

THE SEVENTH
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 27 JULY 2000

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THE SEVENTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 27 JULY 2000

1. The Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Bangkok on 27 July 2000. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of all ARF participating countries or their representatives. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also present. The List of Delegates appears as ANNEX A.
3. The Ministers welcomed the participation for the first time of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the Seventh ARF Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok. With regard to the issue of membership, the Ministers reaffirmed the decision taken at the Fifth ARF and agreed that with the current 23 participants, the focus should now be on consolidating the process of dialogue and cooperation among the present participants of the ARF.

Overview of the ARF Process

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant progress which the ARF had made in terms of enhancing political and security dialogue and cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region. In the context of the circumstances prevailing in the region, they noted that the ARF participants were able not only to engage in a free flowing and productive exchange of views with a greater comfort level, but also to address, in a constructive manner, key political and security issues with bearing on regional peace and stability, including new issues that have emerged as a result of globalization. The Ministers emphasized the importance of confidence-building measures (CBMs) to the overall ARF process and agreed that such efforts be intensified. They also welcomed the progress in the implementation of the proposals in the overlap between CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy (PD) as well as the continued efforts to develop concept and principles of PD as to be applicable to the ARF context. In this regard, the Ministers agreed that these developments had enhanced the continuity and relevancy of the ARF process.
5. The Ministers reaffirmed that as it moved forward, the ARF should continue to develop at a pace comfortable to all participants, decision be made by consensus, and confidence-

building remain key to the process. The Ministers expressed support to ASEAN in exercising its leading role in the ARF. At the same time, they also concurred that it was incumbent upon each ARF participant to contribute to advancing the ARF process.

6. In recalling the decision of the Sixth ARF in July 1999 on the overlap between CBMs and PD, the Ministers, noted the progress in the implementation of the enhanced role for the ARF Chairman in liaising with external parties and promoting interaction between Track I and Track II. The Ministers noted that as Chair of the ARF, Thailand had initiated informal contact with the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). They agreed to consider how these links could be further followed up by exchanging of information and sharing of experiences. At the same time, recognizing the contribution of non-ARF Track II activities, particularly the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP), the Ministers noted that the ARF Chair, carrying out the enhanced role, could serve as a useful channel for the ARF to draw on the resources of these Track II fora. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the informal contact that had been established between the ARF and CSCAP through the ARF Chair. In addition, as a practical step in further enhancing the role of the ARF Chair, the Ministers agreed that the ARF Chair could serve as a conduit for information sharing in between ARF meetings, thus enabling the ARF participants to exchange information relevant to the ARF in a timely manner and on a voluntary basis.
7. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons to be available for use by ARF members on the voluntary basis. In proceeding on this matter, they agreed that pending further discussions and agreement on the terms of reference for the Register, the ARF participants proceed with collating nominations of experts/eminent persons for the Register on a voluntary basis with the ARF Chair serving as a focal point.
8. The Ministers welcomed the first volume of the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO), produced by individual participants on a voluntary basis at the Track I level and compiled without editing by the ARF Chair. They shared the view that the ASO could help promote confidence, understanding and transparency as well as facilitating the exchange of views among ARF participants. While noting the voluntary nature of the ASO, it was hoped that the production of ASO, should be an annual exercise and that the ARF participants try to further enhance the value of ASO, to the ARF process.
9. The Ministers noted the importance of the participation of defense and military officials in the ARF process. They therefore welcomed the contribution of greater and active interaction among defense and military officials towards the promotion of mutual understanding and transparency and encouraged continued participation of defense and military officials in all relevant ARF activities.

