Japan-ROK Leaders’ Summit, proposing closer trilateral cooperation in the political, economic, trade, cultural and other fields. China also hosted in Beijing the first senior diplomats’

consultation among China, Japan and the ROK and participated in the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the three countries, which helped to increase their political mutual trust.

China actively participated in the East Asia Summit. China worked with relevant countries for the adoption of the *Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and Environment* during the 3<sup>rd</sup> East Asia Summit, which reflected the common will of countries in the region to actively tackle climate change and promote sustainable development.

China's relations with SAARC made important headway. China for the first time attended the 14<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit as an observer in April 2007, signalling a new starting point in China-SAARC relations.

### Hotspot Issues

As the Chairman of the Six-Party Talks, China was committed to the goal of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. China maintained close dialogue and consultation with all the other parties, successfully hosted three plenary meetings of the Six-Party Talks, launched five related working groups, and promoted the adoption of two important documents, namely, the *Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement and the Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement*. Substantive progress was made in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

On the issue of Myanmar, China actively engaged parties concerned through various channels. China supported the good-offices of the United Nations Secretary-General and his special envoy on Myanmar, Mr. Gambari. China received visits by Mr. Gambari and maintained regular and good consultations with him on Myanmar.

### Military Exchanges

The militaries of China and the United States continued to expand their exchanges, and established a hotline between the two defense departments. China and India held the first defense and security consultation. A Chinese naval vessel formation participated in "AMAN-07" ("Peace-07") multinational maritime military drill hosted by the Pakistani navy in March 2007. "Xiangfan" missile frigate of the Chinese navy took part in the 2007 International Maritime Defense Exhibition Asia (IMDEX Asia) hosted by Singapore and the Second Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) held in the adjacent waters of Singapore in May. A combined anti-terror training of special troops of China and Thailand, coded "Strike 2007", was staged in Guangzhou. This was the first joint military training China held with another country. China participated in "Peace Mission 2007" joint anti-terror military exercise among the armed forces of the member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in August. Chinese and Indian armies conducted "Hand-in-Hand" joint anti-terror military training in Kunming in December. Such exchanges deepened military mutual trust between China and the countries concerned.

### Non-traditional Security Cooperation

China stands for closer cooperation on non-traditional security issues among countries in the region to jointly safeguard economic security and information security and deal with such threats as natural disasters, terrorism, transnational crimes, epidemic diseases and piracy. China takes the view that given the transnational and global nature of non-traditional security, we must abandon the old security model that is exclusive and targeted at a particular party and find a solution that transcends borders, race and ideology.

As a member of the Asia-Pacific family, China shoulders, together with other countries in the region, the responsibility of upholding peace

and stability in the Asia-Pacific. China will remain committed to the long-term strategic choice of peaceful development and a win-win strategy of opening-up. China will continue to develop friendship and partnership, strengthen good-neighborly relations and practical cooperation with neighboring countries, and vigorously engage in regional cooperation for a harmonious Asia-Pacific featuring peace and stability, equality and mutual trust, and win-win cooperation.

. . . . .

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### **The View of the DPR Korea on the Regional Security and the Peace and the Stability on the Korean Peninsula**

[July 2008]

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Peace and security in today's international relations remains yet the topmost priority. Unilateralism and high-handedness continues to be a root cause of creating destabilizations in the world, with no regard to the UN Charter or International Norms which stipulates respect to sovereignty and equality in inter-state relations. As the product of unilateralism and coerciveness, the armed invasion into Afghanistan and Iraq is giving rise to the recycling of massive killings and terrorist actions against innocent people, with separatism being stirred up to destroy territorial integrity thereby inspiring mistrust and confrontation.

The Missile Defense System which is a serious concern of the international society is now being expanded from the mainland of the United States of America and the Northeast Asia to the Eastern part of Europe while modernization of nuclear weapons and nuclear threats thereafter is openly being encouraged under the doctrine of nuclear preemptive strike. It is today's reality that the peace and stability of the world is facing challenges.

#### **2. SECURITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

It is true that the economic development in Asia-Pacific Region has been sustained

considerably but security situation is in the cross of the opportunities and challenges.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

It is a common goal of Asia-Pacific region to achieve peace and development of regional countries, the uninterrupted pursuance of which is offering of good opportunities to them. Over the years, new economic powers are emerging and they are having positive implications on world politics, economy and military field and, in particular, the building up of powerful countries as they are indicating is being recognized as contributing factors towards their increased positions and roles in international politics. Furthermore, it is regarded as progress towards multi-polar world that they are moving forward for their increased strategic roles on long term basis in international politics, whereas they are strengthening already organized mechanism of cooperation among themselves.

On the other hand, ASEAN is becoming another political player for peace and development in this region. ASEAN is in the middle of development of itself as a united force with the adoption of its own charter and decision to establish a community of economy, security and culture not later than the year 2015 bringing 5 years earlier than the original target, assuring its future position as a strong political force. Especially ASEAN stood test of times by leading political dialogue,

CBMs and preventive diplomacy in ARF while adhering to the principles of respect to sovereignty, non-interference since the inception of the Forum and also by discouraging sanctions and interference by some countries into regional security and the internal affairs of Myanmar with a view to solve regional issues by its own way.

The peace and security is a common goal shared also by non-ASEAN countries in the region. As far as DPRK is concerned, it is fully in conformity with the trends in the region towards peace and development that DPRK is building a powerful socialist country clearing of the daily growing pressure on the country by external hostile forces, on the basis of Songun Policy, which is a unique mode of politics of its own. The Songun Policy is a powerful guarantee to prevent the outbreak of another war on the Korean peninsula and contribute to peace and security in the region.

It is noteworthy that another historical North-South Summit Meeting was held in Pyongyang in October 2007, which resulted in the adoption of October 4 Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity, with positive implications on regional peace and development as a follow-up of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration adopted in the year 2000.

## CHALLENGES

The major threats and challenges to peace and security in Asia-Pacific region are coming from the continued existence of the outdated military alliances, which came over from the times of Cold War.

The US-Japan and US-South Korea military alliances in Northeast Asia, a seemingly triangular military bloc with the US as its axis, constitutes itself a source of threats to peace and stability not only in the Korean Peninsula but also Asia and the world at large. The United States has made a massive arms buildup including Weapons of

Mass Destruction, WMD like nuclear weapons in and around South Korea and Japan on the pretext of military alliances and went so far as to expand its striking targets beyond the Korean Peninsula to Northeast Asia onwards to the whole of Asia-Pacific region under the new doctrine of "Strategic Flexibility".

In particular, the United States dared already begin to deploy Missile Defense system in Northeast Asia with attempts being made to draw South Korea into it in addition to Japan while it is in controversy with opposition on the issue of deploying the system in the east European countries. The deployment will inevitably undermine regional stability and lead to accelerated arms race in the region.

As for the last year's military activities of the US allies, they crossed the danger line over into reckless stage. Japan has upgraded the Agency of Defense to the Ministry of Defense proceeding to revise so called "Peaceful Constitution", thereby putting finishing touches to adaptation of those legal and institutional mechanisms standing as obstacles in the way of overseas aggression in order to realize old militarist dreams.

The US-Japan joint air force exercise held in the island of Guam last year was the first historical event which opened up a way to overseas military exercises. In this exercise, Japanese bombers flew over the distance of 1,200 miles away from Japan to drop real bombs over targets and safely return home. This clearly indicates that Japan is deadly bent on its attempt to be a military power with its target range expanded, not just confined to surrounding countries.

Japan is yet far from accepting its past large-scale crimes against humanity like sexual slavery, with no apology and compensation for over half a century despite international condemnation. Japan is pushing ahead with militarism under the

silent approval of US, causing vigilance of Asian countries and international society.

It is also alarming that South Korea is giving priority to military alliance with US. The South Korean authorities reaffirmed its commitment to military alliance by launching joint exercises codenamed “key resolve” and “foal eagle”, which are nuclear war exercises to attack their fellow countrymen. Worse still, they also made provocative acts with a new indication of preemptive strike against their compatriots in the north. These acts are a violation of October 4 Declaration, aggravating tension on the Korean Peninsula.

This fact shows that the military alliances under the US leadership are developing into one military entity, binding together US, Japan and south Korea to be used as a leverage to easily put other countries under pressure or make a preemptive strike at any moment. In other words, the alliances are now by no means confined to Northeast Asia alone against aspirations of regional countries towards peace and development.

### **3. DENUCLEARISATION**

Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is in essence the issue of denuclearizing the whole of the Korean Peninsula not the issue of DPRK only. In other words, denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is not “denuclearization” leading to unilateral disarming of PRK but it is a process of liquidating hostile relationship between PRK and US and fundamentally eliminating nuclear threats in and round the Korean Peninsula.

As for the origin of the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula it dates back to mid 1950s when US began deploying nuclear weapons in south Korea creating nuclear threats against DPRK for over half a century. This issue became more critical when the current US administration adopted a new doctrine of the pre-emptive nuclear strike against DPRK to threaten its sovereignty, security and moreover its survival as a nation.

As far as the position of the DPRK government is concerned, the enuclearization of the Korean peninsula is the life time will of the respected President Kim 11 Sung and the ultimate goal of DPRK. PRK remains unchanged to solve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiations in a peaceful manner. PRK has been sincerely implementing September 19 Joint Statement and the other follow-up steps like February 13 Initial Actions and October 3 Agreement. The implementation is directly elated to the invariable will of DPRK towards denuclearization of the peninsula.

It is a bald political decision that DPRK is moving into the stage of disabling the nuclear facilities in Nyongbyon after its shutdown, which is a pilot nuclear power industry of self reliance with decades long humane and material resources being used for their construction. The principle of “action for action” is a lifeline in the process of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The question now is how far other parties will carry out their obligations under the September 19 Joint Statement on the above principle and also how US will take practical measures to drop their hostile policies against DPRK with removal of the designation of DPRK as a state-sponsor of terrorism and termination of the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

DPRK is making every effort to resolve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula through dialogue and negotiation and it is prompted from the will of the DPRK to contribute to the prevention of war in the Korean peninsula and to peace and security in the region and the world at large. It is appreciated that the regional countries are supporting the process of dialogue for peaceful resolution of nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula. It is an encouragement for the efforts of DPRK and it is in keeping with desire of the region and the Korean people for peace. DPRK will continue

to value relationship with the regional countries under its foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship and do its best to safeguard peace and security in the peninsula and Northeast Asia.

. . . . .

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## INDONESIA

### I. INDONESIA'S OVERVIEW ON THE REGIONAL SECURITY SITUATION

Indonesia recognizes that the utmost challenge in the region security in the present time is on the effort to develop disaster relief cooperation. Disaster may threaten the stability and security in the region as its impacts influence many aspects of life. Natural disasters, which involve earthquake, cyclone, flood and storm, threaten not only in the Asia-Pacific but also every part of the world. Marked by Tsunami 2004 and followed by the recently occurred natural disasters in Myanmar with Cyclone Nargis on early May 2008 and earthquake in Sichuan Province in China the day afterwards encourage greatly for Indonesia to further enhance the disaster relief cooperation within the ASEAN Regional Forum.

To respond such devastation, immediate assistance to help and save lives as well as bring relief to the suffering is urgent from regional cooperation within the ARF. Regional operational agencies must work closely together in the regional emergency response. The Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR) in ARF is a positive step to provide ARF countries a valuable platform to promote a common understanding and approach to manage multiple and complex issue through cooperative activities.

As one of the efforts to develop disaster relief cooperation in ARF, Indonesia takes the initiative for some projects such as ARF Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief that was held in Jakarta on 1-2 May 2008 co-chaired with Australia. In addition to the mentioned effort, Indonesia and

Australia have developed a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which are designed to provide guidance to strategic and operational planners from ARF members in the coordination and provision of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR). Indonesia believes that to respond the challenge in disaster relief in the future is to develop the existing cooperation with a more comprehensive and concrete activities in the framework of ARF.

In regards for the development of the regional security situation, Indonesia acknowledges that security cooperation shows its significant progress in the last decades. Numbers of activities in various areas such as maritime security, counter-terrorism and transnational crimes have been initiated to further develop security cooperation within the region. In this regards, Indonesia is on the view that ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is prominently take its primary role to sustain the stability in the region. ARF has also succeeded in increasing the level of confidence among its participants which means the existence of such forum is highly important and needed. Nevertheless, as a dialogue forum of political and security, ARF still needs to continuously increase its awareness to the major security threats in the region and concrete cooperation in the existing non-traditional security issues, such as terrorism, transnational crimes, like illicit trafficking of drugs, goods, people, maritime security and challenge in the tension of the Korean Peninsula.

The progress in Korean Peninsula must be appreciated and further supported to accomplish complete peacefulness. Indonesia particularly takes note on the significant progress in the process of resolving the crisis in the Korean Peninsula through

the peaceful dialogues in the Six-Party Talks. This dialogue is considered as the best way to settle the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula. In that regard, Indonesia looks forward and steadfastly supports the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. Indonesia views that the successful implementation of the agreement will construct a new architectural process concerning peace and stability in the region, especially in the Korean Peninsula.

In addition to another regional security challenge, Indonesia also pays its concern to several common problems like drugs, the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation as well as illegal logging. During the last decade, drugs problems have been one of the biggest threats to the society. As far as the concern, abuse of drug is still the main cause of death after weapon of mass destruction. It is therefore, the countries in Asia-Pacific have to work hand-in-hand to support the realization of the ASEAN Free Drug Area in 2015 and to consider positively the proposed ARF Statement on Prevention of Diversion of Precursors into illicit drug Manufacture by Australia. Furthermore, the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD must be well considered and it shall be discussed together and settled through existing mechanism on multilateral framework. In addition to that, Indonesia is also on the view that the ARF is one of important venue in fostering cooperation to deal with illegal logging as it is a serious threat in the region.

## **II. INDONESIA'S APPROACH AND CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION**

### **1. Maritime Security**

Indonesia considers that ARF has actively addressed maritime security issues at various meetings including in the ARF Ministers', Senior Officials' and ISG Meetings, during which ARF Participants acknowledged the importance of addressing maritime security issues to support

the creation of peace and stability in the region. Recent ARF activities in maritime security like ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise in Singapore in January 2007 and ARF Training Maritime Security in Chennai, India on March 2008 are several efforts for the development of maritime security cooperation.

During the ARF Roundtable Discussion on Stocktaking Maritime Security Issues co-chaired by Indonesia and China which was held in Bali in 24-25 August 2007, it was fervently agreed that the ARF has moved forward in the area of maritime security and recognized that in the last fourteen years, the ARF have discussed many issues of maritime security, among others, defining sea piracy and armed robbery against ship at sea, cooperative methods to prevent transnational crimes, terrorism, capacity building, training and information sharing; and since the adoption of the ARF Statement on Cooperation against Anti-Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security in 2003, Indonesia is on the view that ARF has placed its significant emphasis on maritime security. The Bali roundtable discussion has called for concrete implementations of recommendations and commitments made in this respect.

To follow up the first round table discussion on maritime security, Indonesia recommends establishing the second round table discussion due to the urgent need regarding to maritime security issue. It is expected that through more cooperation, maritime security in the region could be enhanced. To that end, Indonesia proposes the establishment of ARF ISM on Maritime Security as this issue reaches its urgency.

In responding to the maritime threats, Indonesia reiterates the need to extend common perceptions to the issue of common concern on maritime security. This issue is indeed important because the dialog on maritime security has to be focus and specific in order to provide security and stability in the region.

Maritime security issue must be focused on the importance of applying the UN Charter and recognized international principles, international and regional conventions, and institutional frameworks for technical cooperation including the framework under the UNCLOS 1982. In this regards, Indonesia supports the ARF Seminar on the Law of the Sea Convention which was undertaken in The Philippines on February 2008.

In this cooperation, Indonesia emphasizes on mutual cooperation, confidence and trust but not necessarily in the form of joint activities; the use of soft power rather than hard military power and the need to move from CBMs to PD. Indonesia underscores the needs to respect ASEAN spirits and principles, namely, respect of state sovereignty, enhanced interactions, equality, non-intervention and the need to promote dialogue and networking as well as to adhere the ARF principles. It is also important to facilitate information sharing among ARF participants, stocktaking and building up maritime security cooperative database, explore the suggestion of regional cooperative efforts for maritime security in the context of stocktaking and training, joint coordinated efforts on bilateral or multilateral technical arrangements. In bilateral cooperation itself, Indonesia also supports the 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Committee Meeting on Maritime Cooperation which was held in Beijing on 5-6 June 2008. In this cooperation, it is important in maritime security to pay much concern on safety of navigation, navy to navy relation, cooperation on maritime search and rescue, and in cooperation on Marine Scientific Research and Environment Protection.

Furthermore, Indonesia believes that the best respond toward maritime threats are by enhancing private-sector cooperation particularly in shipping and insurance industries in the context of promoting maritime security issues, and the need to consider further the technical implementation of related international maritime conventions related to maritime security.

## 2. Disaster Relief

Indonesia is on the view that disaster relief cooperation considered as one of the main agenda to be discussed and followed up through concrete action in the ARF, mainly after the disaster occurred in Myanmar and China. The recent disasters show that the region is now facing the most challenging circumstances as its impacts to thousands of individuals, families, and business and disrupting normal daily activities. At other times, recovery can take weeks, months and even years. For emergency response for disaster relief in ASEAN, Indonesia considers that ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is effective mechanisms to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses in joint response to disaster emergencies through regional and international cooperation.

In response to disaster in Myanmar which its death toll may exceed more than 100,000 with over a million people missing and left homeless, Indonesia has taken its assistance with the deployment of 30 medical teams and 10 tons medical aids which was delivered to Yangon in 2 June 2008. Furthermore, to the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction in Myanmar, Indonesia supports the follow up action of ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force by the deployment of ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) in the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment. It is also important to note that the role of AHA Center in the response of disaster in Myanmar must be enhanced. A closer collaboration between the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and the ARF must also be strengthened.

Indonesian government also puts its concern for the assistance for disaster response to the earthquake occurred in Sichuan Province, China as its death tolls exceed more than 50,000 with hundreds of thousands are injured or homeless. The quake destroyed 80 percent of structures in

some of the towns and small cities near its epicenter. This catastrophe marks China's deadliest natural disaster in three decades.

In this relevant subject, Indonesia acknowledges that ARF has taken steps toward closer cooperation in the disaster relief. Since 2005 ARF restarted the Inter-Sessional Meeting specifically deals with Disaster Relief (ISM-DR). The ARF ISM DR has been convened seven times and produced various recommendations leading to the enhancement of the ARF cooperation in the region on disaster relief. In the next inter-sessional year (2008/2009), Indonesia and the European Union, presented their commitment in moving the ARF cooperation on disaster relief forward by convening and co-chairing the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM DR in Banda Aceh, Indonesia on 10 – 11 December 2008.

From those Meetings, a series of efforts by the ARF Participants have been noted. Those efforts are aimed to push forward a practical, effective, and orderly ARF disaster relief cooperation modality. In this regards, an informal Shepherd Mechanism, which is stewarded voluntarily by Australia, People's Republic of China, European Union, Indonesia, Malaysia and the United States has been established to utilize the ISM DR.

One of the milestones of the work of the ARF ISM DR is the adoption of the ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (DMER). This was followed by the adoption of the ARF General Guidelines on Disaster Relief Cooperation. Building on this important work, draft ARF Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Standard Operating Procedures (HADR SOP) and Standby Arrangements are being developed to further enhance disaster relief cooperation among ARF members.

For that reason, as follow up of ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, Indonesia together with United States starting to draft ARF Standby Arrangements

for Disaster Relief or the Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. In connection to that Indonesia also collaborates with Australia to draft ARF Standard Operating Procedures. Indonesia hopes that both drafts will complement each other and can be served to minimize the risk of disaster. Indonesia expects that ARF SOPs could build understanding and cooperation between ARF countries in disaster relief, especially in the emergency response phase, which requires prompt action. However, the ARF SOP and the ASEAN SASOP in this regards is to be complementary and for the terminology used in the ARF SOP to be consistent with international recognized guidelines.

To review the ARF HADR SOP, Indonesia and Australia organized the ARF Desktop Exercise on Disaster Relief in Jakarta in 1-2 May 2008 to validate the SOPs on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). The initial planning on ARF Desktop Exercise on the Disaster Relief Planning Conference was held in Darwin on 4-7 September 2007 prior to the Exercise. The Exercise is going to be followed up by ARF Multinational Operational Exercise in Disaster Relief co-chaired by US and Philippines to be held in the Philippines in 2009.

The ARF SOPs on HADR, which was discussed in Darwin and reviewed in the Exercise in Jakarta, have been designed to promote civil and military cooperation in disaster relief operations and a greater understanding of the strategic considerations in providing national HADR support to another country. Indonesia takes note on the positive progress in the disaster relief with further concrete steps acknowledging the areas in Asia-Pacific are prone to disaster and the recent one has just happened in Myanmar and in China.

Recovery from Tsunami in Aceh for example, has demonstrated the need for well-planned assistance to alleviate the risks of disaster. In preparing for, responding to, and recovering

from any catastrophic disaster, the legal authorities, roles and responsibilities of authority at all levels of government must be clearly defined, effectively communicated, and effective decision making are important to integrate and define what needs to be done for disaster relief.