Highlights of Issues Discussed

10. The Ministers reviewed the political and security situation in the Asia-Pacific region since the Sixth ARF in July 1999 and had a substantive exchange of views on security perceptions and major political and security issues that impact on regional security environment. The discussions were conducted in an open and friendly atmosphere, thereby contributing further towards better understanding and confidence among ARF participants.
11. The Ministers shared the views that the overall security environment of the Asia-Pacific region was marked by a number of positive developments, including continued recovery from the economic and financial crisis and greater interaction and exchanges between and among countries in the region. They further noted that while the security outlook for the Asia-Pacific region remained positive, there were uncertainties and challenges which would increasingly require the attention of the ARF, particularly those posed by globalization. In this regard, the Ministers felt that it was timely that Thailand initiated the discussions on security implications of globalization, which was pertinent to the efforts within the context of the ARF. It was noted that in addressing regional security issues, the ARF should give due consideration to economic, social and human components of security, and the need to promote regional cooperation.
12. The Ministers discussed both the positive effects and the repercussions brought about by globalization, including greater economic interdependence among nations and multiplication of security issues. It was felt that in responding to globalization, it was necessary for nations to strengthen their individual and collective capacities to meet the various challenges affecting their common security. They further agreed on the need for the countries in the region to continue efforts, through dialogue and cooperation, at national and international levels in addressing economic, social and political impacts of globalization so as to ensure sustained economic and social development. It was also essential to strengthen cooperation within such regional frameworks as the ARF in order to enhance international peace and security.
13. The Ministers emphasized that the constructive roles of and stable relations between the major powers remained significant to regional peace and stability. They welcomed the recent improvement in these relations, including regular dialogue and exchange of visits at the heads of state/government level. In this regard, they expressed the hope that such a trend would continue.
14. The Ministers also welcomed the summit meetings held during the Informal Meeting of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN in Manila on 28 November 1999, particularly the Meeting between the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK), as well as

the informal breakfast meeting of the leaders of the three Northeast Asian countries. The Ministers also welcomed the adoption of the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation by the ASEAN+3 Summit in Manila on 28 November 1999 as a contribution towards regional cooperation as well as peace, stability and prosperity of the region in the long term.

15. The Ministers recognized the purposes and principles contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as a basis for the promotion of cooperation, amity, and friendship within Southeast Asia. The Ministers also noted the progress, made on strengthening the TAC as an instrument of peace in Southeast Asia and the process of consideration by non-Southeast Asian countries to accede to the TAC. They also noted the entry into force of the Second Protocol amending the TAC.
16. The Ministers welcomed the progress regarding the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), which contributed towards non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. They welcomed in particular the operation of the Commission for SEANWFZ and the Executive Committee for SEANWFZ, and the dialogue between the State Parties to the Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as provided for in the Treaty. The Ministers also expressed support for the continued consultations between the State Parties of the SEANWFZ Treaty and the Nuclear Weapon States regarding the latter's accession to the Protocol to the Treaty.
17. The Ministers agreed that a united democratic and economically prosperous Indonesia was fundamental to the maintenance of regional security. In this context, they emphasized their support for Indonesia's territorial integrity.
18. The Ministers reviewed developments in East Timor while they welcomed the positive trends which had taken place there as well as cooperation between Indonesia and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). They deplored the death of a UN peacekeeper in East Timor. The Ministers stressed the need for the international community to help East Timor promote peace, stability and prosperity during the latter's transition to full independence, which would contribute to the overall stability of the region. The Ministers also underscored the need for continued international attention to and support for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and nation building of East Timor as well as cooperation with the UNTAET.
19. With regard to the situation in the South China Sea, the Ministers encouraged the exercise of self-restraint by all countries concerned and the promotion of confidence building measures in this area, and welcomed their commitment to resolving disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as to ensuring the freedom of navigation in this area. The Ministers welcomed dialogue and

consultations, particularly dialogue in the ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations, the exchange of views in the ARF, as well as in the Informal Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea. The Ministers welcomed in particular the on-going efforts between ASEAN and China to develop and adopt the Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