### 3. Terrorism

Indonesia is on the view that terrorism is still a serious threat to regional security, while contemplated on the root causes of terrorism and discussed capacity building efforts as well as inter-faith dialogue. The particular terrorism threat appears in the recent times is the use of internet for terrorism or cyber terrorism. The proliferation of instantaneous communications in recent times especially in the form of the internet provides a seamless flow of information across national borders. It can be a powerful tool for terrorists seeking to divide people and spread messages of hate, violence and extremism. The writings of terrorists are frequently posted on extremist websites. They have used the internet as a virtual safe media from which to base, plan, coordinate, and carry out their attacks. Terrorists in the region use the internet for their recruitment, indoctrination and operational roles. Therefore the threat of terrorism in internet becomes more serious and obvious in the region.

To further enhance the regional cooperation on the fight against terrorism especially on the terrorist use of internet, Indonesia welcomes the idea to establish ARF Virtual Meeting of Experts (VME) on Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism proposed by the Republic of Korea. Indonesia deems it is so timely to have such mechanism in order to minimize threats and other similar crimes by using internet. Indonesia is also of the view that this VME should be supported by all ARF participating countries. In addition to respond the challenge in terrorism, in October 2008, Indonesia will co-chair with Australia the Conference on Terrorist Use of Internet. The conference is among others aimed to increase understanding on terrorist

use of the internet, examine the role of the internet plays in supporting terrorist organizations, identify regional trends in the terrorist use of the internet in Asia-Pacific.

As Indonesia's active role in enhancing cooperation in the fight against terrorism, Indonesia convened the 6<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC held in Semarang on 21-22 February 2008 co-chaired with India. This meeting emphasized that the effort to combat terrorism must be taken not only by the government, but also from social participation in the society. Indonesia noted that the theme of "Social Participation in Countering Terrorism and Transnational Crime" raised in the meeting was a step further to the earlier discussions in the ISMs on CTTC. The Effort to counter-terrorism must involve civil society as civil society in modern nations has played important roles in addition to the government in curbing terrorism and promote national strategies in combating transnational crime in the society. In this regards, Indonesia also noted that the cooperation in the combat against terrorism must enhance the social participation by involving the media, NGO, enterprises and other civil society organizations have been able to infuse new thoughts and ideas.

Furthermore, the development of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in the fight against terrorism has shown its significant progress as seen on the 28<sup>th</sup> ASEANAPOL in Brunei Darussalam on 26-28 May 2008. This meeting resulted Joint Communiqué and Plan of Action which covers the enhancement of cooperation in the various issues in traditional and non-traditional threats like terrorism and cyber crime. Indonesia acknowledges that this meeting could largely enhance regional cooperation both traditional and non-traditional issues.

Meanwhile, Indonesia also supports the result and follow up action of the workshop, training, and working group meeting on facilitating the Entry into Force and implementation of the

ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) which was supported by New Zealand and held in Jakarta on 3-5 June 2008. This meeting is mainly conducted to the effort for the implementation process of ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) for which Indonesia itself fully supports the convention.

#### **4. Non-Proliferation and Disarmament of Mass Destruction Weapons (WMD)**

In regards to this issue, Indonesia supports the regional and international community efforts in raising the issue of WMD in both areas which is non-proliferation and disarmament. International community is responsible to prevent proliferation on WMD because the threats are not only come from states but also from terrorists who have access to it.

The issue of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) inevitably must be discussed in two main discussions that cannot be separated each other which consist of non-proliferation and disarmament. These two issues are important for the concern in the regional cooperation within the ARF.

Indonesia reiterates the importance of multilateralism as the core principle in non-proliferation and disarmament negotiation. The aims of disarmament and non-proliferation shall be done by lawful actions based on international law under the UN framework. Indonesia sees the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD shall be discussed together and settled through existing mechanism on multilateral framework, as regulated on international instrument such as Non-Proliferation Treaty, IAEA Safeguards Agreements, Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention.

#### **5. Illegal Logging**

Indonesia also puts its concern on the issue of illegal logging. Indonesia suffers most

from this particular trans-national crime as its impact influences mostly to ecology, economy, and social structure. As illegal logging has caused deforestation in a rapid rate which approximately, to date, Indonesia has lost 59 million hectares of its total forest area or estimated could go beyond repair, Indonesia is on the effort to improve legal and law enforcement to fight against illegal logging.

The fact of illegal logging occurred in the recent time poses obvious threats to the economic sustainability of Indonesian people. It damages the natural water resources system for which it is important in most of aspects of people's life. It greatly reduces the Indonesia's wealth and also denies the application of sustainable development principles. It is therefore, active coordination between agency and institution as well as enhancement the capacity for its institution is important for this effort. It is in that regard that Indonesia is actively pursuing collaboration and cooperation with other states and international community in combating this threat. Indonesia is also of the view that the ARF is one of important venues in fostering cooperation to deal with illegal logging.

To respond the challenge in illegal logging, Indonesia commits to support and to follow up the UN resolution on "International Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Illicit International Trafficking in Forest Products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources". Within this context, Indonesia plays its active role in Expert Group Meeting that was held as an act to respond the resolution. Expert Group Meeting is to discuss and to identify as well as to be the venue for sharing of best practices to combat for the illegal logging. The meeting which was held in Indonesia on 26-28 March 2008 resulted positive conclusion and substantial recommendation for common cooperation. In this regards, Indonesia ensures to provide follow up action both in internal coordination as well as in regional cooperation within ARF.

### III. INDONESIA'S DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT

During the year of 2007-2008, Indonesia puts much its concern on the fight against corruption as well as to work together for the global effort on climate change. Both issues are crucial for the national stability. Commitment as well as political will to work together on these issues is important for its accomplishment.

Indonesia pays much concern on environmental issue especially on climate change for which it is the main cause of global warming. Indonesia is on the view that global warming is widespread problem in the international world. To show its concern to save the live of humankind from the impact of climate change, Indonesia hosted United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which was held in Bali on 3-14 December 2007 and participated by 180 nations. Bali Roadmap resulted in UNFCCC is one of the efforts from Indonesia to contribute saving the earth especially on the effort to overcome climate change. Joint effort in the national level as well as regional and international is urgent to fight for the global warming in particular the changing of the climate. Concrete action in the framework of sustainable development in this case is important to save the environment and human life.

In addition to the domestic development, Indonesia commits to fight against corruption through the legal and law enforcement and to arrest the high-level corruptor in Indonesia. For this concern, Indonesia takes the initiative to host the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) held in Bali on 28 January – 1 February 2008 for which more than 1,000 participants from around the world have gathered to build integrity on the basis of the world's blueprint for fighting corruption.

Indonesia believes that all forces should unite against the cancer of corruption. In this occasion, Indonesia highlighted areas where United

Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Bank and others, can provide technical assistance, for example asset recovery which is one of the key measures of the anti-corruption convention. Political will, however, at the highest level and good intentions at the operational level, is highly required for the efforts to recover assets.

Indonesia puts its highest priority to the review mechanism and asset recovery. In this context, Indonesia has become one of among 17 countries that were voluntarily become pilot project for the implementation of the convention. For the asset recovery, Indonesia together with World Bank and United Nations will conduct high level discussion on the process of asset recovery in the context of Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR).

### IV. CONCLUSION

The increasingly importance of the non-traditional issues like Disaster Relief, Counter-Terrorism and Trans-National Crimes (CTTC) in which ARF has been dealing with, has made the presence of our Forum become more relevant, strategic and important. In Counter-Terrorism and Trans-National Crimes, Indonesia co-chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> ARF ISM on CTTC which also use the informal session in Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) to provide the best view on the cooperation on counter terrorism in the region. In the next inter-sessional year, Indonesia is going to co-chair with Australia the ARF Conference on Terrorist Use of Internet.

The ongoing process of moving from Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to Preventive Diplomacy (PD) strengthen the ARF role in the region. Indonesia appreciates the development on this continuing transition and acknowledges the important of such workshop on CBMs and PD like ARF Workshop on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe which was held in Berlin, 12-14 March 2008 co-chaired by Indonesia and European Union.

Asia-Pacific is relatively stable region; however, it is still posed that challenges are becoming more complex and interrelated, thus require greater cooperation in dealing with such challenges. The source of such challenges is not exclusively to the internal region situation. Global environment is also playing a significant role in shaping regional strategic context. The world now, for example, is facing the record-breaking oil price of more than US\$ 130 dollar per barrel, and also on the effort on encountering the climate change issue.

Indonesia believes that ARF participants should always be committed to enhance cooperation in disaster relief, maritime security and to the fight against terrorism, including through capacity building and sharing of information. Disaster relief cooperation as the foremost current issue needs for advance support in the ARF including for the development of the ARF HADR SOP and continued discussion on the ARF Meetings. In light of the fight against terrorism, activities under ARF ISM CTTC as well as the proposed ARF activities, like CTTC Workplan and ARF Virtual Meeting on Cyber Security and Cyber Terrorism must be supported.

. . . . .

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## JAPAN

### Chapter 1: Security Situation in the Asia-Pacific region

#### 1. Overview

With ASEAN countries gaining political and economic confidence, Russia regaining its power and seeking further development through its ties with Asian countries, as well as countries of Oceania such as Australia increasing its international role in the area of security, not to mention China and India with their rapid development in recent years, the Asia-Pacific may be considered as the most dynamically changing region in the world.

On the other hand, there are issues in areas such as the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan-straits that still remain in the Asia-Pacific region. These factors cast a shadow on the great potential of the region, and may even lead to regional instability. In particular, the regional security environment has become extremely difficult since the beginning of the 1990s, with the development of nuclear weapons and longer-range ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Moreover, non-traditional threats such as terrorism, piracy and natural disasters exist in the region. We need to be mindful of the fact that these factors can have a significant negative impact on the stability of the entire region as well as on countries and regions where national governance remains to be fragile.

Under such complex and diversified circumstances, Japan considers the following three pillars to be important in order to increase

transparency and to lower the risks that lead to instability in the region.

Firstly, continued U.S. engagement in the stability and development of Asia is indispensable. Secondly, constructive and future-oriented relations have to be built among Asian countries. And thirdly, frameworks for a multi-layered, open and interest-sharing regional cooperation have to be promoted by utilizing frameworks such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit (EAS) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

#### 2. Situation in the Region

##### (1) China

Japan-China relations have been improved greatly due to efforts by both sides. In December 2007, Prime Minister Fukuda visited China and the leaders agreed to elaborate cooperation in a wide range of areas towards establishing a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests" as well as to strengthen mutual cooperation and to enhance exchanges and mutual understanding.

In May 2008, President Hu Jintao visited Japan, and the two countries released the Japan-China joint statement on the comprehensive enhancement of a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests." The two leaders shared the view that Japan-China relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationship and that the two countries shoulder an important responsibility for the peace, stability and development of the region and the world.

The leaders also indicated the course of the relations between Japan and China in which the two countries would cooperate together in building a better future for Asia and the world.

The leaders shared the view that both countries would together promote regional cooperation in East Asia based on the three principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, as well as to cooperate toward the goal of realizing a peaceful, prosperous, stable and open Asia.

The two countries also agreed to promote exchanges in the security area, enhance mutual understanding and confidence, as well as to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas as intellectual property rights, business environment, the environment and energy.

Japan believes that these are substantial outcomes in materializing the “mutually beneficial relations based on common strategic interests.”

On the other hand, with regard to defense policy, China has performed a double digit expansion of its defense budget for 20 consecutive years, while promoting military modernization, centering its efforts on nuclear and missile capabilities as well as navy- and air-force capabilities. Furthermore, with regard to the issue of transparency of its defense policy, although we are seeing a certain degree of effort by China such as releasing a biannual defense white paper, information such as specific content of its defense expenses, the number of personnel per military category, number of equipment possessed and plans of procurement, import and export of arms are not made public. Moreover, China conducted a satellite destruction test in January 2007. Such lack of military transparency could lead to increased concern in the region and the international community. Japan expects China to play a responsible role while continuing with balanced economic development in harmony with the international community and enhancing transparency.

## (2) The Republic of Korea (ROK)

In the Summit meeting between Prime Minister Fukuda and President Lee Myung-bak and on the occasion of the President’s inauguration ceremony in February 2008, both sides agreed to conduct “Shuttle Summit Diplomacy” towards a “new era of Japan-ROK relations.” In April 2008, President Lee Myung-bak visited Japan marking the first round of “Shuttle Summit Diplomacy,” and both sides confirmed that they would expand Japan-ROK relations to a maturer one and to realize the “new era of Japan-ROK relations.”

Both sides also confirmed that Japan and the ROK, and furthermore, Japan, the ROK and the U.S., would closely cooperate regarding the DPRK issues.

## (3) The DPRK

Japan takes part in the Six-Party talks and the Japan-DPRK consultations based on the policy to normalize Japan-DPRK relations through the comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern including the abduction, the nuclear and the missile issues, and the settlement of the unfortunate past between the two in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration.

In the Six-Party talks held in February 2007, the “Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement” was adopted. Although there was long delay, the “initial actions” were carried out through efforts such as the holding of the Head of Delegations Meeting of the Sixth Round of the Six-Party Talks (July 2007).

In the Second Session of the Sixth Round of the Six-Party Talks held in September 2007, the “second-phase actions” were discussed following the achievement of the implementation of the “initial actions.”

This resulted in the adoption of the “Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of

the Joint Statement” in October. In the document, the DPRK agreed to; 1) the disablement of the three nuclear facilities at Yongbyon and 2) a complete and correct declaration of all its nuclear programs. Although work is underway by the DPRK to disable the three nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, it has not yet provided a “declaration” (as of April 2008).

Based on the decision to establish five working groups including the “Japan-DPRK Working Group for Normalization ” in the “Initial actions” agreed in February 2007, two meetings of the “Japan-DPRK Working Group for Normalization” were held in 2007. In the second meeting of the working group, both sides shared the view to undertake sincere efforts in order to achieve normalization of relations by settling the issues of the unfortunate past and resolving the outstanding issues of concern between Japan and the DPRK based on the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration. Both sides committed themselves to discuss specific actions toward this end through intensive consultations between them. However, the meeting did not reach any specific outcome on the outstanding issues of concern including the abduction issue.

Relevant countries have been undertaking efforts to urge the DPRK to take specific actions towards settling the abduction issue, from the perspective that progress in Japan-DPRK relations is necessary for the complete implementation of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. However, the DPRK has not yet taken specific actions. Japan intends to tenaciously continue to take part in the Japan-DPRK consultations in a sincere manner with a view to settling the outstanding issues of concern including the abduction issue.

#### (4) The Pacific Island Countries

Although Pacific island countries do not face a high level of traditional security challenges and threats from international terrorism, countries such as Fiji and the Solomon Islands are suffering

from lack of political stability, security and order as well as good governance. The Situation merits close attention.

Sharing common interests in political, economic and social areas, Japan places importance on its relations with the Pacific island countries. In particular, Japan has been supporting the development efforts by Pacific island countries through such efforts as the hosting of Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) where Heads of Government in the Pacific island region were invited to Japan. Japan intends to play an active role in ensuring the stability of this region.

#### (5) Regional Terrorism

With diversification in both its perpetrators and methodologies, terrorism, remains to be a threat to the international community. This can be witnessed in the repeated terrorist attacks which occurred in Pakistan, including the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in December 2007, as well as several terrorist attacks in Algeria in which Al-Qaeda-related groups were allegedly involved.

There are also threats of home-grown terrorism where terrorist acts are organized by actors not necessary linked with international terrorist organizations, such as second and third generation immigrants and converts, as was seen in the cases of terrorist plots in Germany and other countries.

In Afghanistan, there is an increase in terrorist attacks mainly in the south, southeast and eastern regions where the country shares its border with Pakistan.

In Southeast Asia, progress is seen in counter-terrorism measures within the region. With progress in sweeping out terrorist organizations such as Jemaah-Islamiah (JI) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), no major terrorist attacks were seen in the region. However, the threat of terrorism

in the region remains high, due to remaining individuals who possess high capability to conduct terrorist attacks.

## **Chapter 2: Japan's Efforts in Ensuring Peace and Stability in Japan and the Region**

### **1. Japan's Basic Security Policy**

As apparent in the DPRK's launch of ballistic missiles and nuclear test, there remain unstable and uncertain factors in the Asia-Pacific region even after the end of the Cold War. These include regional conflicts as well as proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles. Under such a security environment, Japan has been promoting a security policy founded on the following three pillars: a) securing Japan's appropriate defense capability, b) firmly maintaining the Japan-US security arrangements, and c) making diplomatic efforts to ensure the stability of the international environment surrounding Japan.

In building its defense capability, Japan places importance on effectively responding to new threats and diverse contingencies, including ballistic missile attacks and attacks by guerillas or special operation forces.

Particularly, with regard to ballistic missile defense (BMD), Japan began introducing its own BMD system in FY2004. In FY2007, a) Japan steadily deployed PAC-3 missile units in Japan, and b) Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Aegis Destroyer Kongo succeeded in the SM-3 missile launch test, achieving the installation of ballistic missile response capability. By FY2011, 4 Aegis vessels with SM-3 capability and 16 PAC-3 air defense missile units are to be deployed.

### **2. Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements**

The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements have been contributing to the peace and prosperity of Japan

and the region, and functioning effectively as a basic foundation for the stability and development of the Asia-Pacific region. At the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2") meeting in May 2007, both sides clearly recognized that in order to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Japan-U.S. Alliance under the current security environment, it is important for "Alliance Transformation" to take place, including the steady implementation of the "Japan-U.S. Roadmap for Realignment Implementation." In the meeting between Japanese Foreign Minister Koumura and U.S. Defense Secretary Gates in November 2007, both sides confirmed the importance of the Alliance with Japan-U.S. security arrangements at its core, and that they would further strengthen this Alliance.

Japan has been strengthening and accelerating its efforts in close partnership with the U.S. in the area of BMD cooperation, for example by steadily deploying PAC-3 missile units in Japan, and by engaging its Aegis Destroyer Kongo in active deployment from 2008. Moreover, in order to expand and deepen Japan-U.S. information security and information-sharing, the two countries concluded the "General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)" in August 2007.

Furthermore, Japan continues to make efforts to maintain and strengthen the U.S. military's deterrence through security cooperation such as reinforcing U.S. forward deployment by the replacement of USS Kitty Hawk - a conventionally-powered aircraft carrier deployed in Yokota Base, by USS George Washington - a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, in 2008.

At the same time, it is important to reduce the burden of the U.S. Forces activities on local communities including Okinawa, and to secure understanding and support by residents on the stationing of U.S. Forces in order to ensure the smooth and effective operation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. From this perspective,

Japan will continue to make efforts to decrease the burden on the local communities through the steady implementation of the “Road map” and the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and the relocation and return of the Futenma Air Station, as well as through the improvement of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement procedure.

### **3. Efforts to Ensure a Stable International Environment Surrounding Japan**

#### (1) Efforts as a “Peace Fostering Nation”

##### (i) Overview

The peace and stability of the international community is indispensable for Japan’s own development. From this perspective, Prime Minister Fukuda, in his policy speech in the Diet delivered in January 2008, announced that Japan will play a responsible role in the international community as a “Peace Fostering Nation.” Japan is promoting concrete efforts not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also for the peace and development in the world. The three pillars of such efforts are: 1) personnel contribution, 2) human resource development, and 3) financial cooperation.

##### (ii) Personnel Contribution

Japan has dispatched a total number of 5000 personnel to various UN missions since the enactment of the International Peace Cooperation Law in 1992. Currently, there are 45 Self Defense Forces (SDF) personnel deployed to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights, and 6 personnel deployed to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN).

Furthermore, Japan has been actively assisting the peacebuilding efforts in both Timor-Leste and Mindanao.

Based on the recognition that stability and development of Timor-Leste are extremely important for the stability and peace of the Asia-Pacific region, Japan has been actively and consistently supporting the efforts of Timor-Leste for consolidation of peace and nation building, since before the country’s independence. Between April and July 2007, Japan sent a total number of 36 electoral observers to Timor-Leste. Japan also deployed 4 civilian police officers in total to UNMIT from January 2007 to February 2008. Japan intends to continue to actively assist Timor-Leste’s nation building efforts while respecting the ownership of the country.

Moreover, Japan places importance on assistance to the Mindanao Peace Process from the perspective of promoting peace and stability in Asia, the international fight against terrorism, the security and investment environment in the Philippines, as well as the economic development of Mindanao. Japan has been dispatching a development expert to the socio-economic section of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) since October 2006. Japan’s assistance has been highly appreciated, contributing to maintaining the momentum among local people towards achieving peace. Due to lack of progress in the peace process, Malaysia, in the end of April 2008, decided to cut down the number of its IMT personnel, as well as to withdraw its entire personnel at the end of August. This will downscale the IMT to about a half of its initial size. This has led to some concern that it may have an impact on the situation of terrorism and security. However, Japan intends to continue its active assistance for the promotion of the peace process.

##### (iii) Human Resources Development

Japan launched the “Pilot Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding” in September 2007, in view of the changes in international community after the Cold War such as increasing internal conflicts, issues of

failed states and international terrorism, as well as increase and diversification of UN PKO missions. The objective of this program is to develop human resources with practical capacity which is needed for on-the-ground peacebuilding activities all over the world, and to institutionally gather and teach the world's highest standard and frontline expertise on peacebuilding as well as expertise which are unique to Japan and Asia. Japan also receives participants from Asia, with a view to promoting regional cooperation as well as capacity building in Asia through the program.

(iv) Financial Cooperation

Japan has defined "peace building" a priority in its ODA Guideline. It has been actively making efforts in peace building assistance through the use of its ODA in areas such as conflict prevention, emergency humanitarian assistance, promotion of resolution of conflicts, consolidation of peace and nation building, thereby ensuring Japan's prosperity and stability. For example, Japan has been steadily implementing the pledged reconstruction assistance for Iraq amounting to a total of US\$5 billion, as well as assistance to Afghanistan surpassing US\$1.4 billion. Furthermore, Japan has placed "consolidation of peace" as one of the main pillars of its policy toward Africa. Japan took up "consolidation of peace" and good governance as one of the major agenda items at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), which it hosted in Yokohama in May 2008.

In addition to the above, Japan has decided to undertake financial cooperation outside the framework of ODA for the purpose of providing assistance to promote security and reconstruction, and to facilitate the capacity building of military and police in African nations that play a leading role in PKO and AU's peace-keeping operations. Examples are: the support for PKO centers in various countries, "Assistance to the Chadian Police for Humanitarian Protection (PTPH) as one of the components of multidimensional presence in Chad

and the Central African Republic", and "Stockpile Management of Ammunition in Afghanistan". Japan intends to expand such assistance to Asia in the future.

(v) Intellectual Contribution 3

Japan is one of the founding members of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. As a result of appreciation by many countries for Japan's overall efforts in peacebuilding, Japan has been serving as Chair of the Commission since June 2007. Japan has also been working to produce and implement the peacebuilding strategies for the target countries of the commission, namely, Brundi, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau, making full use of its experience and expertise gained from its past assistance in the area of peacebuilding, including the promotion of the concept of "human security".

(2) Dialogue and Cooperation in Bilateral and Multilateral Frameworks

Efforts towards promoting confidence through dialogue, exchange and cooperation are essential, in addition to cooperation among relevant countries in resolving specific issues, in order to achieve the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region with its characteristic diversity.

With regard to bilateral frameworks in the region, Japan has security dialogues and defense exchanges with countries such as Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, in the effort to deepen mutual confidence as well as to enhance cooperation in the area of security. In particular, Japan and Australia have actively been discussing ways to enhance cooperation on issues of common strategic interest as well as security and defense cooperation, which led to the March 2007 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation to be followed by the holding of the first "Japan-Australia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Consultations" in

June 2007 and the September 2007 Action Plan to implement the Joint Declaration.

On the other hand, with regard to multilateral efforts on security issues, Japan is actively engaged in various frameworks including the ARF, ASEAN+3, EAS, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (ASEAN-PMC) and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Apart from the above, in the Tokyo Defense Forum, which Japan has been hosting with the participation of ARF countries, there were exchanges of views on “National and international efforts on peace building in ordinary times” at the 12th Plenary Meeting in September 2007. At the meeting of the 7th subcommittee in February 2008, countries considered the drafting of “Best Practice Reference Paper on Peace Building” which would contain elements for consideration on improving peace building capacity as well as promoting international cooperation. Making use of the result of such consideration, Japan has proposed to draft a “Best Practice Reference Paper on Peace Building” within the ARF framework.

### (3) Counter Terrorism

While large-scale terrorism incidents were visible in Pakistan and Algeria in 2007 and 2008, there were no large-scale incidents in Southeast Asia and East Asia. However, the threat of terrorism still remains in various parts of the world, and therefore, Japan believes that it is important for the international community to be united in a wide range of areas and to engage in long-term efforts in order to prevent terrorism. For this purpose, Japan has been promoting its counter-terrorism activities based on three pillars of policies which are: 1) strengthening domestic counter-terrorism measures, 2) promoting a wide range of international cooperation, and 3) enhancing assistance in counter-terrorism capacity-building to developing countries. As part of such efforts, Japan has been engaged in the replenishment support activities

by its Maritime Self-Defense Forces in the Indian Ocean for vessels undertaking counter-terrorism maritime interdiction activities such as those of Pakistan, France and the United States. Japan has also been working to (a) enhance the political will in the fight against terrorism, (b) gather terrorism-related information, (c) improve the international legal framework, (d) combat the financing of terrorism, (e) assist developing countries in their counter-terrorism capacity building efforts, and (f) resolve issues that cause terrorism by consolidating peace and reducing poverty.

With regard to assistance for counter-terrorism capacity building, in particular, Japan has been providing technical as well as material assistance in areas such as immigration control, air security, port and maritime security and law enforcement. Furthermore, in fiscal year 2006, Japan newly established the grant aid scheme for cooperation on counter-terrorism and security enhancement (7 billion yen for FY2006, 7.2 billion yen for FY2007, and 6 billion yen for FY2008), for the purpose of further enhancing its assistance for security measures such as counter-terrorism and anti-piracy in relevant countries. Under this scheme, Japan has signed the exchange of notes for the purpose of implementing the following projects; “The Project for Construction of Patrol Vessels for the Prevention of Piracy, Maritime Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons” for Indonesia (signed June 2006), “The Project for the Improvement of Security Facilities and Equipment in Main International Ports” for Cambodia (signed August 2006), “The Project for Enhancement of Communications System for Maritime Safety and Security” for the Philippines (signed July 2007), and “The Project for Improvement of Equipment for Maritime Security Enhancement” for Malaysia (signed January 2008).

Moreover, with the purpose of effectively addressing the issue of piracy in Asia, Japan has played an initiative role in drafting the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP),

which came into effect in September 2006. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC), established based on the Agreement, is now engaged in full-fledged operations after it commenced its activities in November 2006. The contracting parties are cooperating, mainly through information sharing. Japan has been contributing to the ISC including by dispatching the Executive Director and other personnel as well as providing financial contribution. Japan is committed to continuing such cooperation.

(4) Arms Control/ Disarmament/  
Non-proliferation

In 2007, the international community was required to work in unity in addressing various challenges to the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including the nuclear issues of the DPRK and Iran.

Under these circumstances, with a view to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, Japan attaches great importance to maintaining and enhancing the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone, and is making various diplomatic efforts to that end. In 2007, Japan once again submitted a resolution on nuclear disarmament to the UN General Assembly, which was adopted with an overwhelming support by 170 countries.

In Asia, capabilities applicable for producing and supplying the material which can be diverted to the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are increasing. At the same time, the region is gaining further significance as intermediate trade hubs. Several cases concerning illegal procurement activities of WMD related material have been reported. Therefore, improving and reinforcing the non-proliferation regime in the region is an extremely urgent task. In this context, it is increasingly important to promote regional cooperation in Asia and to strengthen the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Japan has been strengthening its outreach activities in Asia with the following three important pillars: 1) promotion of conclusion of WMD related conventions and enhancement of their domestic implementation, 2) improvement and strengthening of export control systems, as well as 3) the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). To that end, Japan has been hosting a variety of conferences including the Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP). Also, in October 2007, Japan hosted the PSI Maritime Interdiction Exercise “Pacific Shield 07” with the participation of 40 countries including 15 ARF members.

In this way, Japan is actively engaged in promoting the regional efforts in the area of non-proliferation.

#### 4. Japan’s efforts in the ARF

In order to realize a stable security environment for itself, and to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan thinks that the realistic and appropriate approach is to institutionalize and strengthen frameworks for bilateral and multilateral dialogue in a multi-layered fashion. A prerequisite for such an approach is the maintenance of the presence and engagement of the United States in the region.

Japan attaches importance to participating in the ARF which is a comprehensive regional framework in which major countries of the Asia-Pacific region participate. We believe that confidence building among the countries in the region should be promoted through the ARF. It is important to improve the security environment through such confidence building in the ARF.

The ARF is currently undertaking specific efforts towards stepping up “from dialogue to action.”

Following the desk-top exercise on maritime security in January 2007 in Singapore,

and the desk-top exercise on disaster relief in May 2008 in Indonesia, the first operational exercise in the ARF is scheduled to be held in 2009 on disaster relief. Furthermore, in addition to the two ISMs on counter terrorism and transnational crime (CTTC) and disaster relief (DR), it is envisaged that two other ISMs dealing with non-proliferation and disarmament as well as maritime security will be newly established.

As indicated above, Japan appreciates the fact that the ARF is moderately but steadily making progress in recent years.

Japan expects the ARF to steadily develop into an organization that plays a vital role for the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific, and intends to continue its active contribution for the development of the ARF.

. . . . .



# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## MALAYSIA

### Introduction

1. Malaysia's security outlook has for 2008 continues to be primarily influenced by developments in the South East Asia and the wider East Asia regions. There are two major ways in which events in these regions may impact the security of the country. The first is in terms of economic development, which continues to be highly robust and fast-changing. Secondly, is the more enduring features of the country's geopolitical structures.

2. Economically, Malaysia is a member of the East Asia region, which is experiencing the fastest growth in the world. It has over 2.5 billion population which is about 40% of the world's and DGP in excess of about USD 8 trillion. Asia-Pacific countries account for about 76% of Malaysia's external trade. Due to the importance of this region to Malaysia's economy, Malaysia's security is strongly connected to the security of other countries in the region.

3. There are two major factors that strongly influence Malaysia's security outlook in geopolitical terms. The first is the existence of one of the busiest waterways in the world in its territory, that is the Straits of Malacca. Malaysia shoulders the primary responsibility together with Indonesia to ensure the maintenance of safe and secured passages for international shipping along the Straits of Malacca, which is crucial for the economy of the entire region. The second important geopolitical factor that shape Malaysia's security relates to the South China Sea. It is an area that has become the subject of overlapping territorial claims among China, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Malaysia is committed towards maintaining Peace and stability

in the area, which it deems vital for the stability and economic prosperity of the entire region.

4. Internally, Malaysia will continue to practice a pluralist democracy, which gives emphasis on governance, social justice and tolerance. It will also strive to maintain its momentum towards modernization and will remain a progressive and moderate nation. Internationally, Malaysia will continue to uphold multilateralism in its efforts to achieve a just multi-polar world.

### Overview of Regional Security Situation

5. The regional security co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region. To a certain extent, this can be attributed to the role of the ASEAN Regional Forum, particularly the commitment shown by ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners towards their desire to maintain and enhance the stability of the region.

6. Nevertheless, there remain to be several challenges to peace and stability in the region. The challenges are basically of two types: the first type relates to the traditional security challenges: the Korean Peninsula, cross straits relations, weapons of mass destruction and non-proliferation issues, overlapping or unresolved territorial and jurisdictional claims.

7. The other type is basically non-traditional security threats. Since the 9/11 attacks, international terrorism has moved up the table of issues, which includes piracy, illegal migration, smuggling of small arms and light weapons, trafficking of illegal drugs, money laundering and other criminal activities.

8. The security perception among countries in Southeast Asia is perhaps somewhat different than that of Northeast Asia, the United States, the European Union, Canada and a few other ARF countries. In Southeast Asia, the external military threats have not been a major concern since the end of World War II. Bilateral disputes are being resolved through bilateral mechanisms and third party arbitrations. Bilateral disputes do not even feature in ASEAN meetings. They do not in any way act as impediments to ASEAN cooperation.

9. In dealing with sensitive political and sovereignty issues, Malaysia has always been guided by three major principles - Malaysia will not interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbouring countries, it will not support any struggle by groups that would affect the territorial sovereignty and integrity of any country, nor support any separatist group; and it will not provide political asylum to any members or leaders of such separatist groups.

### ***Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ)***

10. Malaysia continues to support ASEAN's efforts to create a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) in Southeast Asia. In this regard, ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) are concrete building blocks. Malaysia is hopeful that the five Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) would become parties to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty as soon as possible.

11. The adoption of the Resolution on the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons Free Zone at the United Nations General Assembly on 29 October 2007 was indeed a positive progress vis-à-vis the implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

### ***Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia***

12. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) was signed on 24 February 1976 in Bali by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand (the five founding members of ASEAN) and came into force on 15 July 1976.

13. The Treaty was amended twice, the first was made in 1987 to open the Treaty for accession by states outside Southeast Asia. The second amendment was made in 1998 to identify by name in which High Contracting Parties are states in Southeast Asia with the right to give consent to accession by states outside Southeast Asia.

14. Since 1987, ASEAN has encouraged non-Southeast Asian countries to accede to the TAC as ASEAN believes that it is a key regional diplomatic instrument that can help strengthen regional peace and security. Malaysia is looking forward for the process of amending the Third Protocol of the Treaty to be completed soon to allow not just the EU but also other regional and international organizations of caliber such as the OIC and the SCO to accede to the TAC.

### **Situation in Southeast Asia**

15. There have also been positive developments taken place in Myanmar, especially the implementation of its national referendum on the draft of the new Constitution on 10 May 2008 and the general elections which will be held in 2010. Malaysia has always expressed the view that the national reconciliation and democratic process in the country should be inclusive and involve all stakeholders. It is important that the international community seize the opportunity to encourage all those stakeholders to be committed and flexible in negotiating an enduring political solution in Myanmar.

16. Malaysia strongly supports the role of Gambari to find an enduring political solution in Myanmar, which is acceptable to the United Nations and the international community. Malaysia believes that Gambari has achieved some significant progress in persuading and making the Myanmar Government understand the necessity and advantages of cooperating with the UN.

17. In Mindanao, Southern Philippines, Malaysia has been involved in the peace process since 2001 when the Philippine Government and the MILF agreed to a ceasefire. In efforts to bring a peaceful settlement to the conflict, in 2004, Malaysia was invited by the Philippine Government as well as the MILF to spearhead the International Monitoring Team (IMT) to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire between the two parties. Although Malaysia has reduced its number of personnel in the IMT, Malaysia remains committed to facilitate efforts towards achieving peace in the Southern Philippines. Malaysia is prepared to assist both parties in finding ways and means to move the peace process forward.

### **Middle East**

18. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has remained on the international agenda for over 60 years and will remain for many years to come unless the international community are willing to seriously look at the subject objectively.

19. In 2008, there was a glimmer of hope that this Palestinian question might finally garner the attention and resolution that it deserves through the promises of the Annapolis Conference and Paris Donors Conference. These international efforts have demonstrated the resolve of the international community to genuinely address the core issues surrounding this longstanding conflict.

20. Malaysia believes that in order to see progress in the peace process, the international community should support and highlight the

ongoing negotiations between Palestine and Israel so as the international community would not lose focus on the real issue at hand - the core issues which would lead to the final resolution of a State of Palestine. The UNSC, in this regard, should play a more assertive role in urging and pressuring Israel to agree to return to the peace process without adding any precondition for the peace talks to resume.

21. Malaysia is also concerned over the security condition in Iraq particularly on the sectarian killings and attacks on civilian and places of worship. Malaysia believes that the vast majority of the people of Iraq do not wish their country to be divided and their people fragmented along ethnic and sectarian line. Living in a multi-racial and multi-religious society, Malaysia understands the imperative for mutual respect between racial groups and harmonious co-existence.

22. The people of Iraq should be allowed to determine their future political direction autonomously without external interference and continuous occupation by foreign forces. The international community must assist the people of Iraq in all appropriate ways to enable them to achieve this objective and determine their own future.

23. Efforts by the international community should be directed to rehabilitating the economy of the country as a mean to create sustainable condition to establish normalcy in Iraq. Malaysia believes that there can be no solution in Iraq unless there is an end to the foreign military occupation, armed resistance and the sectarian violence ignited by the occupation. Malaysia is of the view that Iraq needs a strong Government which represents every sect in Iraq.

### **Situation in the Northeast Asia**

24. The Northeast Asian region remains an area of concern as the region still faces several important security challenges. Of utmost concern

is the continued existence of nuclear weapons which presents a grave threat to humanity, particularly by increasing the risk of proliferation. Malaysia, therefore, reiterates the importance of achieving the universal goal of complete and general disarmament.

25. It is important to keep peace and stability and a denuclearized Korean Peninsula as it would not only benefit the Korean Peninsula but also the Asian region as a whole. In this regard, Malaysia and ASEAN will continue to advocate that differences between the two Koreas must be resolved through peaceful dialogues.

26. Malaysia is pleased of the efforts being undertaken towards normalising bilateral relations amongst the concerned parties in the DPRK nuclear issue. The October 2007 Summit between the Presidents of DPRK and South Korea is a major rapprochement exercise in the Korean Peninsular. Malaysia is equally encouraged by the recent decision to restart bilateral talks between DPRK and the US as well as Japan which is aimed at normalising relations between the parties concerned.

27. Malaysia remains convinced of the value of the Six-Party Talks process, particularly in terms of reaching a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the DPRK nuclear issue and hopes that all concerned parties would continue to remain committed to the process. Malaysia, through ASEAN, continue to offer the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) as another forum to discuss the issues as all the parties concerned are participants of the ARF.

28. Malaysia also hopes for the successful implementation of the five working groups on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, normalization of North Korea-U.S. relations, normalization of North Korea-Japan relations, economy and energy cooperation, as well as a joint Northeast Asia peace and security mechanism, as agreed in the Joint Statement issued on 13 February 2007.

## Peacekeeping Operations

29. During the Inaugural Meeting of the ARF Expert and Eminent Persons (ARF EEP) at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum on 29 May 2006, the Honourable Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia propounded the idea for the ARF to have a peacekeeping force or a rapid reaction force as part of preventive diplomacy.

30. The concept of an ARF Peacekeeping Force or Rapid Reaction Force could be acceptable to all ARF countries but the real test is in getting funding for such operations. Peacekeeping operations are expensive ventures. The UN Peacekeeping Budget for instance, is approximately three times of the UN regular budget. For the financial year of 2007/2008 the UN is expected to spend a total sum of USD5.25 billion on peacekeeping operations.

31. Malaysia has been involved in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKOs) since the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation in Congo in October 1960. To date, Malaysia has participated in 17 peacekeeping operations and 2 UN-mandated PKOs namely the Implementation Force (IFOR) and the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which were led by the NATO, as well as the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), a multinational force sanctioned by the Security Council in September 1999. As of 29 February 2008, Malaysia is participating in 10 UNPKOs with the deployment of 674 personnel involving both military and police personnel. Most of the ARF countries have participated in one way or another in UNPKOs.

32. Malaysia had also established a Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson in 1996. This centre provides training to personnel of armed forces, police, civil departments as well as NGOs to prepare them for operational duties in peacekeeping operations. In fact, peacekeeping training centres have mushroomed in many of the ARF countries. ARF countries could perhaps pool

their resources together in Peacekeeping Operations and see how best they could be utilised and coordinated not only in the areas of conflict, but perhaps also in the humanitarian assistance.

### Counter-Terrorism

33. Terrorism remains a serious global challenge, which Malaysia views as a major security threat to countries and societies throughout the world. ASEAN is no exception to this, and as such Malaysia is pleased that ASEAN members remain committed to cooperate in combating international terrorism.

34. This exemplary cooperation was reaffirmed through the signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism on 13 January 2007, which was completed in a record time of two months. Malaysia views this Convention as an instrument that would complement the existing UN Conventions and Protocols on terrorism. Malaysia remains committed towards strengthening the framework of the Convention, which provides a regional framework to prosecute, investigate and extradite terrorist suspects and prevent the movements of terrorists and their funds across the region.

35. The external building blocks of ASEAN's war on terrorism have also been cemented into place with the signing of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration to Combat International Terrorism on 28 July 2006. Canada was the final ASEAN Dialogue Partner to do so. Under each joint declaration, work programmes are formulated between ASEAN and the respective Dialogue Partner on practical forms of cooperation which would subsequently be implemented.

36. A notable example of this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Japan Counter-Terrorism Dialogue, which was held in Kuala Lumpur on 10-11 September 2007. The Meeting deliberated and subsequently endorsed nine concept papers and project proposals

by ASEAN members, which will be processed by the ASEAN Secretariat and eventually submitted to Japan for funding under the Japan-ASEAN Integrated Fund (JAIF).

37. With regard to capacity-building, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) in Kuala Lumpur has to date conducted over 40 courses, attended by over 1600 participants from ASEAN and other countries. Malaysia welcomes the continued cooperation between the counter-terrorism regional centres, in particular SEARCCT, the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok and the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) in Semarang to enhance human and institutional capacity building.

38. Malaysia continues to make serious efforts in supporting the various international conventions related to counter-terrorism, and is currently a State Party to nine of the 13 existing Conventions and Protocols, i.e :

- 1963 Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft;
- 1970 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft;
- 1971 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation;
- 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents;
- 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings;
- 1998 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports

Serving International Civil Aviation, (supplementary to the Montreal Convention);

- 1979 International Convention against the Taking of Hostages;
- 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism; and
- 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

39. Malaysia is taking measures to accede or ratify the four remaining Conventions and Protocols, subject to the completion of certain legislative and administrative measures. The Conventions and Protocols are:

- 1979 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material;
- 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation;
- 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platform Located on the Continental Shelf; and
- 2005 International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

40. Malaysia continues to reaffirm its support for the various UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and is actively implementing the sanctions against terrorists and their associates, particularly in the freezing of assets, travel bans and arms embargoes, as provided in Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1333 (2000), 1390 (2002), 1455 (2003), 1617 (2005) and 1735 (2006).

## **Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

41. Malaysia remains firm in the belief that disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) are two sides of the same coin and that progress in one area should be matched in the other. Malaysia remains committed to the non-proliferation objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and 1810, and calls upon all ASEAN Members to ensure its full and effective implementation.