20. The Ministers welcomed the appointment of Mr. Razali Ismail as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Myanmar. In this regard, they welcomed his visit to Myanmar on 29 June - 3 July 2000, during which Mr. Razali met with the leaders of the Myanmar Government and parties concerned. They welcomed the results of the visit, particularly the constructive dialogue initiated and hoped that this would facilitate positive developments.
21. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the positive developments on the Korean Peninsula, including the increased dialogue and exchanges between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and several ARF countries. The Ministers welcomed in particular the historic Summit between the leaders of the DPRK and the ROK held in Pyongyang on 13 - 15 June 2000 and expressed their support for the "June 15 North-South Joint Declaration", the first agreement signed by the two leaders since the division of Korea in 1945. In this regard, the Ministers were of the view that the Summit represented a turning point in inter-Korean relations, and that the on-going momentum of dialogue and interaction would be carried forward with a view to achieving lasting peace and eventual reunification on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers also expressed the hope for further efforts by all parties concerned within the frameworks of inter-Korean dialogue, the US-DPRK and Japan-DPRK talks, the Four-Party Talks and broader international efforts, as well as for further positive developments regarding the temporary moratorium by the DPRK on missile test launches and for the full implementation of the 1994 Agreed Framework, including the work of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).
22. The Ministers exchanged views on situation in South Asia and some expressed their continuing concern. The Ministers expressed the hope that efforts be made to bring about positive developments in the region.
23. The Ministers took note of developments in the South Pacific in view of their implications for the overall security with the ARF geographical footprint. They welcomed the efforts of the new Solomon Islands Government to bring together the parties for discussions aimed at establishing a cease-fire. The Ministers noted a cease-fire was a first step towards the restoration of law and order. The Ministers also welcomed the recent release of the hostages in Fiji, but noted the interest of ARF countries in an early return to democratic government.

24. The Ministers discussed matters related to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as the implications of ballistic missile defense systems. They noted expressions of support for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In this regard, they noted the outcome of the NPT Review Conference, convened in New York on 24 April-19 May 2000. The Ministers also took note of the call for all states to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to accede to the NPT and the call made in the NPT Review Conference Final Document on the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. The Ministers further emphasized the importance of systematic and progressive efforts by Nuclear Weapon States on nuclear disarmament and called on them to work towards the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Meeting noted further the recent adoption by the Mongolian Parliament of a Law on its Nuclear Weapon-Free Status as an important unilateral measure undertaken by Mongolia in pursuance of the UN General Assembly resolution A/53/77D on “Mongolia’s international security and nuclear weapon-free status”.
25. The Ministers reiterated their support for the work of the Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) on the negotiations on a verification protocol for the BWC and their call for a speedy conclusion of the said negotiations.
26. The Ministers discussed issues pertaining to transnational crime, especially issues of piracy, illegal migration, including trafficking in human persons, particularly women and children, and illicit trafficking in small arms. They recognized that these transnational issues could not only pose challenges to regional peace and stability, but also impair individual countries’ efforts in promoting national economic development and improving people’s livelihood. Hence, cooperative approaches were necessary to deal with these problems. They also noted the seriousness of the implications of drug production and trafficking as well as the need to address other issues such as money laundering, corruption and computer crime. The Ministers underlined the importance of greater bilateral, regional and international cooperative efforts in this regard. The Ministers also expressed support for the on-going negotiations on the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols as well as the convening of the International Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001. They nonetheless noted that the extent of the impact of transnational crime problems differ across regions. In this context, the Ministers agreed that the ARF continue to address transnational crime issues, which affect security of the Asia-Pacific region, and explore how the ARF could increase regional awareness and complement the work undertaken in other existing fora.