42. In addition, Malaysia emphasizes the importance of strengthening the international legal foundation in combating the proliferation of WMD and WMD-related goods, materials and technology. In this regard, Malaysia is pleased to announce that the Government is currently drafting a comprehensive law to govern the transfer of proliferation sensitive goods, materials and technology.

43. Malaysia values the support by ASEAN in voting in unison for the UN General Assembly Resolution sponsored by Malaysia entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons", which was adopted on 5 December 2007. Malaysia underscores the need to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

44. Malaysia reiterates the need for states parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the backbone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime, to undertake further efforts to strengthen the NPT. Malaysia reaffirms its full support for the 3 pillars enshrined in the NPT, namely nuclear disarmament; nuclear non-proliferation; and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

45. In this regard, Malaysia is encouraged by the positive outcome of the recently concluded 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in Geneva on 28 April – 9 May 2008. Malaysia stands ready to work with all NPT states parties with a view to achieving a mutually agreeable and beneficial outcome to the current review-cycle.

46. Malaysia is also encouraged by the positive outcome of the 2007 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) which was held in Geneva in December 2007. Malaysia is of the view that the understandings achieved could pave the way for further cooperation among states parties throughout the 2007-2010 Intersessional Process of the BWC, with a view to achieving the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the Convention as well as on the peaceful use and transfer of technologies related to the Convention. While the legislative provisions in Malaysia are adequate for the purpose of implementing the Convention, Malaysia is in the process of enacting two new legislations and amending other relevant existing legislative provisions, where necessary, to strengthen and deal with developments in this area.

### **Maritime Security**

47. Maritime Security is another area of concern to the region and international community. With regard to maritime security in the region, Malaysia believes that the focus should be on how cooperation between littoral states and user states could continue to be further enhanced without impacting on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the former.

48. As for the Malacca Straits, there has been a drop in the incidence of armed robbery against ships. In the first quarter of 2008, there was no incidence of armed robbery against ships in the Malacca Straits as compared to 4 incidences in 2007. This is the result of the close cooperation

carried out through existing mechanism and co-ordinated patrols of the navies of the littoral states of the Straits of Malacca, in the form of the Malaysia-Singapore-Indonesia (MALSINDO) Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrols as well as the implementation of the “Eyes in the Sky” programme.

49. Malaysia and other littoral states, with the cooperation and assistance from the user states, will continue to be vigilant so that the Straits of Malacca remains safe and open.

### **Disaster Relief and Emergency Response**

50. On natural disasters, the region has seen one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in the history of mankind when tsunami struck at the end of 2004, affecting 11 countries and killing more than a 225 000, while displacing an estimated 1.2 million people. In addition, in March 2008, a rainstorm hit Jambi in Indonesia, killed a person and damaged hundreds of houses. Further, in January 2008, an intense monsoonal activity resulted in damages of houses, roads, bridges, water and electricity infrastructure in eleven of the thirteen districts of Timor-Leste. In February 2008, a massive landslide, which rumbled down a mountainside on the southern part of the Leyte island in the Philippines, killed many and destroyed hundreds of homes. A series of the unfortunate events have made natural disasters permanent features in the Southeast Asia. In relation to this, Malaysia is committed to enhance regional capacity in dealing with natural disasters and to strengthen the regional disasters early warning and monitoring capacities through real time information sharing.

51. The Malaysian Government has established a National Tsunami Early Warning Centre to continuously monitor occurrences of earthquakes and tsunamis on a 24-hour basis. The centre is linked to the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System, as well as the Northwest Pacific Advisory System coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO.

52. Malaysia has also successfully installed 90% of the tsunami early warning network of ocean buoys and tidal gauges to monitor the tsunami wave generation, in addition to a network of seismological stations to detect earthquakes in nearby seismic zones. The buoys will be able to measure seismic activity, wave speed and temperature changes in the sea and transmit the data obtained to the National Tsunami Early Warning Centre in Malaysia. In this regard, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii and the Japan Meteorological Agency Tokyo are providing valuable tsunami advisories to Malaysia. The Tsunami Warning Centre will disseminate information on tsunami warning to relevant agencies and public through mobilephones, electronic media, television and radio, web pages, faxes, phones, public announcement systems (including mosques in remote coastal areas) and sirens. Malaysia's comprehensive tsunami early warning system, which cost RM25 million will be fully operational after the third buoy is installed in the Sulu Sea.

53. Regional and sub regional cooperation in the field of disaster relief and emergency response is very important in effort to reduce disaster risk and to implement effective mitigation, response and recovery measures. In this respect, Malaysia supports various regional forums such as the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Regional Haze Task Force as well as the Sub Regional Fire Fighting Arrangement. Such cooperation were reflected through sharing earmarked assets, joint exercise in search, rescue and expediting the establishment of common guidelines and standard operating procedures in order to ensure rapid responses to emergencies.

54. The initiative on the Regional Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, Search and Rescue that was put forward by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia in June 2006 during the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) is currently undergoing consultations with ASEAN members.

Malaysia hopes to realise this initiative in order to enhance regional capabilities in disaster relief and emergency response.

55. Malaysia exhibits strong political will and commitment to cooperate and provide the necessary assistance to the developing countries in disaster relief and emergency response. To further reflect Malaysia's commitment on disaster relief and emergency response, Malaysia will be hosting the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, from 2 to 4 December 2008. It is hoped that the conference will serve as an avenue for expertise and knowledge sharing in promoting disaster risk reduction efforts.

### **Regional Security Architecture**

56. Unlike in Europe, there is no overarching regional security framework in the Asia Pacific. However, there exist various ASEAN-led fora for example the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC), the ASEAN Plus Three process, the ASEAN Summit including with Dialogue Partners, in the region.

57. In a sense, these overlapping fora come close to resembling a virtual security architecture or framework for Asia Pacific. In Northeast Asia, however, even such loose framework is absent, with the exception of the Six Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula.

58. This reflects ASEAN as a bastion of stability in Southeast Asia, and has also driven the process of confidence building in the wider region as a whole. One cannot, therefore, underestimate the role of ASEAN in ensuring stability in and around the ancient maritime route of Southeast Asia, and by extension, in East Asia as well. Indeed, the role of Southeast Asia for the flow of trade and other exchanges within Asia and between Asia and Europe, not to mention, between North America and Asia as well, cannot be over emphasized.

59. While the diversity of the security environment, national interests and differing policies of countries in the region may have prevented the development of a regional framework and/or an organization for regional cooperation, this is not necessarily a weakness. Security in the region could perhaps be better served by encouraging stable and cooperative relations among the major powers in the region. This should be done by strengthening regional and sub-regional processes in Asia Pacific and encouraging regional integration with the aim of realizing a regional security architecture that is open and inclusive.

. . . . .



# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## NEW ZEALAND

### Overview

Relations between the major powers in the Asia-Pacific are in good shape, indeed probably the best they have been in living memory. While peaceful competition prevails, there are signs of possible future shifts in the strategic balance of power.

The United States' strategic presence in the Asia-Pacific helps underpin regional security. China is consolidating its role as a regional power as its economy continues to grow rapidly and its military capabilities increase. Meanwhile Japan is contemplating what role its defence forces should play in global security operations consistent with its international standing and capabilities. New Zealand believes increased dialogue and cooperation, in particular between the United States, China, Japan and India, is the best way to ensure stability in the region in the medium to long term.

As a small nation, New Zealand values highly its bilateral relationships and other regional mechanisms that help us achieve our security objectives. New Zealand is strongly committed to our bilateral alliance with Australia to promote our mutual security, and to the Five Power Defence Arrangements to uphold stability in Southeast Asia. Regional dialogues like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) continue to play an important part in strengthening mutual understanding and exchanging views on issues of common concern in the wider region.

While the possibility of inter-state conflict in the Asia-Pacific cannot be ruled out, the key threats to the security of our region are

transnational in nature, notably terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The potential nexus of WMD proliferation and terrorism is of particular concern.

New Zealand is firmly committed to the international campaign against terrorism, and recognises that the threat of terrorism requires a comprehensive, multi-layered, and long-term response. This has seen us continuing to engage across the spectrum of counter-terrorism interventions, from contributing to integrated peace support operations in Afghanistan to participating in inter-faith and inter-cultural initiatives.

WMD proliferation remains a key concern for our region, as evidenced by North Korea's development of a nuclear weapons capability. New Zealand continues to work actively both multilaterally and regionally to promote international compliance with WMD non-proliferation and disarmament treaties, in particular regarding nuclear disarmament.

Meanwhile, more traditional transnational issues, such as poverty and the lack of good governance, continue to affect the stability of our region through escalating sectarian, ethnic and internal conflicts. New Zealand remains deeply engaged in complex integrated peace support operations in the Pacific and Timor Leste which we see as essential to securing our immediate region.

As a longstanding contributor to security in the Asia-Pacific, New Zealand takes a close interest in the development of regional security architecture and welcomes new mechanisms that are open and inclusive. New Zealand supports

the evolution of the ARF from a much-needed forum for security dialogue and cooperation to one with capacity to anticipate security issues through preventative diplomacy, and ultimately to respond through conflict management.

## **Transnational threats**

### ***Terrorism***

The threat of major terrorist attacks persists both globally and in our region as groups remain determined to strike and are able to do significant damage with relatively modest resources. The nature of the threat continues to evolve as terrorist groups variously decentralise and disperse into loosely related networks, and coalesce under common ideology such as that of Al Qaeda. Terrorist groups are becoming increasingly adaptive, developing new tactics in response to offensive operations and other efforts to limit their operational space.

Afghanistan remains a key front for global counter-terrorism as Al Qaeda and the Taliban prove resilient adversaries, continuing to reconstitute themselves despite tactical defeats and still posing a significant challenge to the Afghan Government. New Zealand's commitment to supporting the Afghan Government and people is reflected in our lead of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Bamian. Singapore is making a valuable contribution to our PRT.

In Southeast Asia, elements of Jema'ah Islamiya (JI) continue to pose the main terrorist threat to the region despite JI having had some of its capabilities degraded. JI remains a very secretive organisation, but it seems its goal of establishing an Islamic state in Southeast Asia remains undiminished.

New Zealand has been active in implementing the Joint Declaration for Co-operation to Combat International Terrorism that

we signed with ASEAN in 2005. A dedicated Asia Security Fund is supporting a range of counter-terrorism work in Southeast Asia, ranging from state counter-terrorism capacity building to counter-radicalisation initiatives with government and civil society partners.

Promoting efforts to understand and deal with the underlying causes of extremist and terrorist activity is an important part of our work with the region. Inter-faith dialogue can help address some of the potential drivers of religious and inter-community conflict, and enables moderate religious voices to be heard. A key initiative in the region has been the Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue which New Zealand co-sponsors together with Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. New Zealand is also supporting a range of inter-cultural activities aimed at fostering greater mutual understanding of the different values and perspectives across the region, particularly in the areas of education, youth and media.

While the terrorist threat in the Pacific remains low, we cannot take it for granted this will remain the case. Transnational organised crime groups are already present in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and could serve as links to terrorist groups for either terrorist financing or recruitment, especially in states fractured by conflict. At the same time, it is important that PICs comply with the requirements of the international counter-terrorism agenda in order to maintain trade and other external links. New Zealand continues to assist Pacific Island Countries address counter-terrorism issues, both through consolidating their awareness of the international agenda and providing related technical assistance.

New Zealand was pleased to join the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism last year. Our decision to join the Initiative reflects our strong commitment to preventing nuclear materials and technologies falling into the hands of non-state actors.

### *Proliferation*

The proliferation of nuclear weapons remains a key threat to the security of the Asia-Pacific. States continue to seek or develop nuclear weapons capabilities, and there is a risk of nuclear weapons material or technology falling into the hands of terrorist groups.

We welcome North Korea's reengagement with the IAEA and urge North Korea to follow through on its undertaking to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We encourage too other ARF countries not party to the NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to accede to both treaties without delay and without conditions. New Zealand has also been working to promote the lowering of the operational readiness of established nuclear weapons systems.

New Zealand urges all ARF members to implement fully the Chemical Weapons and Biological Weapons Conventions. An important focus for New Zealand in 2008 will be the conclusion of negotiations on a new instrument on cluster munitions which we encourage all ARF members to support.

The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is an important tool in combating WMD proliferation globally, consistent with international and national laws. PSI complements the multilateral treaty regime with practical action amongst participating states. New Zealand values its cooperation in PSI with a number of fellow members of the ARF, and encourages those countries in our region that have not endorsed the PSI Principles to consider doing so.

Illicit small arms and light weapons (mainly firearms) remain a significant challenge in the region, especially in the South Pacific. Illegally held weapons have proliferated and have contributed to instability, as shown by the armed conflicts in Bougainville and Solomon Islands. Leakage of

legally acquired police and defence force weaponry onto the black market presents a particular concern. New Zealand continues to offer help to Pacific defence and police forces to improve security, storage and management of their weapons.

### **Maritime security**

With New Zealand's livelihood and prosperity dependent on our trading links with other nations, we have a strong interest in maritime security being maintained throughout the region. A major disruption to shipping lanes in Southeast Asia could impact significantly on New Zealand and on many other economies. The primary responsibility for maritime security lies with littoral states, and New Zealand welcomes ongoing multinational efforts between the states concerned to reduce piracy, such as in the Malacca Straits. The threat of further attacks remains however, both in those waters and other chokepoints in the region. Further afield, New Zealand has again this year deployed a frigate to the Gulf region to participate in the maritime component of Operation Enduring Freedom.

### **North Korea**

New Zealand regards the DPRK's pursuit of nuclear weapons as a serious threat to regional and international security. New Zealand joined the international community in its condemnation of the nuclear test by the DPRK in July 2006 and we remain concerned about the potential for DPRK proliferation of nuclear technology and alleged DPRK attempts to enrich uranium. New Zealand is fully implementing its obligations under UN Security Resolutions 1695 and 1718.

New Zealand welcomes the recent progress in the Six Party Talks process to implement the September 2005 Joint Statement, in particular the DPRK's willingness to shut down and disable its nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, including the reprocessing facility, and to invite IAEA inspectors to inspect the disablement process. New Zealand sees

the Six Party Talks as a mechanism for the DPRK to normalise its relationship with the international community, and urges the DPRK to comply with its international obligations, including a renewed commitment to the principles of the NPT. New Zealand continues to engage with regional partners and directly with Pyongyang to encourage the DPRK to take such actions necessary to denuclearise fully and align itself closer to international norms and expectations.

### **Taiwan Straits**

New Zealand maintains a one China policy. We see cross-Strait stability as having a direct impact on wider regional security, and therefore encourage both China and Taiwan to maintain dialogue and work towards a peaceful resolution of their differences. New Zealand welcomes the recent movement by China and Taiwan towards improving cross-Strait dialogue, and we hope both sides of the Strait will continue to take advantage of opportunities to ease cross-Strait tensions.

### **South Asia**

New Zealand welcomes and supports the ongoing Composite Dialogue and the wide range of confidence-building initiatives between India and Pakistan. This has had a positive impact in reducing tension between the two countries. The resumption earlier this year of passenger train services between India and Bangladesh is an important development in the region, and in building trust and confidence between the two countries and their communities.

New Zealand recognises India's extensive economic and political engagement in the region. We believe this engagement plays - and will continue to play - an important role in enhancing security and stability.

### **Pacific**

The security of the Pacific remains of concern as a result of increasing fragilities in a

number of countries. Weak institutions, political instability and capacity concerns continue to pose challenges to good governance and economic development across the region.

Working in partnership with Pacific Island Countries to address regional security issues is a foreign policy priority for New Zealand. We are strong advocates of strengthened regionalism and coordinated responses to common regional challenges, believing that regionally-mandated solutions have a better chance of success. Cooperation and coherence with key Pacific partners - including Australia, France, the United States, the EU, Japan and China - will also remain central to New Zealand's Pacific diplomacy.

New Zealand is one of several donors working with PICs to help them meet new international requirements in such areas as counter-terrorism legislation, transport security, finance and border control. Among other instruments, our Pacific Security Fund (PSF) is dedicated to providing security capability development in the region. We continue to work closely with regional partners on a range of projects funded by the PSF, including police, aviation and maritime security initiatives.

Although Fiji's interim government has undertaken to Pacific Forum leaders that it will conduct elections by March 2009, there are few signs that this military - backed regime is preparing to hand power back to civilians. The Forum and the wider international community will need to maintain their efforts to hold the interim government to this commitment. Fiji's military has acted well outside the bounds of the 1997 Constitution. This situation has considerable implications for perceptions of the appropriate role of military forces in the region. It also impacts on human rights in Fiji and the country's economic prospects.

The security situation in the Solomon Islands is currently calm but remains unpredictable. New Zealand is a leading contributor to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

which plays a crucial role in maintaining security in Solomon Islands and provides a positive platform for its stability and development. New Zealand also provides substantial development assistance to Solomon Islands.

### **Timor Leste**

Despite the significant progress Timor-Leste has made over the last year, including the successful conduct of elections, Timor-Leste continues to face major challenges. The attacks in February 2008 on President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Gusmão reconfirmed the fragility of the situation in Timor-Leste and the need for an ongoing international presence. Timor-Leste continues to face pressing political, security, economic and humanitarian issues, including over 100,000 internally displaced people.

Timor-Leste will continue to need significant support from its regional neighbours and the United Nations while it develops and effectively implements its national recovery strategy and undertakes a comprehensive security sector review.

In addition to a considerable bilateral development assistance programme, New Zealand is contributing to the UN mission (UNMIT) and International Stabilisation Force (ISF) operating in Timor-Leste. The ISF continues to play an important stabilising role for the time being and underpins the work of UNMIT. While New Zealand is supportive of a strong UN presence remaining in Timor, we believe it would be timely for the UN Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of the mission to ensure it is meeting Timor-Leste's long term needs.

### **Myanmar**

New Zealand continues to be deeply concerned at the political, security, economic and human rights situation in Myanmar. The constitutional referendum held in May this year was

seriously flawed. There are questions as to whether the current process will lead to genuine democratic reform.

New Zealand urges Myanmar to work towards the achievement of universal human rights in the country, consistent with its international obligations, and to immediately release all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi. We encourage ASEAN, China and India to use their influence to urge the Myanmar authorities to work towards genuine democratic reform and a brighter future for its people.

Myanmar has suffered widespread devastation and terrible loss of life recently through Cyclone Nargis in the Irrawaddy Delta. New Zealand contributed to emergency relief, but was seriously concerned about delays in access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

### **Role of the ARF**

The ARF remains New Zealand's principal forum for regional discussion of security matters. The ARF has been successful in meeting its original aim of increasing security dialogue amongst members and promoting confidence building in the region. New Zealand would like to see the ARF playing a more active role in 'preventative diplomacy', and ultimately in the 'management of regional conflict' as mandated in its founding documents.

New Zealand is pleased the ARF is reviewing its achievements and processes as it celebrates 15 years of operation. We recognise ASEAN's central role in the ARF. With this comes a responsibility for ASEAN to provide leadership in ensuring the ARF remains relevant. The challenge for the ARF is to be agile in responding to its changing environment, and to be strategic about its role over the longer term. The ARF needs greater focus and prioritisation of its activities in areas where it can add value, as well as improved working methods and decision-making.

For a small country like New Zealand with vital interests in Asia, regional approaches such as the ARF are particularly important. We welcome the emergence of structures in the region that are non-threatening and enable better cooperation between defence forces for common objectives, such as disaster relief. We value regional security activities that increase transparency, enhance familiarity, and improve the region's ability to respond to security threats.

. . . . .

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### I. Global Security Environment

#### [Overview]

1. The world has enjoyed peace and relative stability for almost 20 years since the end of the Cold War. However, recent signs - sharp decrease in the supply of energy, the stalled WTO-DDA negotiations and the solidification of regionalism, and strategic readjustment of bilateral ties among countries are likely to change the global power configuration. Against this backdrop, the world is facing two big events in 2008 - the U.S. presidential election and the Beijing Olympics, which are expected to be the main topics in the international outlook. As for the global economy, factors such as soaring oil and food prices, concerns over global economic slowdown, prompted by financial market instability, and inflationary pressures that batter most countries are potential threats to the international equilibrium. Besides, the widening global inequality and inter-faith conflicts could further deteriorate intra-regional or inter-regional stability.

2. Nevertheless, vibrant economic and cultural exchanges are deepening the interdependence of the international community, thus turning it into a community marked less with conflict and more with prosperity and cooperation. The world is witnessing unprecedented economic growth in the countries and regions such as BRICs and East Asia, which are emerging as new locomotives for the global economy. As a result, the center of the global economy is gradually shifting from an Atlantic to a Pacific community, thereby contributing to regional

development and stability. Sustaining them requires a close economic and financial inter-state network. What is more, increasing need for cooperation in other fields such as official development aid (ODA), peacekeeping operation (PKO), and disaster relief has raised awareness among countries that concerted endeavors are the only way to address such transnational issues.

3. Transnational and non-traditional security threats emerged over the horizon of security landscape while traditional security threats still pose security concerns to countries in Asia and the Pacific. The scope of security has expanded to include a wide range of issues: terrorism, spread of contagious diseases, natural disaster on a massive scale, shortage of energy and food, environmental degradation and threats to cyber security, etc. Human security concerns, which, by definition, is to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedom and human fulfillment, are growing as such new threats are posing a serious challenge to security and well-being of populations.

4. In particular, the Republic of Korea joined the ARF countries in expressing deep concern and sympathy over massive losses of lives and devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in China. Such disasters would not only induce negative socio-economic impacts on countries that are severely hit but also may adversely affect the stability of adjacent countries, posing threats to regional security and stability. The ARF countries keenly recognize that regional capacity-building strategies for disaster management and prevention are necessary.

## II. Regional Security Situation

### [Overview]

1. Home to 24% of the world population and contributing to 21% of the world GDP, Northeast Asia has become one of the most dynamic regions with the increase in mutual investment and trade. Human and cultural exchanges are also vigorous, which can contribute to broadening the common grounds among different cultures.

2. In the region, countries are now forging strategic alignments and pursuing the so-called “pragmatic diplomacy” by either balancing or bandwagoning as the need arises from time to time, based on changes in their national interest. Moreover, concerted efforts are underway to institutionalize trilateral cooperative regimes such as the ROK-China-Japan Summit, which is scheduled to be held separately from the ASEAN+3 setting.

3. Despite the fact that countries are intensifying their economic and cultural interdependence and increasing strategic relationship among themselves, the region still harbors instability that could possibly be aroused by conflict of interest - both political and strategic - between major powers. Thus, these countries have a long way to go before they can achieve a substantial level of integration. Above all, antagonism among regional powers, lingering nationalism, territorial disputes, and unresolved history issues have weakened each country's commitment to maintaining the peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia. Recent arms races and scarcity of natural resources and food are fueling competition among the regional countries, and little progress has been made to foster institutional cooperation among the regional countries.

4. On top of that, although the region enjoys sustainable economic growth and benefits from the information society, it still has a long-standing task of settling down democracy and fostering internal stability. The dialogue on democracy and the rule of

law has to be developed in a way to realize universal values of the international community and to build a regional community.

### [Nuclear Issue in North Korea]

5. With the adoption of the September 19 Joint Statement in 2005, the Six Parties agreed on a blueprint to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. In order to implement the Joint Statement, the Six Parties adopted the “Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement” on February 13, 2007 and the “Second Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement” on October 3, 2007. The Six Parties have achieved significant progress in the “shutdown” and “disablement” of the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon in accordance with these agreements, which was followed by corresponding economic and energy assistance to North Korea.

6. Various meetings among the Six Parties are being held to fully implement the September 19 Joint Statement. It is expected that the Parties will continue their efforts to complete the second-phase measures and to discuss the initiation of the third phase aimed at nuclear dismantlement. The ROK is firm on its principle that North Korea's nuclear armament cannot be tolerated, but remains flexible in its approach to the resolution of the nuclear issue.

### [Inter-Korean Relations]

7. The ROK pursues mutual benefit and co-prosperity within the Korean Peninsula based on pragmatism and productivity. It believes that progress in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is needed for any meaningful progress of inter-Korean relations. The inter-Korean policy of the ROK, “the Denuclearization-Openness-3000 Initiative,” is that once North Korea abandons its nuclear program and chooses the path to openness, the ROK, along with the international community, will provide assistance to raise the

per capita income of North Korea to \$3000 within 10 years.

8. The ROK made it clear that inter-Korean relations will be developed based not on ideology but on pragmatism and that it is always ready for inter-Korean dialogue with an open mind.

### **[Multi-layered Regional Architecture]**

9. There are a number of intra-Asian cooperation networks to meet an increasing demand of multilateral cooperation in the region. These mechanisms include the ASEAN+3 (Association of Southeast Asian Nations + the ROK, China, and Japan), the ASEAN+1 (e.g. the ASEAN-ROK), and the East Asia Summit (EAS: ASEAN+3, Australia, New Zealand, and India). Such regional architectures have promoted cooperation among the regional countries in a broad range of fields - politics, economy, society, and culture - and have laid foundations for the creation of an East Asian security-economic-cultural community.

10. The ARF process continues to make progress and to play an essential role in maintaining peace and stability in the region, particularly in enhancing dialogue and promoting cooperation in both political and security issues within the Asia-Pacific region. Rather than devising fundamental resolutions, the ARF has facilitated dialogue between countries, even antagonistic ones, by sharing the ASEAN experience on issues such as regional security and other relevant matters. In Northeast Asia, the Six Party Talks provide an opportunity for creating a regional security framework. The Six Party Talks itself is an important process for building confidence among the parties through the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula. In addition, the Six Parties agreed to establish the Northeast Asia Peace and Security Mechanism Working Group in the Six Party Talks through the 13 February 2007 Agreement. The ROK Government is willing to further discuss the regional security issues in the Working Group.

11. The ARF is pushing ahead to enhance linkages between Track 1 and Track 2 dialogues. In this regard, the role of ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) Meeting and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) should be emphasized, as Track 1.5 and Track 2 mechanisms respectively. These two have paved the way for implementing preventive diplomacy by exchanging views on sensitive security issues and have also contributed to the long-term development of the ARF. Especially, the assessment on the practicability of the recommendations of the Second EEPs Meeting - regarding the enhancement of multilateral security cooperation in Northeast Asia for their 15<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting - will be conducive to enhancing multilateral security cooperation in the region.

12. Other regional multilateral efforts such as the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and the Pacific Islands Forum/Post Forum Dialogue (PIF/PFD) are also instrumental in qualitatively developing prosperity and stability in the region. The ROK hopes that such multi-layered organizations will mutually reinforce and lead to an environment conducive to peace and stability in the region, and thereby contribute to Asia's metamorphosis into an effective and influential regional community.

### **III. Non-traditional Security Issues**

1. According to the 1<sup>st</sup> ARF Chairman's Statement made in July 1994, the ARF facilitates the Asia-Pacific countries to foster the habit of constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues that are of common interest, and thereby makes significant contributions to efforts towards confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. Thus, the ARF has adopted a gradual evolutionary approach, according to which members will embark on promoting confidence-building measures, develop

preventive diplomacy mechanisms, and complete the development of conflict-resolution mechanisms.

2. The ARF has accumulated the experiences in confidence-building measures through the high-level exchanges such as SOM leaders and ministers and also through volunteer publications such as the Defense White Papers and the Annual Security Outlook. Such endeavors have increased reciprocal contact and strengthened mutual confidence among countries. Furthermore, the ARF has facilitated regional capacity-building in diverse security areas by holding the Inter-Sessional Support Group Meeting on CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG), the ARF Security Policy Conference, the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crimes, the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, and other workshops, seminars and joint exercises that are under process.

3. **Terrorism and transnational crimes** constitute the most serious threats to international peace and security. They not only threaten the security and stability of states but undermine democracy and the very well-being of all peoples. The growing linkage between terrorist groups and transnational crime such as piracy, human and illicit drug traffickings, and money laundering is of grave concern to the international community. Furthermore, as interdependence of states on information and communication technology for managing government and economy deepens, threats to cyber security pose increasingly serious challenge. Accelerating globalization causes threats to regional and global security in the form of cyber security. With the emergence of non-state actors and the development of communication, such transnational challenges have multiplied and it has become more and more difficult to suppress related criminals and bring them to justice. Therefore, it is imperative that the international community systematically and comprehensively cooperate and come up with measures to counter these newly emerging security threats linked to terrorism and transnational crimes.

4. While massive **natural disasters** frequently occur partly due to climate change, the response capacity of each individual state remains limited, as demonstrated in the case of the 2004 Asian tsunami, the 2008 Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the 2008 Chinese earthquake. Such reality calls for a common response from the international society for disaster management. Especially for developing countries, whose disaster management capacity is relatively vulnerable, there is a pressing need to build capability for their disaster prevention and response relief. The ROK intends to actively support capacity building projects on disaster management for developing countries, including those in the ASEAN region, and further increase assistance to affected countries through better coordination with the international society.

5. **Maritime security and the safety of the Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC)** are of critical importance to countries in Asia and the Pacific as their economies are heavily dependent on stability in international maritime traffic. Now that the majority of energy supply is transported through Malacca and Singapore Straits, ensuring maritime security is a critical to the energy security of countries in Asia and the Pacific. Maritime security should also be ensured to cope with threats such as piracy, terrorism and proliferation of arms and WMD, which are transnational in nature. The ARF has proved its vital role as an effective platform to discuss and implement measures related to maritime security issues among various stakeholders in the region. As such, the role of ARF in maritime security should be continuously strengthened.

6. During the past several years, the dynamic economic growth in the region has been accompanied by surging energy consumptions, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate changes. **Environmental security** has implications in terms of human security as environmental degradation has detrimental effects on the health and well-being of individuals. To protect the environment, it is the time for the countries in the region to

improve their energy efficiency, increase the use of clean and renewable energy, and finally transform themselves into low carbon societies. The basic policy of the ROK's new administration is that sustainable development and measures in addressing climate change are compatible and that Korea will actively transform itself into a low carbon society.

7. The recent volatility in the international energy market can become a heavy burden to energy security and economic development for ARF member countries. Various efforts are needed to promote regional **energy security**. These efforts include diversifying energy sources, increasing energy efficiency, conserving energy, strengthening partnerships between energy-producing and energy-consuming countries, and making investments in the development of alternative and renewable technologies. The ROK will act as a facilitator in promoting regional energy security and hope that it will contribute to the integration of the energy market in the region.

8. The recent international hike in grain prices is ringing alarm bells for **food security**. The recent phenomenon was caused by structural factors such as the rising demand of developing countries, increasing use of bio-fuel, and a boost of speculative funds. As the imbalance of demand and supply in food, caused by the trade-distorting policies of major grain producers, continues to aggravate, and the rise in food price accelerates, social instability will spread especially in the developing countries that are major importers of grain. To solve the global food crisis, member countries must share a common understanding on the importance of food security and take common measures. In the long term, member countries should create an international environment of co-existence by raising their self-sufficiency for food and by maintaining an adequate level of domestic agricultural production.

#### IV. Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

1. Since the 9.11 terrorist attacks, the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their delivery means have emerged as the great threat to international peace and security. And the possibility of terrorist use of WMD has become a new source of concern. In this context, the international community is putting efforts to strengthen international non-proliferation regime to deter the proliferation of WMD. The ROK has a full commitment to the international efforts in preventing the spread of WMD and their terrorist use, and has been engaged in various efforts that aim to strengthen international non-proliferation regimes. Efforts of the ROK include:

- Adhering all international disarmament and non-proliferation conventions such as NPT, CTBT, CWC, BWC and IAEA Additional Protocol and full implementation of these conventions and UN Security Council Resolutions on non-proliferation.
- Cooperating in the global efforts for nuclear non-proliferation including official participation in the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) in December 2007.
- Joining the G-8 Global Partnership in 2004 and continuing the financial contributions since then. Total amount of financial contributions stands at 2 million dollars as of 2007, and additional 1 million dollars will be contributed this year.
- Joining the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in May 2007. The ROK will be able to enhance its capability to protect nuclear materials

and facilities, and closely cooperate with partner nations of GICNT.

- Hosting international seminars to raise awareness on non-proliferation and to provide a forum for sharing information and experience. The ROK has hosted annual ROK-UN joint conference on disarmament and non-proliferation issues since 2002. The ROK hosted the “International Seminar on Brokering Controls” in 2007 and the “UN Workshop in Asia on International Instruments to Enable States to Identify and Trace Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons” in 2008, both in Seoul.

2. Through these efforts, the ROK is playing a significant role in the international efforts to prevent the proliferation of WMD. In line with its above-mentioned efforts, the ROK Government will make its utmost efforts to support and participate in the ongoing disarmament and non-proliferation efforts within the ARF framework.

Presented by the Republic of Korea

May 2007

. . . . .

## ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

### RUSSIA

1. Ensuring security and stability in the Asia Pacific is a necessary condition for sustainable social and economic progress of regional countries, enhancing the role of the region as the world economy locomotive and one of the driving forces of world development.

Russia believes it is necessary to consider local and regional challenges and threats to security in the global context. The growing interdependency of states under globalization makes security comprehensive and multi-component, and calls for resolving not only military, political and strategic problems, but also issues related to economy, energy, ecology, migration, demography, domestic policy, religious, information and others.

Elaboration and agreement on universal principles of ensuring security, as a reliable guarantee of peace and prosperity, is one of the most urgent tasks. With this, maintaining efficient multilateral cooperation based on the norms of international law and preservation of the central role of the UN is key for Russia.

Such pressing issues capable of seriously destabilizing the situation as WMD proliferation, terrorism, extremism, separatism, transnational crime, piracy, environmental pollution, demographic imbalances, pandemic diseases, high probability of natural disasters remain relevant for the Asia Pacific just like for other regions of the world. Most recently the task of ensuring food security has emerged as one of the most pressing for the region. Russia maintains that measures to resolve them should be transparent and take into account the interests of all states concerned. Ultimately, we should aim the joint efforts of all members of the

regional community at shaping an integrated and indivisible security system in the Asia Pacific.

The existence in the region of old and establishment of new exclusive military and political structures with “bloc philosophy” features do not facilitate confidence in intergovernmental relations, or contribute to regional and global stability. Such structures may hinder the formation of open collective security systems, infringe upon the interests of regional states pursuing an independent foreign policy. It is important that the shaping regional and global architectures of international relations are aimed at countering realistic challenges of the present day, rather than imaginary threats based on the Cold War ideology. Russia intends to follow these principles in evaluating the possible emergence of new military and political mechanisms in the Asia Pacific.

2. During the last years the scope of international terrorist activities has been expanding with a tendency to consolidate its base of operations in the Asia Pacific region. Internal ethnic and religious clashes in a number of countries, significant growth of the number of radical religious movements and separatist groups using terrorist methods, contribute to the rise of terrorist threats stemming from the region. The spread of radical Islam in Asia Pacific countries, aggravation of economic problems and high unemployment rate increase the attractiveness of various Islamic extremism concepts among the local population.

In 2007 South-East Asian states was subjected to over 3 thousand terrorist acts, including more than 500 with the use of explosives, about 2 thousand armed attacks against military and law-

enforcement personnel and civilians, killing more than 1,5 thousand people and wounding about 3 thousand.

Among the extremist groups operating here the most efficient one is “Jemaah Islamiyah”, second in danger only to Al Qaeda. The leadership of this international terrorist organization ultimately aims at establishing a united Islamic caliphate covering the territories of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and including the Muslim regions of the Philippines and Thailand.

Other active Islamic separatist organizations are the “Moro Islamic Front of Liberation”, “Abu Sayyaf Group” (Philippines), “National Revolutionary Front” and “Pattani United Liberation Organization” (Thailand), “Kumpulan Militant Malaysia” (Malaysia).

Recently, Islamic extremists became closely involved in piracy. They are attracted by the possibility hijacking of large-capacity tankers transporting crude oil and liquid gas, with a view to detonate them in regional ports or sink them in busy maritime navigation areas.

Thus, we must state that Islamic extremist organizations in South East Asia tend to further intensify their operations. Islamists’ plans are long-term and seriously undermine the security of regional states and international maritime activity in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

It is not incidental that multilateral and regional cooperation in countering new threats and challenges, above all terrorism, is becoming a key element of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific.

Regional countries work together within such competent regional mechanisms and structures as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN Regional Forum and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. Issues of countering terrorism is high

on the agenda of the dialogue between Heads of States, Foreign Ministers, as well as at expert level.

The efficiency of counter-terrorist cooperation within the ARF is steadily increasing. The Forum has established itself as an effective mechanism for elaborating joint approaches among regional states and is becoming a lead element of an integrated multilateral security system in the Asia Pacific region.

The potential accumulated by the ARF’s Intersessional Meetings on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime is highly significant. Russia considers co-chairing one of the forthcoming Intersessional Meetings (possibly in 2010).

We call for increasing the efficiency of the ARF in such key areas as counter-terrorism and combating transnational crime, disaster relief, non-proliferation and disarmament, maritime security, peace-keeping. Russia supports proposals aimed at improving the ARF’s working methods.

The ASEAN, whose authority and influence in the region is gradually increasing, plays an important role in joint counter-terrorist efforts.

Russia’s priorities here are to enhance cooperation with the Association in combating terrorism and countering other new challenges and threats, convene the Russia-ASEAN Senior Officials Meetings on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime (SOM CTTC) on a regular basis, endorse as early as possible the Mandate and launch of the Russia-ASEAN Working Group on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime and take steps towards effective implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-terrorism adopted in January 2007.

Another important platform for counter-terrorist cooperation in the Asia Pacific region is the APEC Forum. Intensive activity is underway

within the frameworks of the APEC Counter-terrorism Task Force (CTTF). Its Mandate provides for coordination of counter-terrorist efforts of numerous APEC mechanisms and development of contacts with other profile multilateral structures.

Intensification of counter-terrorism cooperation within the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) deserves appreciation. At present, in order to increase the efficiency of the RATS' performance and transform it into a counter-terrorism cooperation coordinating center in the Organization's area of responsibility, its member-countries work at improving the legal basis, conduct regular counter-terrorism exercises, and are searching for modalities for SCO observer nations such as India, Pakistan, Iran and Mongolia to join the activities of the RATS.

Russia sees considerable opportunities for intensification and coordination of regional efforts aimed at coping with terrorism, increasing their preparedness for practical collective steps in establishing a net of partnership international organizations, as well as setting up and enhancing contacts between counter-terrorist structures of the SCO, ASEAN, ARF and APEC.

3. In modern world the highly dynamic integration processes in the Asia Pacific result in growing interdependence between regional economies. Sustainable economic development requires increasing energy expenditures and, accordingly, a new approach to providing energy security.

Continued instability of global energy markets, presents quite a threat of economic imbalances in the countries of the region. We believe that the best solution to this problem would be to establish a reliable and comprehensive energy security system at regional and global levels. Throughout its G8 Presidency in 2006 Russia consistently pursued the development of a common long-term policy in this area. We are satisfied to

note that our efforts were further continued by Germany and now Japan.

4. The military and political situation in North East Asia remains basically stable. First of all this is the result of efforts by Russia, China, Japan and the Republic Korea aimed at promoting relations with sub-regional neighboring countries, above all trade and economic links. The intensification of Russia-Chinese strategic partnership and interaction on global and regional agenda play a special constructive role in this process. The expansion of confidence building measures in the military area and the absence of any major political problems in their relations are a significant positive factor influencing the situation in North East Asia.

The coming to power in Taiwan of the Kuomintang, advocating the expansion of ties with Mainland China, and failure of the March 2008 referendum on adhesion of the island to the UN, strengthened the tendency towards lessening tensions between Beijing and Taipei. This makes the prospect of a military conflict in the Strait unlikely.

Despite certain difficulties, the Six-Party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue made significant progress towards achieving the aims set out earlier. Joint efforts of the partners in implementing the February and October 2007 agreements allowed to complete the first stage arrangements and proceed to the implementation of provisions of the September 19th, 2005 Joint Statement.

The process of dismantling North Korea's nuclear objects in Yongbyon is coming to a final stage. Positive shifts on the issue of Pyongyang's declaration of its nuclear programs are in sight. We maintain that the DPRK must meet its commitments and provide complete and reliable information on this issue as early as possible.

Russia is ready to further contribute to the settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue

confirms its commitments within the frameworks of the Six-Party talks, including continued supplies of compensational aid to the DPRK.

We hope that Parties will overcome the impasse in negotiations and the dialogue will resume to complete the second stage of the denuclearization process.

5. Russia closely follows the situation in Myanmar and notes the its Government's steps aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the country. We expect the program of political reforms (the so-called Road Map) will be continued further according to the announced target dates. We welcome the successful conclusion of its next stage, i.e. the referendum on the draft Constitution (May 2008).

Russia participates in the international community's efforts in providing special humanitarian aid to overcome the consequences of the "Narghiz" hurricane. At the same time attempts of some countries to condition their aid by political demands are disturbing. We believe that external pressure is counterproductive for the reforms in Myanmar, bearing a potential danger of destabilizing the situation in the country.

6. Political, social and economic instability of the situation in the South Pacific is of certain concern. It is possible that if the present tendency remains, the sub-region may become yet another source of new challenges and threats, in particular transnational crime, ethnic and religious separatism.

7. Russia advocates for a strictly diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue. Tensions around this problem are aggravated, on the one hand, by the hardline approach taken by the US and their closest allies with regards to Iran's development of peaceful nuclear energy, and Teheran's uncompromising stand, on the other. At the same time we are concerned by continuing

discussions of a possible military operation against Iran to make it comply with the requirements of UN Security Council resolutions.

We consider necessary to work out schemes and mechanisms that would allow to launch a full-scale negotiation process for the sake of a comprehensive solution of Iran's nuclear issue, and to demonstrate to Iran that cooperation with the international society is more profitable than maintaining its current position.

This is exactly the aim of the six parties, which handed over to Teheran updated proposals on cooperation. Their implementation could offer Iran significant political, economic and security "privileges". The six parties are ready for further comprehensive dialogue with Iran in order to resolve remaining issues with due consideration of interests of all participants of the negotiation process.

8. Russia consistently advocates the preservation of indivisibility and territorial integrity of Iraq, supports its sovereignty and independence. With that, it is critical to stabilize the situation in the country as early as possible on the basis of sustainable comprehensive dialogue among the main political forces, to achieve national conciliation taking into account the interests of all ethnic and confessional communities of Iraq.

We believe it is important to continue work towards settlement in Iraq as part of collective efforts of the international society.