Reports of Track I and II Activities for the Current Inter-sessional Year (July 1999-July 2000)

Track I

27. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of Track I and II activities during the current inter-sessional year (July 1999-July 2000). They noted in particular the reports of the following major Track I activities:
 - a) Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence-Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by Singapore and Japan, held in Tokyo on 13-14 November 1999 and in Singapore on 5-6 April 2000 ([ANNEX B](#)).
 - b) Co-Chairmen's Report of the Fourth Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM on DR), co-chaired by Vietnam and Russia, held in Hanoi on 4-6 May 2000 ([ANNEX C](#)).
28. The Ministers commended the work of the ISG on CBMs and the ISM on DR in contributing to the advancement of the ARF process. They endorsed the recommendation contained in the above-mentioned reports.
29. The Ministers also noted that the following Track I activities took place under the auspices of the ISG on CBMs:
 - a. Third ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions in Ulan Bator on 22-24 September 1999;
 - b. ARF Professional Training Programme on China's Security Policy in Beijing on 10-19 October 1999;
 - c. ARF Seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict in Newcastle on 13-17 December 1999;
 - d. ARF Defense Language School Seminar in Melbourne on 28-31 March 2000;
 - e. ARF Expert Group Meeting on Transnational Crime in Singapore on 4 April 2000;
 - f. ARF Professional Development Programme in Bandar Seri Begawan on 23-28 April 2000;
 - g. Conclusion of the ARFNET study group.
30. The Ministers noted that the ARF Train the Trainers Seminar "Towards Common Approaches to Training in Disaster Relief" was held in Bangkok on 25-28 January 2000 under the auspices of the ISM on DR.

Track II

31. The Ministers took note of the ARF Track II Expert Meeting on Pacific Concord in Moscow on 21-22 February 2000 and the work-in-progress on the draft Pacific Concord. In this regard, they welcomed the joint work at the Track II level between Russia and the ASEAN-Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS). Hope was expressed that further efforts would be made with a view to advancing the idea of a Pacific Concord within the ARF framework.

Programme of Work for the Next Inter-sessional Year (July 2000-July 2001)

32. The Ministers agreed that the ISG on CBMs continue their work and welcomed the offer by Malaysia and the ROK to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year. They also agreed that the Meeting of ARF Expert Group on Transnational Crime be convened in conjunction with the first meeting of the ISG on CBMs to further explore the ARF's role and contribution in addressing transnational crime.
33. The Ministers endorsed the programme of work for the next inter-sessional year as contained in ANNEX D.

Future Direction of the ARF Process

34. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promoting the ARF as an effective and relevant forum for political and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. They also reaffirmed their intention to the evolutionary approach towards the development of the ARF process from confidence-building to preventive diplomacy (PD) to elaboration of approaches to conflict, and agreed that the ARF continue to move at a pace comfortable to all ARF participants and on the basis of consensus, with ASEAN playing its role as driving force in the process.
35. The Ministers underscored the significance of confidence-building as a foundation and the primary focus of the ARF process. They agreed that while moving towards PD, the ARF continues to strengthen its confidence-building process so as to ensure effective implementation of CBMs which would meaningfully augment the comfort level, trust, confidence and understanding as well as cooperation among the ARF participants. The Ministers also noted that the ARF has made progress in the discussions on the concept and principles of PD within its context based on the paper prepared by Singapore, as in ANNEX E, which they agreed could be a basis for the ARF's evolving consensus on this subject. They expressed the hope that all ARF participants would continue to cooperate in intensifying the consultations regarding the concept and principles of PD, which would in turn advance the ARF process.
36. The Ministers requested the ISG on CBMs' to continue its work in exploring the overlap between CBMs and PD and strengthening the four CBM/PD overlap proposals already agreed upon, namely an enhanced role of the ARF Chair, the ARF Register of Experts/Eminent Persons, the Annual Security Outlook, and voluntary background briefing on regional security issues. They also requested the ISG on CBMs to intensify its efforts in developing further the concept and principles of PD by the ARF, and to submit recommendations to ARF SOM and ARF Ministers at their next meetings.