9. Russia supports the on-going Palestine-Israeli negotiations aimed at achieving agreement on key issues of the final status by the end of 2008.

It is critical that the Palestinians and the Israelis comply precisely with their commitments under the Road Map. Terrorist attacks and rocket launches against Israel from the Gaza Strip, Israeli military response actions, continuing restrictions on movement of Palestinians on the West Bank, Israeli

settlement activity including in East Jerusalem, are of great concern for us. Maintaining the Gaza Strip blockade, as well as the lack of specific steps on restoring Palestinian unity under the leadership of M. Abbas, head of the PA, are also not helpful to this end.

It is obvious that under these circumstances the impetus to negotiations given at the Annapolis international conference in 2007 requires support and follow-up actions. The Middle East Peace process should be comprehensive and based on international law. The proposed Moscow Conference on the Middle East could become an important factor of such support.

10. Russia continues to assist the government of Afghanistan in post-conflict restoration of the country, its emergence as a democratic independent state.

Russian enterprises participate in the reconstruction of vital social and economic facilities. In August 2007 in Moscow Russia and Afghanistan signed an agreement on debt settlement (US \$ 11,112 million).

The possibility of renewing military and technical aid to the Afghan National Army, training its personnel at educational institutions of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation is currently being considered.

In order to bring up the professional level of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and make it more efficient in countering drugs a Russia-NATO Council pilot project on training of Afghan anti-narcotics police is carried out on the grounds of the Special International Interdepartmental Center in Domodedovo (Russia). At the same time, Russia has confirmed its readiness to receive 225 ANP officers for training on a free-of-charge basis.

We also participate in various humanitarian projects for Afghanistan, including free food supplies.

11. We closely follow the developments in relations between India and Pakistan. We still consider it vital to engage them in the existing non-proliferation regimes. Both states should join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as well as implement other provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1172. At the same time it is necessary for them to improve the efficiency of measures to develop national export control regimes for missile and nuclear technologies.

We note that the progress of Indo-Pakistani dialogue demonstrates mutual intention of both New Delhi and Islamabad to make the peace process irreversible. Though the fourth phase of the dialogue did not achieve any break-through, all meetings of bilateral mechanisms within its frameworks were held on schedule thus confirming the sustainable character of such contacts. The start of joint work on counter-terrorism – an area delicate for both countries – within the newly established Deputy Foreign Minister-level mechanism became a new positive sign in bilateral relations. It is important that New Delhi and Islamabad continue to demonstrate a responsible approach to issues of nuclear incidents prevention and decrease the risk of nuclear weapons' use that are especially important for strengthening security in South Asia.

The continuing activities of Islamic terrorist and extremist organizations (including the Pakistan Talib Movement established in December 2007) in North-West Pakistan – in the regions bordering Afghanistan – are a cause for serious concern. These activities are capable of destabilizing the situation not only within Pakistan but in the entire region. Equally worrying is the continuing infiltration of militants through the Line of Control in Kashmir.

We are concerned about the on-going armed confrontation between Sri-Lanka government troops and the separatist organization "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" (LTTE), which brings about

considerable human casualties, including among the civilians. The likelihood of a political settlement of this inter-ethnic conflict has considerably decreased, though still remains possible.

12. As an active participant of most export and control regimes Russia advocates the development of dialogue on these issues. An important role is reserved for UN Security Council resolution 1540, which we see as one of the key multilateral instruments in this respect, aims at strengthening national monitoring systems for sensitive items and prevention of their acquisition by nongovernmental subjects. As for the Asia Pacific region, where increased threat of terrorism and instability remains, the task of implementing this resolution remains highly relevant.

It is necessary to ensure complete implementation of the resolution by all states without exception, including those which do not possess WMD-materials or capabilities to produce them. Such states could be used by proliferants for transit and transfer of sensitive materials, financing proliferation activities, as well as for giving “refuge” to persons involved in its illegal turnover.

The unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1810 on the prolongation of the 1540 Committee’s Mandate provides additional opportunities to achieve the goals stated in this resolution. This is exactly what the ARF Statement Supporting National Implementation of UNSCR 1540 adopted by the Ministers in Manila in August 2007 is aimed at. In this context the idea of establishing an Intersessional Meeting on Non-proliferation and Disarmament within the ARF deserves complete support.

13. As before, the task of preventing illegal trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and especially man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) remains vital. The danger is that these might be used for terrorist purposes. Such measures as complete implementation of existing

international instruments, particularly, the UN Program of Action to Prevent Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, consolidation of national and regional efforts on prevention of illicit turnover of this kind of weapons, as well as promotion of international cooperation may contribute in resolving this issue.

14. The threat of piracy and terrorism at sea, especially in the Strait of Malacca, remains critical for major regional maritime transportation routes. Attacks on sea carriers seriously harm international trade and have a negative influence on overall regional security. Russia believes that effective solution of this problem requires setting up multilateral cooperation mechanisms, first of all related to providing technical aid. In our view, establishing a mechanism of Intersessional Meetings on Maritime Security within the ARF will allow states to increase practical coordination in this area. We proceed from the fact that “coordinated actions” of countries, whose territorial waters are linked to international trade routes, should remain the main instrument of ensuring security of navigation.

15. The future system of security in the Asia Pacific region should be based on the complementarity and balance of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy mechanisms. Today there are enough prerequisites for a phased, step-by-step transition from sub-regional to regional arrangements at a pace comfortable for all, with a view to ultimately creating a comprehensive multi-component security system embracing the whole region.

This is one of Russia’s priority foreign policy objectives in Asia. We intend to further actively facilitate cooperation of regional states for the sake of lasting peace, stability and security.

. . . . .

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## SINGAPORE

### Section I: Singapore's Outlook for Regional Security

i. The overall regional security outlook for the Asia-Pacific remains largely positive even though many uncertainties remain. With growing economic cooperation and moves towards integrated markets in Asia, a framework for regional cooperation seems to be emerging. However, major challenges like terrorism, maritime security, and growing competition for scarce resources will still need to be carefully managed.

ii. Stability in the relations among major powers, including the US, China, India and Japan will be critical to the overall security landscape in the region. China and the US have worked together to address issues affecting regional stability. Sino-US relations continue to evolve, underpinned by a growing sense of inter-dependence, although frictions remain over trade issues. Following the exchange of visits between Japanese PM Yasuo Fukuda and Chinese President Hu Jintao, Sino-Japanese relations are going through a "Warm Spring". Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to China in January 2008 has also helped to maintain positive bilateral atmospherics built in the previous year.

iii. In Northeast Asia, the situation on the Korean Peninsula has stabilised, although it is too early to tell whether progress can be sustained. The Six Party Mechanism continues to play an instrumental role in defusing tension on the Korean Peninsula. The 3 October 2007 Statement by the Six Parties established a roadmap for the second phase of actions for the DPRK's denuclearisation. Under the roadmap, the DPRK agreed to disable its

nuclear facilities and submit a complete declaration of its nuclear activities. Recent steps taken towards this end bodes well for regional stability.

iv. Cross-Relations have improved with the election of President Ma Ying-Jeou and both sides have resumed their dialogue and established closer contact, such as through direct weekend charter flights. Both sides will benefit from closer economic linkages, but these efforts will have to be sustained to promote greater trust and confidence.

v. In the South China Sea, while competing claims remain unresolved, there have been positive attempts to manage the situation with the adoption of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea at the 8th ASEAN Summit in 2002. So far two Joint Working Group Meetings have been held to discuss the guidelines and modalities on the Implementation of the DOC. Members recognise the need for greater confidence building measures to ensure the implementation of the DOC.

vi. In addition to these traditional security concerns, it has become increasingly clear that some of the most pressing challenges to regional security today are transnational and non-traditional in nature. Such challenges include maritime security, terrorism and pandemic diseases. More recently, the massive earthquake in China's Sichuan province and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar also demonstrated the need for disaster preparedness and international cooperation in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

vii. It is equally important for the ARF countries to deal with the issue of environmental

degradation and climate change. The impact of climate change, which has begun to be felt -- for example, in the form of extreme weather effects, more frequent and severe natural disasters (e.g. floods, droughts), and rising sea levels -- can have long-term security implications. They can affect fresh water supplies and seriously disrupt human activities such as agricultural and other economic production, destroy human habitats and displace populations. Already competition for scarce resources, transboundary degradation of the environment and displacement of populations can cause frictions between or among countries.

viii. Energy security, defined broadly as the availability, reliability and affordability of energy supply, continues to be a major preoccupation for most governments. For ARF countries, many of which are net importers of energy, ensuring energy security is a real concern given volatile energy markets, and the persistently high price of oil and gas. Given the central role of energy in the region's growth, ensuring the proper functioning of energy markets has become a key priority. While the introduction of renewable and alternative sources of energy e.g. biofuels and nuclear energy, will open up new opportunities, it also poses serious challenges for food security, as well as health, safety, and environmental concerns. With the heavy reliance of a number of ARF countries on oil from the Middle East, the security of energy supplies through major passageways such as the Straits of Malacca and Singapore remains a priority, particularly in view of threats from piracy and terrorism.

ix. Energy security, climate change and the environment are increasingly interlinked and require a comprehensive approach. There is considerable scope for collaboration between ASEAN and its dialogue partners to tackle these issues, and complement initiatives taken at the regional and global level to enhance energy security and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

## Section II: Review of Regional Co-operation

i. At the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Singapore, the Leaders signed the ASEAN Charter, which will transform ASEAN into a more effective organisation and give impetus to ASEAN's community-building efforts. The Charter is an enabling document that has provided a legal framework for ASEAN's integration efforts. Countries are now committed to expediting our national ratification processes to ensure that the Charter enters into force by the next Summit in Thailand. At the last Summit, the Leaders also adopted the Blueprint for the ASEAN Economic Community, which will chart concrete milestones and targets for establishing a single market and production base in ASEAN. Moving forward, the ASEAN countries are now drawing up similar blueprints for the political security as well as socio-cultural communities. ASEAN Leaders also had substantive discussions on the substantive theme of "Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development", and signed three declarations affirming the region's commitment to do its part in addressing global environmental challenges.

ii. Externally, ASEAN renewed and deepened its ties with our dialogue partners at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit. With the ASEAN Plus Three Countries, we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of relations, and issued the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Statement on East Asian Cooperation and a Workplan for cooperation in the next 10 years. With the EU, ASEAN celebrated 30 years of relations by convening an ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit.

iii. ASEAN has taken a significant step towards defence and security cooperation with the establishment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Following the inaugural ADMM in Kuala Lumpur on 9 May 2006 and an ADMM Retreat in Bali in March 2007, Singapore hosted the second ADMM from 13-15 November 2007. The ASEAN Defence Ministers signed the ADMM

Joint Declaration on Enhancing Regional Peace and Stability which captured the good progress made by the ASEAN defence sectoral over the years. This is the first document signed by the ASEAN Defence Ministers. In addition, the Singapore ADMM adopted three other papers, namely (a) the Protocol to the ADMM Concept Paper which establishes the institutional framework of the ADMM, (b) the ADMM 3-Year Work Programme which outlines the priority areas for cooperation in the ASEAN defence sector, and (c) the ADMM-Plus Concept Paper which sets out the principles and broad modalities of the ADMM's engagement with ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners. Together, the four documents will chart the strategic thrust of the ADMM and guide its evolution over the next few years.

iv. There were two key outcomes from the Singapore ADMM. First, the ADMM agreed on the need for ASEAN militaries to forge greater practical cooperation. The ADMM therefore endorsed the proposal by the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force to adopt a two-year activity workplan to foster practical cooperation in areas of common interest such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and counter-terrorism. The workplan was the result of the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) held in Singapore from 30 July – 3 August July 2007. The ACDFIM also provides a platform that the ADMM can use to advance practical cooperation.

v. A second key outcome of the Singapore ADMM was the consensus amongst the ASEAN Defence Ministers that the ADMM should engage ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners, at a pace comfortable to ASEAN, to better address common security issues. The ADMM recognised that ASEAN today faces a set of common security challenges, such as terrorism and natural disasters which are transnational in nature. In this regard, cooperation is necessary not just within ASEAN, but also beyond. The involvement of extra-regional countries would allow ASEAN to draw on the varied

perspectives, expertise and resources of a wide range of extra-regional countries to address transnational security challenges in our region. With the Defence Ministers' adoption of the ADMM-Plus Concept Paper, ASEAN countries would be working together to finalise the modalities of establishing the ADMM-Plus.

vi. The 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) was held in Singapore from 30 July to 3 August 2007. Attended by all ten ASEAN countries, there were three key outcomes from the ACDFIM. First, the ASEAN CDFs adopted a joint resolution that demonstrated the strong commitment of ASEAN armed forces to work together to address common security challenges. Second, the ACDFIM adopted a working paper on "Expertise Sharing and Confidence Building among ASEAN militaries". The paper outlined the principles and modalities for cooperation amongst the ASEAN armed forces, and reflected the consensus amongst the ASEAN CDFs to strengthen practical cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping and infectious diseases management through the conduct of workshops, seminars, joint training and table-top exercises. The 5<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM further endorsed a two-year activity workplan that forecasts the cooperative activities of armed forces in these areas. Third, the 5<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM recognised that the security challenges facing the region today were transnational in nature. Hence, it would benefit ASEAN member countries if ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners as well as other experts could be invited to share their expertise on issues of common concern at the various activities. The outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM were reported to the second ADMM in November 2007.

vii. Security co-operation in the Asia-Pacific continues to progress well. Bilateral co-operation has been growing both in depth and scope, with substantial bilateral defence co-operation between countries, involving exchange visits, cross attendance

of courses, joint training and exercises and security dialogues. In terms of the institutionalisation of multilateral co-operation, mechanisms for region-wide security dialogue, such as the ARF and the Council for Security Co-operation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), are now well established.

viii. Combating terrorism has served as a galvanizing factor providing further impetus to regional co-operation. The ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Terrorism at the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit in 2002 built upon the *ASEAN Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism* issued by ASEAN Leaders at the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit in November 2001. Under the *ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime (Terrorism Component)*, Singapore offered logistical support for counter-terrorism training on aviation security, bomb/explosives detection, post-blast investigation and intelligence analysis. At the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Leaders signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, the first region-wide and legally-binding anti-terrorism pact. Singapore has ratified this Convention.

ix. At a broader level, ASEAN is also working closely with major players to advance practical areas of cooperation. ASEAN has adopted Joint Declarations on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism with the US (July 2002), the EU (January 2003), India (October 2003), Australia (July 2004), Russia (July 2004), Japan (November 2004), ROK (July 2005), New Zealand (July 2005), Pakistan (July 2005), and Canada (July 2006).

x. The ARF has taken significant steps towards more concrete cooperation, and to develop Preventive Diplomacy while continuing to foster Confidence-Building Measures. As the ARF Chair, Singapore initiated a comprehensive review of the ARF, which will help take stock of the forum's achievements and outline its future direction. In addition, Singapore hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Peacekeeping Experts Meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> ARF Energy Security Seminar in 2008, and will convene the

next ARF Inter-sessional Support Group meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs & PD) later this year.

xi. Significant strides have also been made over the last two years in developing regional cooperation in maritime security. Specifically, a consensus has emerged around the following three principles: first, that the primary responsibility for the security of regional waterways lies with the littoral states; second, that the international community, including the user states and bodies like the IMO have an important role to play; and third, that new cooperative measures should be developed in line with international law and with full respect for national sovereignty. Because of this consensus, we were able to move quickly from principles to cooperative action on the ground. In July 2004, the navies of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore launched the Malacca Straits Sea Patrols. This was followed in September 2005 by the "Eyes in the Sky" maritime air patrols. The Standard Operating Procedures governing the Malacca Straits Sea Patrols and the "Eyes in the Sky" maritime air patrols were signed on 21 April 2006 in Batam by the Chiefs of Defence Force of the three countries. This sealed the cooperative arrangements and demonstrated the political will of the littoral states in enhancing the security of the Malacca Straits. The success of the Malacca Straits Sea Patrols and the "Eyes in the Sky" maritime air patrols is reflected in the Lloyd's Joint War Committee's decision to remove the Malacca Straits from its Hull, War, Strikes, Terrorism and Related Perils Listed Areas on 7 August 2006. Being an open arrangement, the Malacca Straits Sea Patrols will be opened for participation by user states, subject to approval from the littoral states. In this regard, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore welcome Thailand's interest to participate in the Malacca Straits Sea Patrols. Apart from patrols, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) has also set up the Malacca Straits Patrols Information System (MSP-IS), which allows the participating countries to share information on maritime traffic in the Malacca Strait. The SAF, together with the Tentera

Nasional Indonesia (TNI), Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) and the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF) participated in the inaugural MSP Information-Sharing Exercise from 27-28 March 2008 in Singapore.

xii. Maritime security has also featured prominently in operational groupings like the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) and the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS). Non-traditional security threats, like maritime terrorism, have been incorporated into the activities of the FPDA since 2004. The WPNS has also initiated a series of maritime security focussed exercises and exchanges. The inaugural WPNS Multilateral Sea Exercise and the first Maritime Security Information Exchange Seminar were held in May 2005. In May 2007, Singapore hosted the second WPNS Multilateral Sea Exercise, the Multilateral Tactical Centre Training Exercise, and Maritime Security Information Exchange Seminar in conjunction with IMDEX Asia 2007. The Multilateral Sea Exercise involved 10 WPNS navies and 18 warships, as well as maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters.

xiii. The ARF has placed significant emphasis on the subject of maritime security since the adoption of the 2003 ARF Statement on Cooperation against Anti-Piracy and Other Threats to Maritime Security. Recent ARF activities have included the Workshop on Maritime Security in Kuala Lumpur in September 2004, CBM on Regional Cooperation on Maritime Cooperation in Singapore in March 2005, Workshop on Training for in Maritime Security in India in October 2005, a Workshop on Capacity Building of Maritime Security in Japan in December 2005, and the ARF Roundtable on the Stocktaking Of Maritime Issues in Bali in August 2007. In January 2007, the ARF Maritime Security Shore Exercise hosted by Singapore brought together maritime security experts from the military, law enforcement, port and policy agencies of ARF member countries to participate in a series of inter-agency discussions, table-top and simulation exercises. The Shore

Exercise was the first time that countries had come together for an operational activity under the ambit of the ARF. It is testament to the ARF's efforts to move from dialogue to forging concrete cooperation among member countries. The Shore Exercise also laid the foundation for greater interoperability and operational cooperation, including the possibility of a joint maritime security exercise at sea among the ARF countries. The ARF is now looking into establishing an ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security, which will help regularise meetings on maritime security within the ARF framework.

xiv. We have also bolstered maritime security by enhancing maritime domain awareness within the region. The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia, or ReCAAP, is the first ever government-to-government agreement to enhance maritime security in regional waters. Central to cooperation under ReCAAP is the Information Sharing Centre (or ISC), which is located in Singapore. The ISC serves as the platform to share information on piracy and armed robbery, and helps to enhance information exchange and operational cooperation in responding to security incidents at sea. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council (GC) was held in Singapore on 26-28 February 2008. A Second Special GC meeting will be held in the second half of 2008. Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia also launched a Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore in September 2007 for user states and other stakeholders to interact with the littoral states on enhancing navigational safety and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

xv. Singapore remains concerned about the need to safeguard the integrity of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). While Singapore supports efforts to protect the coastal and marine environment which underpin many of these

measures by coastal states, such efforts can and must be carried out in accordance with international law. UNCLOS is a carefully negotiated package that balances the interests of multiple stakeholders. Unilateral measures by coastal states could lead to the unravelling of UNCLOS provisions on passage and overflight through maritime zones like straits used for international navigation, archipelagic sea lanes and Exclusive Economic Zones. As such developments could have serious implications on the strategic, shipping, economic and energy interests of the global community. Singapore will continue to work together with other “friends” of UNCLOS to protect its integrity and sanctity.

xvi. The Tsunami of 2004 and the cyclone and earthquake which struck Myanmar and China in May 2008 have reinforced the importance of regional operational agencies working closely together in the event of a regional emergency. To help Myanmar in its relief and reconstruction efforts, ASEAN FMs have established an ASEAN-led mechanism to facilitate the effective distribution and utilization of assistance from the international community. Myanmar agreed to accept the international assistance on the basis that this assistance, given through ASEAN, should not be politicised. It is important that the region develops a holistic approach towards disaster management – including disaster prevention and reduction, disaster rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction. In this regard, the ARF Inter-session Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR) has an important role in providing ARF countries with a platform to promote a common understanding and approach on managing multiple and complex issues through cooperative activities such as regular exchanges, joint training and joint exercises.

xvii. Since the endorsement of the Concept Paper for an ARF Defence Dialogue by the 9th ARF in July 2002, the ARF Defence Dialogue has become an integral part of the ARF process. The involvement of defence officials in the ARF has enriched the ARF process and contributed to the confidence

building process of the ARF. It has also allowed the defence establishments of ARF countries to meet and discuss issues of common interest and concern. This has promoted greater transparency amongst regional defence establishments. In its capacity as the Chair of the ARF, Singapore hosted the ARF Defence Dialogue and the Fifth ARF Security Policy Conference on 7 and 8 May 2008 respectively. The defence officials had fruitful exchanges during the two meetings on issues ranging from the strategic landscape, counter-terrorism, maritime security, HADR and energy security.

xviii. The Seventh Shangri-La Dialogue was held in Singapore from 30 May-1 June 2008. Organised independently by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), this year’s Dialogue enjoyed the largest turnout to date, and brought together 27 Defence Ministers or their representatives, as well as other senior defence officials. Discussions at the Dialogue focused on the regional security environment, security threats from the non-State actors and non-traditional security issues, particularly humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). On HADR, the Defence Ministers stressed that the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance was critical when a disaster struck. It was important that there was a common understanding on the norms of behaviours of the countries receiving aid and the countries offering assistance. There was also agreement amongst the Defence Ministers to the Dialogue that multilateral cooperation in HADR could be guided by three broad principles, namely (a) the affected country has the primary responsibility to respond to disasters occurring within its territory in a prompt and effective manner; (b) where needed, the affected country shall facilitate external assistance from other countries and international organisations in its HADR efforts to achieve the objective of prompt and effective disaster management and relief; and (c) external assistance shall be provided with the consent of the affected country, and the HADR efforts should be under its overall control and supervision.