CO-CHAIRMEN'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

TOKYO, JAPAN, 13-14 NOVEMBER 1999

SINGAPORE, 5-6 APRIL 2000

Introduction

Pursuant to the agreement reached at the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Singapore, on July 26, 1999, the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), co-chaired by Japan and the Republic of Singapore, held two inter-sessional meetings during the 1999/2000 inter-sessional year, the first in Tokyo on 13-14 November 1999, and the second in Singapore on 5-6 April 2000.

2. Representatives from all ARF members attended both meetings. Consistent with the goal of increasing defense participation in ARF inter-sessional meetings and activities, most of the delegations included defense officials. The annotated agendas of the Tokyo and Singapore ISG meetings are attached at ANNEXES A and B respectively, the programmes of activities at ANNEX C and D, and the lists of delegations at ANNEX E and F.

1st ISG Meeting, 13-14 November 1999, Tokyo, Japan

Exchange of Views on Regional Political and Security Situation

3. The participants engaged in extensive general discussion on the development after the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the regional political and security situation. The participants had frank, open and substantive discussions on the regional security environment and security-related developments that impact on the region as a whole, and on the regional and global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament efforts as they related to these regional situations.
4. The participants generally agreed that so far the regional security situation remains stable although eventful, partly because co-operative arrangements had contained the effects of the economic and financial crisis. In light of the potential for uncertainties arising out of the crisis, they also agreed that it was all the more necessary to strengthen the process of regional security dialogue and cooperation under the ARF, in accordance with generally accepted international norms and principles including the UN Charter.

At the same time, the participants agreed that stable relations among the major powers in the region was essential for regional stability.

5. The participants welcomed the continuation of the engagement policy of the Republic of Korea and talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). They commented positively on Japan's decision to resume chartered flights to and from the DPRK in response to the announcement by the DPRK on September 24, 1999, that it would suspend missile launch while the talks with the United States are underway. Some participants expressed support for Dr. William J. Perry's "Comprehensive and Integrated Approach" towards the DPRK. The participants also reiterated support for the Four Party Talks and reaffirmed importance of maintaining the 1994 Agreed Framework and implementing the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) projects. At the same time, however, the participants noted that there still remain various concerns and uncertainties and emphasized that all the parties concerned should make further efforts for the improvement of the situation.
6. The participants noted the positive developments in the economic recovery of countries in Southeast Asia and the efforts to strengthen the process of ASEAN's integration, particularly the promotion of the development of the Mekong sub region, which would contribute to the peace and stability of Southeast Asia.
7. The participants noted that some members mentioned in their statements the latest developments in East Timor and welcomed the positive developments that have taken place.
8. The participants held the view that the situation in South China Sea is stable but some mentioned concerns over some recent developments. The participants welcomed the commitment of all the countries concerned to the peaceful settlement of disputes on the South China Sea in accordance with the recognized principles of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They stressed the importance of freedom of navigation in this area. They welcomed the continued exercise of self-restraint by all sides and the positive contributions made by the bilateral consultations between the parties concerned. They welcomed the dialogue in the ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations. In this connection, the participants believed the adoption of a regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea between ASEAN and China would contribute to regional peace and stability. They noted the continuing work of the Informal Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea. Some expressed that further efforts are necessary.
9. The participants discussed the latest developments in South Asia. They agreed that the situation needs to be watched with careful attention.

10. The Participants reviewed the current situation of global and regional disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. They particularly emphasized the importance of further efforts taken by nuclear weapon states on nuclear disarmament. They noted that there were strong calls for all states to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as soon as possible. In this regard, they welcomed the remark by the U.S. that it would support the CTBT and continue efforts towards the ratification of the CTBT, despite the recent rejection of ratification of the CTBT by the U.S. Senate. They also supported other international efforts for disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means. They noted the progress made in the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the on-going consultations with the five Nuclear Weapon States on the possibility of their accession to the Protocol of the Treaty. Views were exchanged on Theater Missile Defense (TMD), particularly in relation to its implications to Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