### Section III: Singapore's Approach and Contributions to Regional Security

- i. As a small country, Singapore's peace and prosperity are inextricably linked to the region's peace and stability. We are conscious that both our security and economic well being will become even more susceptible to any instability in our external environment when we become more integrated with the global economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Hence, one of the key thrusts of Singapore's defence strategy is to work with friendly countries to promote dialogue, confidence-building and co-operation both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, in order to maintain a peaceful and stable regional environment.
- ii. Singapore believes that regional security and stability is best served by having an open and inclusive security architecture that comprises strong bilateral relationships and multilateral arrangements. Singapore enjoys close ties with many countries in the Asia-Pacific and will continue to strengthen and deepen these bilateral ties. On the multilateral level, Singapore will do its best to contribute to regional defence and security co-operation. We will seek to strengthen existing multilateral arrangements such as the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), the Western Pacific Naval Symposium and the ARF, as well as to foster and support new arrangements to enhance regional peace and stability, such as the ADMM.
- iii. As part of the process of positioning itself for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) will promote regional military co-operation and dialogue. Over the years, the SAF has developed a wide range of bilateral interactions with a number of armed forces in the region. These include joint exercises and training programmes, exchange visits, professional seminars and cross-attendance of military courses. The SAF will continue to enhance its interoperability with friendly forces in the region in various areas of professional interest.
- iv. Singapore recognises the need for international cooperation in dealing with natural disasters, which often strike when least expected and are beyond the capacities of a single country to deal with. To this end, the SAF, together with the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF), the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), the Japanese Self-Defence Force (JSDF) and the Indonesian National Defence Forces (TNI) participated in Exercise Cobra Gold 2008 from 8-21 May 2008 in Korat, Thailand. Exercise Cobra Gold is a series of annual multilateral exercises that focuses on peace support and non-combatant evacuation operations. The SAF, which had sent observers to Exercise Cobra Gold from 1993 to 1999, became a full exercise participant in 2000. A 106-member SAF delegation participated in the command post exercise phase of Cobra Gold 2008 where the SAF officers undertook the role of staff planners for the Combined Joint Task Force, alongside their Thai, US, Japanese and Indonesian counterparts. For the first time, a 35-man SAF team also participated in the field training exercise phase that simulates security operations in support of Humanitarian and Disaster Relief efforts. In addition, a SAF medical team joined the teams from the Thai and US armed forces to provide medical and dental services to the local population in Korat, under the Medical Civil Assistance Programme (MEDCAP). Exercise Cobra Gold enhances interoperability among the participating armed forces. It also promotes mutual understanding, friendship and professionalism among the officers and men of the participating armed forces.
- v. The SAF and the United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) co-hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference (APMMC) in Singapore from 14-18 April 2008. The APMMC is a forum for military medical professionals in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss scientific and military medical issues, developments and cooperation. Over 600 military medical professionals from more than 30 Asia-Pacific countries attended this year's conference.

The theme for the conference “Learning from the Past, Transforming Medical Teams for the Future” aimed to explore the challenges, as well as current and emerging threats faced by military medicine professionals. A wide range of topics was discussed during the APMMC including Combat Medicine and Trauma, Environmental and Preventive Medicine, Military Psychiatry, Aviation Medicine, Naval & Underwater Medicine and Technological Advances in Combat Casualty Care.

vi. Singapore and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) jointly organised a two-day regional seminar themed “Inter-Agency Cooperation and Restoring Family Links in Peace Support Operations and Complex Emergencies” from 29-30 April 2008. The seminar brought together more than 100 participants from 21 countries to discuss topics such as “Dealing with Displaced Civilians in Peace Support Operations and Complex Emergencies” and “Disaster Relief and Civil Military Cooperation”. The seminar also sought to enhance inter-agency cooperation through the sharing of best practices by the participating countries and international organisations.

vii. As an active partner of the international community in promoting maritime security in the region, Singapore is setting up the Changi Command and Control (C2) Centre. When completed in 2009, the Changi C2 Centre can serve as a key node in a region-wide information-sharing network to enhance maritime domain awareness. To serve this purpose, the Changi C2 Centre will house the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) which is designed to facilitate information-sharing cooperation among regional partners to enhance regional maritime domain awareness. The IFC will fuse together information shared by partner navies and agencies, and in the process, generate useful insights and knowledge which can be shared across a network of users. This will enable all participating countries to give early warning to maritime security agencies about potential threats and scenarios.

viii. The Changi C2 Centre will also provide a platform to promote interoperability among security partners through the establishment of the Multinational Operations and Exercises Centre (MOEC). The MOEC will provide facilities to support the conduct of bilateral and multilateral exercises, such as those held under the ambit of the ARF and the Western Pacific Naval Symposium. Should the need arise, the MOEC can also be used to facilitate international cooperation in areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. This facility is equipped to support the effective and efficient coordination of multilateral efforts. The Changi C2 Centre will provide a platform to promote interoperability and enhance the region’s capacity to address shared security challenges or contingencies.

ix. Singapore is also committed to international efforts to counter the spread of WMD. Such efforts are particularly important given the threat of global terrorism and the dangerous possibility of WMD falling into the hands of terrorists. Singapore therefore supports the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) as part of our overall effort in countering terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As part of our contributions to PSI, Singapore hosted a PSI Operational Experts Group (OEG) Meeting from 25-26 July 2006, which involved over 200 operational experts from the defence, foreign affairs, law enforcement, transport and other agencies of 20 PSI countries. The discussions at this OEG meeting served to enhance the collective capabilities of PSI countries to prevent the proliferation of WMD and related items. Our military, law enforcement and civilian agencies also participated in various PSI activities and exercises over the years. Singapore recently attended the PSI 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Senior Level Meeting in Washington DC in May 2008 to commemorate the PSI process. Singapore has also taken other concrete steps to counter the threat of WMD proliferation. As part of our overall effort in countering WMD proliferation, we have put in place a robust export controls system through the

Strategic Goods (Control) Act. In January 2008, our regime was expanded to take on board the control lists of the four major multilateral export control regimes (Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement). Recognising that as a major international port, we must also safeguard the integrity of trade that passes through our ports, Singapore participates in the Container Security Initiative (CSI).

. . . . .

Prepared by ASEAN Singapore

July 2008



# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

## THAILAND

### Overview

1. The overall security situation in the Asia-Pacific region remains generally stable and peaceful, buttressed by the constructive interplay of relations between countries in the region and key global players, and warming up of ties among key regional countries. Traditional potential flashpoints of tension have remained generally quiet.

2. Democracy continues to take hold in the region. With elections in December 2007, there was a return of democracy in Thailand. In many parts of the Asia-Pacific region, elections were held, emphasizing peaceful transitions in a democracy.

3. A notable development in the region which will have significant bearing on regional peace and security was the signing of the ASEAN Charter. This sets the legal and political foundation for the development of an ASEAN Community that is rules-based, effective and people-oriented. A more integrated ASEAN Community will serve as a secure hub around which the broader community-building efforts, such as those in East Asia, could evolve. As ASEAN elaborates a blueprint for its Political Security Community, it is also leading a review process for the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to make the Forum more relevant and pivotal in the emerging regional security architecture.

4. Despite these positive developments, however, the Asia-Pacific region continues to confront challenges that have the potential to affect the security, stability and development of the region and whose scope transcends national boundaries.

### Challenges and Response

5. From Thailand's perspective, threats of a transnational nature and non-traditional security threats, have been and will be one of the key challenges to the security of States as well as to human security in the region in the next few years. An effective response will require a coordinated and integrated approach at the national, regional and global levels.

6. This perception of threat and the approach to deal with it are reflected in *Thailand's National Security Policy: 2007-2011*, published by Thailand's National Security Council.

7. What then were the key challenges to human security and the security, stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region in 2008?

#### *Continuing the Fight Against Transnational Crime and Terrorism*

8. Transnational crime and terrorism continue to pose threats to the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole. Enhanced cooperation and coordination of policies at the regional and global levels, however, have mitigated some of these threats.

9. Thailand attaches importance to addressing the eight priority areas of transnational crimes and terrorism as identified by ASEAN. Among these priority areas, urgent attention is being placed, in particular on the problems of human trafficking, drug-trafficking and terrorism.

*Human Trafficking*

10. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that, annually, there are between 250,000 - 400,000 victims of human trafficking in the countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region annually. In view of Thailand's geographical location at the crossroads of mainland Southeast Asia, addressing human trafficking is a key priority of the Royal Thai Government as announced in its Policy Statement to Parliament earlier this year.

11. For Thailand, a major step in the fight against human trafficking is the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008) which entered into force on 5 June 2008. The Act clearly defines what constitutes "human trafficking", includes males as possible victims of this crime, extends enforcement of and protection by the law to legal and illegal non-Thai victims of trafficking and prescribes more severe punishment for offenders. It will also make the country's criminal justice system more effective in securing justice for the victims of trafficking.

12. Thailand continues to pursue cooperation to address the problem of human trafficking at the bilateral level (through MOUs with key countries), at the sub-regional and regional levels (through ASEAN and arrangements such as the Coordinated Mekong Initiative against Trafficking or COMMIT), and at the global level (through initiatives such as the UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking in Persons and Slavery (UN. GIFT), as well as relevant UN conventions and other international agreements). Our regional role on this issue was highlighted by the hosting of a Regional Workshop on Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons: Ending Impunity and Securing Justice, held in October 2007, in preparation for the Global Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held in February 2008. With our ASEAN partners, we are currently studying ideas on a regional Convention that would help fight human trafficking in Southeast Asia.

*Illicit Drug Trafficking*

13. According to the International Narcotics Control Board, East and Southeast Asia is no longer a major source of illicit opium, poppy cultivation, owing to successful alternative development strategies including crop substitution pursued by Thailand and other countries. Illicit manufacture of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS), however, are increasing. Cohesive, collective and continuous efforts are thus needed to successfully prevent and suppress illicit drug trafficking.

14. Drug profiling is an important instrument that would help improve the tracing of the route and origin of illicit drugs and could be further explored within the region. Thailand also welcomes efforts within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to promote enhanced collaboration on the prevention of diversion of precursors into illicit drug manufacture. At the global level, through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Commission on Narcotics Drug (CND), Thailand continues to promote sustainability in alternative development as an important part of drug control strategies in countries where illicit crops are grown to produce drugs.

*Terrorism*

15. Thus far, close cooperation between countries in the region and active national efforts have prevented international terrorist groups from establishing a presence in Southeast Asia. The actions of local extremist groups have been curtailed.

16. To address the threat of terrorism, Thailand will continue to adopt a comprehensive approach, including addressing the problem at its root cause as well as promoting greater respect for cultural diversity and moderation. At the national level, our laws are being strengthened to deal with terrorism and its favourable conditions. For example, the Penal Code was amended last year to stipulate as criminal offences the making, forgery,

distribution, sale and possession of illegal passports as well as other travel documents. In addition, the Computer Crime Act 2007 has been approved by the National Legislative Assembly, and has become effective as of 18 July 2007. The bill provides Thai officials with the legal authority to search and seize electronic evidence, seek court orders to shut down web sites, and arrest cyber criminals. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as the law executor, has the duty to enforce this new statute.

17. At the bilateral level, Thailand has recently signed treaties on Mutual Assistance and Criminal Matters with five countries, in addition to the existing treaties with nine. Furthermore, Thailand has concluded extradition treaties with 10 countries and has passed the Extradition Act in January 2008, which adheres to the UN Model Treaty on Extradition.

18. At the regional level, ASEAN cooperation received a big boost with the signing of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism last year, for which Thailand deposited its instrument of ratification with the ASEAN Secretariat in March this year. The ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty has been signed and awaiting ratification while an ASEAN Extradition Treaty is being discussed. At the global level, Thailand ratified/acceded to nine of the thirteen UN Anti – Terrorism Conventions and Protocols and is committed to become party to the remaining ones.

#### *Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons*

19. Furthermore, Thailand views that illicit trade, proliferation, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) is a threat to peace, security, stability and development because it is inextricably linked with transnational crimes, drug trafficking, terrorism and has devastating consequence on humanitarian and socio-economic issues.

20. At the regional level, Thailand has consistently cooperated with other ASEAN Countries in the implementation of Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA). Thailand also continues to encourage ASEAN Member Countries and ARF Participants to strengthen cooperation on the SALW issue within existing frameworks.

#### *Playing a Greater Role in Promoting Maritime Security*

21. Maritime security is of increasing importance to Thailand's national interest and regional peace and prosperity. Thailand continues to improve its implementation and standardization of maritime safety and security measures, which has contributed to the decrease in piracy incidents in Southeast Asia in 2008 as reported by the International Maritime Bureau.

22. Thailand's efforts to become more engaged in maritime security in the region are reflected in our active participation in coordinated patrols with neighbouring countries, our engagement in the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and our involvement in the Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrol and *Eyes in the Sky* with Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. Thailand also supports establishment of an ASEAN Maritime Forum and ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in maritime security and safety. Cooperation in promoting maritime security should be based on the relevant principles of international law and have due regard to the interests of both littoral States and user States. Thailand, as a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), also actively implements the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code (ISPS Code) with the Marine Department, Ministry of Transport acting as the designated authority.

23. Thailand also believes that the work done by private actors such as the Joint War Committee of Lloyds Market Association should be undertaken in close consultations with all countries concerned. The actions of the former can have important implications for risk perceptions in the region that may translate into higher insurance premiums. In this connection, the delisting of the Malacca Straits from the list of sea lanes with a war risk rating by the Joint War Committee is appreciated. This delisting should be extended to areas surrounding the southern border provinces of Thailand which are being closely patrolled by the Royal Thai Navy and the Royal Thai Marine Police.

#### *Other Threats to Human Security*

24. The recent crises with regard to food security and energy have caused unrest in several countries around the world. The crises can pose serious threats to countries' economic and political stability including human security. According to the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization, prices of basic commodities have risen by 83 percent over the last three years, affecting some 850 million people around the world, 820 million of them in developing countries. Likewise, the price of oil has risen over 100 percent over the past year. If these trends are sustained without effective global and regional solutions being offered, the economic hardships resulting from the food and energy crises may cause further unrest within States and possibly tensions between States. Countries should therefore carefully monitor possible effects of the crises as well as seek cooperative mechanisms at regional and international level to address them.

25. The aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the recent earthquake in China shows once again that natural disasters can strike anywhere at any time and bring about great devastation. The lessons are clear. Current arrangements within the region and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) have been inadequate to deal with natural disasters of such magnitude and have to be improved. The creation

of an "ASEAN-led mechanism" has helped solve the problem for now, having paved the way for more effective coordination of and increased access for international humanitarian assistance. Thailand is keen to see the development of regional mechanisms, both ASEAN and the ARF, that can deal more effectively with natural disasters. ASEAN and the ARF need to have in place effective procedures and stand-by assets that can be activated immediately when the need arises. In this connection, the role played by the Secretary-General of ASEAN, in support of the ASEAN and ARF Chair, should be enhanced.

#### **Emerging Regional Security Architecture**

26. A stable and effective regional security architecture helps enable countries in the region to face more effectively threats to human security. Such architecture aims at creating and maintaining regional peace and order as a basis for economic prosperity. It seeks to achieve this by encouraging and facilitating the active and peaceful engagement amongst its participants and with the outside world. Because of the openness of the Asia-Pacific region and its close integration with the global economy, the regional architecture is expected to be open, inclusive and outward-looking. Such architecture will not be directed against any state or group of states but seeks to engage all States in the region or those that have an impact on the region so that they all feel that they are stakeholders in and contributors to the region's peace and prosperity.

27. Because of the great diversity within the Asia-Pacific region, no single overarching security architecture is envisaged to oversee the entire region in the near future. Rather, the architecture is envisaged to be loose and flexible, comprising networks of security arrangements or fora that already exist or that are emerging.

28. In the Asia-Pacific, there are many security fora or arrangements. In addition to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), there is the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), among others. There are bilateral and multi-party defense arrangements among countries in the region. In the Korean Peninsula, the Six-Party Talks is laying the foundation for the development of a Northeast Asia Peace and Security Mechanism. All these security arrangements or mechanisms serve to enhance regional peace and stability. The key is finding the most effective modality to ensure complementarity and, if possible, synergies, between these different security arrangements or mechanisms.

29. Although the regional architecture in the diverse Asia-Pacific may be loose and flexible and its activities guided more by shared interests, there are shared regional norms of behavior that are being developed continuously that contribute to promoting peace and stability in the region. The ASEAN Charter creates norms of behavior for ASEAN Member Countries. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia creates norms of behavior regarding the peaceful conduct of relations between ASEAN and non-ASEAN States Parties. States outside Southeast Asia are invited to accede to the TAC. The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea establishes some norms of behaviour in the South China Sea.

30. The engagement of countries in the region in regional integration and community-building processes within ASEAN and beyond also help generate impetus for peace and prosperity. So do the ongoing development of regional and sub-regional fora and arrangements from IMT-GT, ACMECS and GMS to ASEAN, East Asia Summit, APEC and the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), to name a few. These are all factors that contribute to the evolving regional architecture.

### **Thailand's National Defence Strategy**

31. Given the existing regional environment and evolving network of cooperation, Thailand

pursues a national defense strategy that places emphasis on cooperation and preventive measures.

32. An important component of cooperation is building trust and confidence. In this connection, transparency is one important element in the building of trust and confidence.

33. Thailand's report in 2008 to the United Nations under the instrument for standardized reporting of military expenditures for fiscal year 2007 puts our military expenditure at 143,518,901,100 baht or 4,349,057,609 US dollars (1 US dollar equals 33 baht).

34. In "*The Defence of Thailand 2005*" published by the Ministry of Defence, the budget of the Thai Ministry of Defence in 2004 is around 30 billion US dollars. This is 1.27 percent of the GDP or 7.59 percent of the national budget, a reduction of 2.43 percent from the previous year.

35. Thailand's report in 2005 to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, in the calendar year of 2004 shows a nil report with regard to exports while imports of one combat aircraft, one helicopter and 225 missiles/missile launchers are reported.

36. Furthermore, in 2008 Thailand's National Report on the Implementation of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA) indicates that Thailand does not manufacture small arms and light weapons for export. Most small arms and light weapons are imported.

37. Promoting further trust and confidence as well as enhancing capabilities for joint responses to common security threats including joint training in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance were again the main goals of this year's Cobra Gold multinational defense exercise in Thailand, which included the participation of Indonesia,

Japan, Singapore, Thailand and the United States. To ensure transparency, there were numerous observers from countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

38. The establishment of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) is another important step to promote further trust and confidence in the region through enhanced dialogue and transparency. The ADMM is expected to pursue increased cooperation and coordination of efforts to support ASEAN's endeavour to promote comprehensive security, including dealing with the challenge of non-traditional security threats. It is in this context that Thailand is proud to host the next ADMM at the end of this year.

39. The National Defense Strategy of Thailand comprises six key elements. First, maintain solidarity and support for national interests amongst all Thais. Second, enhance defense capacity by integrating all forces and resources to develop effective monitoring and early warning capacities. Third, develop science and technology to enhance national capacities to confront threats and protect national interests from the negative effects of information technology. Fourth, create trust and understanding with neighboring countries. Fifth, cooperate with major powers and countries in the Asia-Pacific for stability in the region. Sixth, develop cooperation networks of intelligence to counter terrorism and other kinds of transnational crime.

40. Thailand seeks to promote security cooperation with all countries at bilateral and multilateral levels on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefits in order to create amity, maintain neutrality, consolidate strength and prevent conflict.

41. The role of the Thai armed forces has been adjusted to focus on other tasks other than preparation to defend the country in cases of armed conflict. The adjusted roles include missions in support of government policies such as assistance

in implementation of Royal initiated projects, elimination of drug trafficking, preservation of the environment and natural resources and other civic action programmes, all of which contribute towards enhancing human security in the region.

42. Enhanced cooperation with Track II is reflected in the success of the "Asia-Pacific Security: Addressing the Challenges of a Changing World" seminar, jointly organized by the National Defense Studies Institute (NDSI), the Strategic Research Institute (SRI) in cooperation with the Association of National Defense College and the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS) during 2-5 March 2008 in Chonburi. There, international participants from the academic and security backgrounds discussed ways to address the non-traditional security issues such as energy and environmental security, the role of the army in supporting the peace building efforts as well as providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief cooperation. Thailand also supports the continuing Shangri-La Dialogue which provides a forum for high-level exchanges of views on important security issues for the region.