Consideration of CBMs

11. Recalling that the 6th ARF Ministerial Meeting emphasized the importance of confidence building to the success of the ARF and encouraged the further development of CBMs, the participants reviewed progress in the implementation of agreed CBMs and considered two lists of new confidence-building measures for implementation in the near future (Basket 1) and over the medium term (Basket 2). The participants welcomed the report by Mongolia on the “3rd Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions” on September 22-24 and by China on “ARF Professional Program on China’s Security Policy” on October 10-19, and the briefing by Australia on its ongoing preparation for the “Seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict” on December 13-16 and for the “Defense Language School Seminar,” in March, 2000.
12. The participants noted China’s proposal to move the following two CBMs from Basket 2 to Basket 1. On “Seminar on Defense Conversion,” they agreed to move to Basket 1, and on “Regional Maritime Information Center,” they requested China to provide more detailed information. They noted Brunei’s proposal to host “ARF Professional Development Programme for Foreign Affairs and Defense Officials” with the U.S. They welcomed the EU’s proposal for holding an ARF Seminar on “Approaches to Confidence Building” and requested more detailed information on it. At the same time, the participants noted the need to consolidate CBMs in the ARF process in view of limited resources of ARF members. In this regard, they welcomed the Co-Chairs’ proposals to prepare a reference material to clarify the status of implemented CBMs by the time of the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore. The participants noted China’s proposal to host the “4th Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions.”

Trans-national Crimes of Concern to the Region

13. As mandated by the 6th ARF SOM, the participants engaged in an extensive discussion on Trans-national Crime. Several views were expressed on the mandate, scope and modalities of the Experts Group Meeting on Trans-national Crime. It was decided that the Co-Chairs would continue to consult ARF members, with a view to holding an Experts Group Meeting before the next ISG meeting. The participants further decided that if no consensus on the scope and modalities could be reached, a meeting would be held back to back with the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore to further discuss the issue, including the scope and modalities.

Future Direction of the ARF

- (i) Overlap between CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy
14. Consistent with the request of the 6th Ministerial Meeting that the ISG on CBMs should further explore the overlap between CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy (PD), the participants discussed enhanced roles for the ARF Chairman and the register of expert/ eminent persons. The participants exchanged preliminary views on these subjects in preparation for the fuller discussion at the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore.
15. As a good example of an enhanced role for the ARF Chairman in liaising with external parties, the participants welcomed Thailand's report on the informal meetings Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan of Thailand, the current ARF Chairman, had with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They agreed that such a role for the ARF Chairman in liaising with external parties should be further encouraged as far as it was carried out informally with prior consultation with all ARF members and their consent. At the same time, the participants noted that there were many complexities if the ARF is to reach consensus on principles and procedures for enhanced roles for the ARF Chairman in good offices and coordination in between ARF meetings and agreed to further discuss these issues at the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore.
16. The participants exchanged preliminary views based on Japan's paper on the development of an "ARF Register of Experts on Eminent Persons." They noted that there were many points to be considered concerning the modalities for implementation of the ARF Register and welcomed Japan's proposal to prepare a paper showing possible options regarding these points based on ARF members' opinions by the time of the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore. In this connection, they also welcomed the proposal by Canada and New Zealand to take an initiative in reviewing experiences of other "registers of experts/ eminent persons" by the time of the 2nd ISG meeting.

17. The participants recalled the 6th ARF Ministerial Meeting welcomed the production of the Annual Security Outlook (ASO) by individual participants on a voluntary basis at the Track I level for compilation without any editing by the ARF Chairman. The participants noted Thailand's readiness to undertake the task of compiling the first ASO as the current ARF Chair and its request to submit individual ASOs to the ARF Chairman by March 31, 2000 on voluntary basis.

(ii) Preventive Diplomacy

18. Consistent with the request of the 6th ARF Ministerial Meeting that the ISG on CBMs should further explore the overlap between CBMs and PD, focusing, inter alia, on the development of the concept and principles of PD, the participants exchanged preliminary views on the "concept and principles of preventive diplomacy" in preparation for the fuller discussion at the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore. The participants welcomed the draft paper prepared by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN (at ANNEX G) and, based on the paper, engaged in frank and substantive discussion. They agreed to submit their written comments to Singapore by February 1, 2000. They welcomed the reference materials prepared by Japan on the history of discussion on PD.

(iii) Other Issues

19. Pursuant to the agreement of the 6th ARF SOM that maritime co-operation be included in the agenda of future ISG on CBMs, the participants discussed this subject and agreed to hold a working lunch by maritime experts on the occasion of the 2nd ISG meeting in Singapore.

20. The participants noted Vietnam's suggestion of reviewing past experiences of application of PD.

21. The participants agreed that the interaction among the defense officials within ARF meetings was a useful confidence building measure in itself and should be encouraged. In this regard, the meeting noted that the informal lunch gathering among defense officials had promoted better understanding among the officials, and that defense officials would continue to exchange views on issues of common interest during future defense lunch gatherings.

Arrangements for the Second Meeting of the ISG on CBMs

22. The participants took note of Singapore's proposal that the 2nd ISG meeting for inter-sessional year 1999-2000 be held in Singapore on April 5-6, 2000. Tentatively, it will be preceded by a dinner on April 4, Tuesday, and followed by a visit to a defense facility on April 7, Friday. Should it be necessary to convene an Expert Group Meeting on Trans-

national Crimes back-to-back with the 2nd ISG meeting, the Expert Group Meeting will be held on April 4, Tuesday. The participants agreed that all ARF ISG delegations would inform the Co-Chair by December 15, 1999, whether the above dates are acceptable. The participants all expressed their willingness to cooperate in the preparation for the 2nd ISG meeting, engage in substantive and active discussion at the meeting to further strengthen confidence building among ARF members and deepen the discussion so as to develop the ARF as a more relevant framework for political and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia Pacific region.

2nd ISG Meeting, 5-6 April 2000, Singapore

Review of Outcome of 1st ISG meeting and interim activities

23. Japan, as Co-Chair of the 1st ISG meeting in Tokyo, reviewed the outcome of the 1st meeting and interim activities, and the meeting agreed with the review.

Exchange of Views on Regional Political and Security Situation

24. The meeting agreed that the situation in the region was relatively stable, but some challenges remained. The meeting noted that globalization could have implications for the region, and that this issue could be discussed by the ARF. The meeting also noted that there were positive developments in several areas.
25. The meeting welcomed positively the development of bilateral exchanges between the DPRK and several ARF members. The meeting noted that the ROK's engagement policy and other efforts by ARF members had helped to ease tensions in the Korean Peninsula, and welcomed the continued efforts to actively engage DPRK, including those on inter-Korean dialogue and normalization talks. Several participants called on DPRK to positively respond to these efforts.
26. The meeting reviewed developments in East Timor. It welcomed the positive developments that have taken place in East Timor. It noted that there was cause for continuing concern and recognized the importance of continued international efforts to help East Timor's reconstruction and to resolve the refugee problem.
27. The meeting noted that the situation in the South China Sea has been relatively peaceful and stable. The meeting welcomed the commitment of the countries directly concerned to the peaceful settlement of disputes on the South China Sea in accordance with the recognized principles of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The meeting welcomed the progress made in consultations held in Hua Hin, Thailand on 15 March 2000 between ASEAN and China on the regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, and believed that its adoption would contribute

to long term regional peace and stability. The question was raised whether more could be done.