## Conclusion

43. As Thailand assumes the role of Chairman of ASEAN and the ARF in July 2008, and as ASEAN moves towards becoming a community in 2015, Thailand will continue to promote human security in the region by reinforcing regional peace, stability and prosperity through cooperative endeavours with countries inside and outside the region as well as with relevant international and regional organizations. Thailand will continue to contribute to the emerging regional security architecture, one based on cooperation to face common security challenges, enhanced joint action to deal in a timely manner with emergency situations that arise in the region, and respect for diversity.

## ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK 2008

### THE UNITED STATES

#### Current Security Dynamics

The political and security trajectory of the Asia-Pacific remained positive through 2007, although some current and potential obstacles to continued regional peace and stability remain. Economic liberalization has fostered Asia's economic dynamism. Cooperative security efforts built confidence, enhanced mutual understanding, and forged the deepest relationships the region has seen. Increasingly closer collaboration among major powers remains a positive recent trend. As shown by increasingly warm relations, peaceful China-Japan relations will remain important in continuing this trend. The Asia-Pacific region is interconnected, mandating further collaboration among its governments, economies, and people. Coupled with a strengthening of America's bilateral relationships, effective multilateralism remains one of the most potent means for addressing many of today's security problems.

#### Six-Party Talks Making Progress:

Regional security cooperation has found one recent success, although much work remains to be done. The Six Parties have moved forward on completing their commitments under Phase II of the Six-Party process, including significant first steps of the DPRK toward verifiable denuclearization. DPRK actions included the progress on the disablement of facilities at Yongbyon and the submission of a verifiable declaration of its nuclear programs to the Six Parties. As the DPRK fulfills its commitments, the United States is fulfilling ours. We have provided Heavy Fuel Oil, terminated the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act (TWEA) with respect to the DPRK, and announced our intention to

rescind the DPRK's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. North Korea will continue to face numerous sanctions under other international and domestic legal authorities, including those stemming from its 2006 nuclear detonation, its proliferation activities, its human rights violations, its status as a communist state, and UNSCR 1718.

Full implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement will offer a better future for and improve the lives of the Korean people. With denuclearization, many opportunities will become possible, including normalization of U.S.-DPRK relations, North Korean integration into the international community, and a permanent peace arrangement on the Korean Peninsula. As we move into the Third Phase of implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement, we hope to move forward with further cooperation among Northeast Asian powers through a Northeast Asia Peace and Security Mechanism. No matter the form, any future Northeast Asian arrangement will complement, and not undermine, the U.S.'s existing bilateral and multilateral commitments in Asia. Nonetheless, the central task before the Six Parties remains, first and foremost, denuclearization.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction:** The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery, and related items threatens the security of every member of the international community. In addition to the threat of North Korean proliferation and their acquisition of nuclear weapons, the region has become more conscious in recent years of the role of WMD proliferation networks. As a strong supporter of the global nonproliferation regime, the United States is

committed to working with international partners to meet the proliferation threat and promote compliance with international nonproliferation commitments.

One way that all states can address this security threat is by working toward full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. We believe that the ARF can play a constructive role in facilitating ARF participants' implementation of this resolution. Other ways that the U.S. supports the nonproliferation regime include promoting the Additional Protocol to IAEA Safeguards, widening the Proliferation Security Initiative, and advancing the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. These efforts provide a multilayered approach, in the ARF region and beyond, against proliferation.

**Terrorism:** Terrorism continues to threaten the region. For the U.S., combating terrorism is a global struggle with global implications. Southeast Asia is just one front as these governments continued to gain ground in their struggle against terror groups operating in the region. Defeating terrorism will require a comprehensive effort executed locally, nationally, regionally and globally – a multilayered strategy to defeat a multifaceted enemy. Unlike traditional security threats, seemingly harmless aspects of everyday society – borders, ports, bank accounts, cyber-infrastructure – become points of vulnerability for terrorist operations. Regional strategies must be tailored to disaggregate terrorist networks, eliminate terrorist safe havens, and disrupt all terrorist links, including financial, travel, communications, and intelligence links. These strategies must also address the underlying conditions that terrorists exploit to induce alienated or aggrieved populations to become sympathizers, supporters, and ultimately members of terrorist networks. We must work cooperatively to identify ways in which we can provide substantive educational, social, and recreational alternatives that will divert impressionable young people away from the recruitment process.

In Southeast Asia, the Jemaah Islamiya (JI) and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) networks remain serious threats to Western and regional interests, particularly in Indonesia and the Southern Philippines. These governments have recently downgraded JI and ASG's capabilities and have fostered a legal and law enforcement environment conducive to fighting terrorism. Their actions represent major blows to JI and ASG, but did not eliminate the overall threat to regional interests. Geographical considerations, ungoverned areas, and underdeveloped coastal areas continue to make effective border control problematic for archipelagic states like Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

**Other Security Challenges:** Asia has become particularly vulnerable to other transnational security threats. These include piracy, narcotics trafficking, organized crime, and natural disasters. These threats reflect the growing interconnectedness of the Asia-Pacific economic and political structures, perhaps an unforeseen consequence of an increasingly globalized region. In order to ensure the region's economic viability, combating these threats require comprehensive approaches, a consistent focus, and multilayered cooperative mechanisms.

Additionally, Burma remains a threat to regional stability and security with its export of illegal narcotics, refugees, trafficked persons and threat of communicable diseases. Burma will only resolve its multiple security problems when it addresses their root causes by entering into a dialogue with its political opponents that results in governing structures representative of all the Burmese people.

## U.S. Security Policy in Asia

**Bilateral Relationships:** The core of the U.S. security posture in the region remains our network of bilateral alliances and security partnerships with key friends, buttressed by active involvement in trans-Pacific multilateral institutions. These alliances (Japan, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines and Thailand) have been the key means

to advance our security interests and principles in the region. The U.S.-Japan alliance remains the lynchpin of our regional security posture. We are updating and transforming both the U.S.-Japan and U.S.-ROK alliance systems while strengthening U.S.-Australian security collaboration within our alliance structure to ensure compatibility with contemporary security challenges. We have also strengthened our security ties to Singapore, Indonesia, and not the least, India, whose role in East Asia has begun to grow. Our alliances stand today as symbols of political freedom, economic prosperity, and regional cooperation. These alliances have provided security for the entire region. They have underpinned a stable environment in which East Asia's remarkable economic dynamism could flourish, and the political space in which we have seen one democratic transformation after another. In the interest of transparency, the U.S. publishes a range of documents related to our global security policy. These include the National Defense Strategy, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and the National Security Strategy.

**Effective Multilateralism:** The U.S. has another priority – to see Asian governments succeed in combating security threats on their own. Particularly in Southeast Asia, the U.S. utilizes a deep and wide array of security assistance programs, joint training, and technical assistance to strengthen the personnel, technological, and operating structures of governments in the region. Effective, multilateral capacity-building efforts provide another layer of security to national capabilities. Multilateral fora such as ARF, APEC, ASEAN, the Proliferation Security Initiative, and the recently launched Global Maritime Partnership provide another set of tools and opportunities to improve both partner nations' domestic and joint capacity to combat these transnational threats.

**U.S.-China Relations:** The candid and constructive U.S.-China relationship has produced cooperation supportive of long-term stability in the Asia-Pacific. We seek to shape China's choices as it

rises in influence so that it plays a responsible and stabilizing role in the region and the international system. The U.S.-China relationship on the whole has a solid foundation and has improved in recent years, though some challenges remain. China's nonproliferation record is improving but remains mixed, and we continue to be concerned about China's weak enforcement of export and financial controls, absence of accountability, and lack of international transparency. China has played a leadership role as host of the Six-Party Talks. Through its actions in the UN Security Council and votes in favor of UNSCRs 1695, 1718, 1737, 1747, and 1803, China has supported the international response to the DPRK's provocative missile and nuclear tests and Iran's efforts to conceal the nature of its nuclear programs. We expect China, like the rest of the international community, to fully implement the above UN Security Council Resolutions. To enhance regional security, China should be more open about its military budget, doctrine, and its intentions. This includes addressing international concern over its 2007 anti-satellite test and providing greater detail on the strategic rationale behind its fast-paced military modernization and development of longer-range power projection capabilities.

### Defining ARF's Security Mandate

Considering ARF's strengths, weaknesses, and institutional character, where does ARF fit into the evolving security architecture? Where can it bring added value and real results? From the U.S. perspective, ARF's security mandate should stand on two pillars: transnational security cooperation and building defense relationships.

Due to ARF's broad, inclusive membership, shared mutual interests in transnational security threats, and the need for a region-wide implementation of these security commitments, transnational security issues should become the central work of ARF while not forsaking approaches to traditional security issues. While not limited to these areas, transnational security cooperation can

include maritime security, nonproliferation, counter terrorism, transnational crime, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance. Bilateral relationships and sub-regional cooperation cannot serve as the only tools for Asia-Pacific governments to eradicate these threats. Broader, regional approaches that utilize joint assistance, develop interoperability, encourage implementation can serve as another layer of defense against crucial, transnational security threats. Furthermore, these threats are not “soft” issues as some in the region may assess. Ensuring regional and local stability, secure trade, and effective law enforcement strategies all critically support a stable economic environment, Asia’s lifeline.

A secondary interest for ARF countries remains building stronger relationships among regional militaries to build confidence to combat these threats. Efforts such as multilateral desktop and field exercises, defense exchanges, and transparency measures could enhance familiarity among ARF militaries. Joint training could more effectively contribute to coordinated multilateral

responses among individual ARF militaries in a variety of crisis response scenarios.

ARF’s Annual Security Outlook has proven a useful tool to exchange written information on ARF participants’ regional security policies. ARF recently reached consensus to standardize these exchanges, a welcome proposal. Due to the recent, positive interactions between the OSCE and ARF, the U.S. feels it may be useful to use OSCE’s military exchanges such as its Global Exchange of Military Information as a baseline for the standardization of ARF’s Annual Security Outlook. Since not all of the aspects of OSCE’s exchanges would be applicable to ARF’s exchanges, ARF could pick and choose which aspects it could incorporate into its own exchanges. This method would recognize OSCE’s success in this area, provide a simple negotiation process, and build further confidence on traditional security issues within ARF.

. . . . .

# ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM ANNUAL SECURITY OUTLOOK

## VIETNAM

### I. Overview

1. Over the past few years, the world political-security situation has shown that peace and cooperation remain the main trend. Although large-scale wars or major upheavals can hardly break out, local wars and armed conflicts, international terrorism, arms race, including nuclear arms race, frequently occurred. The world is facing various global urgent issues, such as epidemic, environmental pollution, climate change, natural disasters, etc..., posing serious threats to human life.

2. In Asia-Pacific generally and Southeast Asia in particular, peace, stability, cooperation and development have been maintained over the years. Dialogue, cooperation, association and integration within the region are strongly developing at various levels. Regional dialogue and cooperation processes initiated by ASEAN are favorably making progress. Hotspots with potential conflict are still under control owing to the concerned parties perseveringly seeking for peaceful solutions through dialogue and cooperation. Among these, the implementation of the Declaration of Conduct of Parties (DOC) in the South China Sea is outstanding.

3. Along with the strong globalization as well as regional integration process, recently, ASEAN defence-security cooperation has made important progress. ASEAN countries, at different levels, all have the need to promote defence-security cooperation to solve common issues, consolidate strength and improve regional standing through exchange of experience, confidence building, and prevention of conflict. ASEAN defence-security cooperation has developed to a higher level when the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting

in Singapore adopted a number of important documents, namely: the Three Years Working Programme, Concept Paper on ADMM Plus, the Joint Declaration on enhancing regional peace and stability through defence-security dialogue and cooperation.

4. However, beside the positive developments, Southeast Asia is also facing with several considerable security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional ones. These challenges are adversely impacting on the stability and development of each country and the region as a whole. In fact, the regional situation requires that all countries should continue pursuing a comprehensive security approach, enhance cooperation and mutual support as no single country can afford to solve them alone.

5. Terrorism is one of the threats to security of Southeast Asia. Regional terrorist groups are increasing linkage and collaboration with international terrorist groups. Though regional governments have taken a series of strong measures to prevent recruiting, financing and terror conspiracy of these groups, but terrorism is still a threat, causing security instability to many countries in the region.

6. Separatism combined with ethnic and religious issues is always a major challenge to the stability and territorial integrity of several countries in the region. Most of the separatist groups conduct armed violence, causing casualties and loss of property and affecting security and socio-economic development. Although governments have sought ways to solve the problem through peaceful

negotiations, almost all failed as the separatist groups refused to give up their separatism.

7. Sovereignty and territorial disputes between and among countries in the region always have a danger of potential conflict, especially sovereign dispute in the South China Sea as it is a particular complicated issue and related to the interests of many countries. In the past years, the implementation of DOC has made progress, however there have been several activities which causing impacts to the status quo and stability in this disputed area. These actions have affected to some extent the confidence as well as the process of forwarding to build the Code of Conduct (COC) in South China Sea. In addition, territorial and border disputes have been causing problems to diplomatic relations between countries in the region.

8. Transnational criminal activities in the region, such as piracy, drug trafficking, human and arms smuggling are increasing and getting more complicated. These non-traditional security challenges place a heavy burden on the regional governments. At first, they may have occurred seemingly to be an issue affecting only one country, but the natural gaps in common borders and the similarity of ethnic communities living along the borders make the issue become more complicated and harder to be solved. Countries in the region made remarkable efforts, set aside differences to move forward to agreement, conduct joint patrol on the sea. Typical examples are: joint patrol in the Malacca Strait by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, joint patrol in the Gulf of Thailand between Vietnam and Thailand etc. This cooperation plays an important part in repelling transnational crime, ensures border security and strengthens mutual understanding between and among countries in the region.

9. Natural disaster, epidemic and climate change also are transborder security challenges which require close cooperation and coordination between countries. The 2004 Tsunami, earth quake in China, cyclone Nagris in Myanmar, and

avian flu epidemic recently show that no single country could afford to solve the issue alone. These challenges are unpredictable for the consequence, along with mismanagement, they could even cause social crisis.

## **II. Vietnam's Viewpoints and Policy Toward Regional Defence-Security Cooperation**

1. Consistently carrying out the foreign policy of independence, self-resilience, openness, multilateralization, diversification, Vietnam supports multilateral defence-security cooperation in ASEAN, but not making any efforts to build ASEAN into a military block or alliance. Vietnam actively cooperates with ASEAN countries in terms of political-security under ARF, APEC etc., takes part in preserving peaceful, stable environment in the region and the world. Vietnam is in opinion that, security cooperation should be taken by steps, careful selective and comfortable to general situation as well as the capabilities and conditions of specific cooperation areas of each countries.

2. During the process of cooperation, Vietnam always upholds and preserves the fundamental principles of ASEAN, such as consensus, equality, diversification, promotion of peace and stability, mutual trust, cooperation and development. Accordingly, Vietnam respects the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and characteristics of all nations; objection to using one's territory against another; non-interference, overthrowing or external coercion; non-intervention into each other's internal affairs; resolves differences and disputes through friendly and peaceful measures.

3. Vietnam has been actively contributing initiatives, mobilizing other countries to support as follows: comprehensive security approach; socio-political stability, economic growth along with narrowing the development gap and hunger elimination and poverty reduction.

4. Vietnam advocates taking part in humanitarian and disaster relief, search and rescue, overcoming regional oil spill; exchange and sharing of information in relation to terrorist activities and transnational crime gangs, suppressing terrorists, further strengthening confidence building measures in the region.

5. Regard to the South China Sea disputes, Vietnam laid out as a policy of settling the disputes among the nations through peaceful negotiations in the spirit of equality, mutual understanding and respect, respecting international laws and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DOC) in the South China Sea. Parties concerned should refrain from any activities that may make the situation worse, non use of force or threat of use of force and seek appropriate solutions for the sake of peace, stability and development.

### **III. Vietnam's Role in International and Regional Organizations in Promoting Peace, Stability, Dialogue and Cooperation**

1. Vietnam, the sole Asian candidate has been elected for a non-permanent member of UNSC, thus showing its credibility to international community. Vietnam which has experience in peace building after the war, capable to discuss and decide issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, together with UNSC to solve the state of confrontation and tension in hotspots in the world. Vietnam is actively and responsibly taking part in the process of planning and launching UNSC resolutions aimed to maintain the global peace and security. For the last years, VN has made the full contribution of its financial obligations to the UN peacekeeping operations. And Vietnam is completing the preparatory process to effectively participate in UNPKO in accordance with its capability and conditions.

2. Vietnam joined ARF in 1994. With its ever higher position in ARF and international arena, Vietnam has proactively and actively taken part in ARF activities in order to contribute strengthening mutual understanding for peace and stability in the region. Vietnam supports ARF to shift to the preventive diplomacy on the basis of holding the principle of consensus and with the objectives of helping to prevent arising disputes and conflicts; to prevent disputes and conflicts from esDemocratic People's Republic of Korea calating to armed conflicts; and to minimize the impact of disputes and conflicts.

3. In the recent years, Vietnam and other member countries have agreed to promote defence and military officials' participation in ARF activities. So far, the meeting of defence officials has been institutionalized within the framework of ARF. The 9th ARF meeting adopted "the Paper on Defence Dialogue in ARF", thus widening defence officials' activities into a formal meeting and establishing the ARF Annual Security Policy Conference at deputy ministerial level.

### **IV. Vietnam's Contributions to Regional Defence and Security Cooperation**

1. Over the past years, Vietnam has taken the initiative to launch several measures to promote cooperative relations with ASEAN countries in terms of defence and security with appropriate steps. At the same time, it has also actively taken part in multilateral defence and security cooperation in ASEAN to build confidence and promote friendship and mutual understanding among ASEAN armed forces through such ASEAN defence and military fora as ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting, ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force Informal Meeting, ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting; ASEAN Air Force Chiefs Conference, ASEAN Navy Chiefs Conference, the ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting.

2. Vietnam supports ASEAN's joint efforts in engaging and broadening cooperation in the field of defence and security with extra-regional countries through formal and informal channels and senior and technical levels such as ARF Security Policy Conference, ARF Meeting of Heads of defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions; Defence Dialogue in the framework of ARF ISGs on CBMs and PD; registering conventional weapons etc. to contribute to preserving peace and stability in the region and the world.

3. The Vietnam People's Army has established relations and is broadening bilateral cooperation with all the armed forces of ASEAN countries in order to maintain security and stability in the region, for instance the establishment of hot lines, coordinated maritime patrols, coordination in controlling the border areas to prevent illegal border crossing, illegal migration, transnational crime etc. It has also taken the initiative to strengthen friendship and consolidation with regional armed forces through exchanges of senior delegations, armed forces' university delegations and military cadets; reception of ASEAN naval ships visiting to Vietnam's navy bases.

## **V. The Direction of Vietnam's Defence and Military Cooperation in the Region in the Future.**

1. In recent years, Vietnam has proactively and actively taken part in defence and security cooperation, especially ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting. This is the important forum for discussing regional defence and security issues. At the same time, it participates in other activities of ASEAN Armed Forces in the terms of training, publicizing defence policies through issuing of defence White Paper and annual assessment of security situation; search and rescue and humanitarian activities; sending military observers to certain military exercises.

2. For ARF, Vietnam continues taking part in the Forum's activities, making efforts to keep ARF development on the right track on the basis of agreed principles and pace, maintains ASEAN's role as the driving force in ARF and contributes to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region through forms of security cooperation with other countries in the framework of ASEM, ASEAN plus three etc.

3. In the area of defence and security cooperation, Vietnam attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual security interest and with various modalities as coordinated border patrols, maritime patrols, bilateral cooperation in ensuring safety of maritime communications running through territorial waters; establishment of naval hot lines; strengthening exchanges of border guard forces etc.

4. ASEAN is at present in the process of building "ASEAN Community" based on three pillars namely Political and security Community, Economic Community and Social and Cultural Community. In order to build the Political and Security Community in the direction of minimizing risks, it is necessary for ASEAN countries to promote exchanges of information on national and regional security relating to counter-terrorism, transnational crime and other nontraditional security issues as well.

5. As far as the South China Sea is concerned, Vietnam continues its principle stand in implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and strives for the adoption of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

6. For South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ), Vietnam together with ASEAN create favourable conditions for encouraging nuclear states to soon accede to the Protocol of the Treaty.

## VI. Conclusion

1. In the coming years, peace, stability and development will remain the main trend in the South East Asia. However, regional situation still has potential of instability causing factors intertwined such as traditional and nontraditional challenges, territorial and natural resource disputes. In order to maintain peace, stability and development in the region, it required that regional countries should continue strengthening defence and security cooperation and enhance relations between Southeast Asian countries and other countries outside the region. In addition, disagreement and disputes should be resolved through diplomatic measures and peaceful negotiations. Besides,

Southeast Asian countries should also promote cooperation and support one another to make contribution to stabilizing the situation of the South East Asia in particular and Asian Pacific region in general.

2. Vietnam will actively take measures to foster cooperation with ASEAN countries in the field of defence and security at appropriate pace, respect the UN charter and international law, implement the foreign policy of independence, self-resilience, multilateralisation, diversifications in foreign relations, especially with neighboring and regional countries in order to maintain peace, stability and development in the region and the world.

. . . . .







## ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

Promoting peace and security through dialogue and cooperation in the Asia Pacific.