28. Two delegations had an exchange of views on the situation in Myanmar.
29. The meeting recognized that the Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, signed at the 3rd ASEAN Informal Summit in Manila last November, was a positive contribution to regional cooperation.
30. The meeting discussed developments in nonproliferation, and noted the importance of the NPT Review Conference from 24 April to 19 May 2000. The meeting also noted the efforts to achieve progress on the SEANWFZ Treaty and its Protocol.

Transnational Crimes of Concern to the Region

31. An Experts' Group Meeting on Transnational Crime (EGM), co-chaired by Singapore and Japan, was held back-to-back with the ISG meeting. The Singapore Co-Chair briefed the ISG meeting on the outcome and recommendations of the EGM, attached at [ANNEX H](#). The meeting endorsed the recommendations, and agreed to refer the matter of additional transnational crime issues to the ARF SOM.

Consideration of CBMs

32. The meeting took note of the reports by Australia on the "Seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict" on December 1999 and for the "Defense Language School Seminar," in March 2000. The updated table of implemented CBMs is at [ANNEX I](#).
33. As a follow-up to the 1st ISG, the meeting was informed of the following:
 - China's proposal to host the "Seminar on Defense Conversion" in September-October 2000.
 - China's proposal to host the "4th Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges and Institutions" in September 2000.
 - The EU's proposal to hold an ARF Seminar on "Approaches to Confidence Building" in the latter half of 2000.
 - Brunei asked ARF members who had not done so to nominate officials to attend the "ARF Professional Development Programme" to be held in Brunei on 23-28 April 2000.
34. The meeting agreed to the following:
 - China's proposal to move the CBM on "Regional Maritime Information Center" from basket two to basket one. It was agreed that contribution of data to the Center would start from the collection of marine weather information on a voluntary

basis. As the Center's operations develop in this area, and ARF members develop familiarity with its method and utility, data collection can possibly be expanded to other areas.

- Singapore's proposal to co-host with the US, a course on "Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training" on 21-25 August 2000. This was put in basket one on an ad referendum basis pending confirmation from China.
 - ROK's proposal to sponsor, with Canada, a "Joint ARF Seminar on Civil-Military Relations in Peace Support Operations" in the first half of 2001, would be put in basket two.
 - ROK's proposal for a "Joint Workshop on Asia-Pacific Security in August 2002 would be put in basket two.
 - India's proposal for a "Workshop on Anti-Piracy" in late October 2000 could be put in basket one, pending further information.
 - Thailand's proposal to hold a follow-up session to the "Seminar on the Law of Armed Conflict" would be put in basket two, pending further information.
 - Canada's proposal to co-host with Japan a seminar on "Conventional Weapons" would be put in basket two, pending further information.
35. The meeting also updated the list of CBMs in baskets one and two, and deleted the CBMs which have already been implemented or will not take place. The updated list is at [ANNEX J](#).
36. The meeting emphasized the importance of giving advance notice to all other ARF participants of proposed CBM activities. The meeting also agreed on the need to coordinate the schedule of proposed seminars and other related CBMs activities.
37. The meeting was informed of the US proposal to host a workshop for midlevel ARF civilian and defense officials on preventive diplomacy, and noted that the US had agreed to provide further information on it.
38. As a follow-up to the Bangkok ISG, Canada requested members to update the matrix on ARF members' positions on APLs at [ANNEX K](#) for completion by the ARF SOM in May 2000.

Preventive Diplomacy

39. The meeting had a substantive discussion based on the latest, draft paper on Concepts and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy (The PD paper is attached at [ANNEX L](#). Written comments submitted on the draft PD paper that was circulated at the Tokyo ISG are at [ANNEX M](#), while written comments on the latest draft PD paper are at [ANNEX N](#)). The meeting noted that this draft paper was work in progress that helped develop a greater understanding of varying concerns on the concept of PD. The meeting agreed

to recommend to the ARF SOM that discussion on PD would continue in the next inter-
sessional year and as a basis for further discussion, Singapore would revise the PD paper,
taking into account the views expressed at this meeting and further written comments
to be submitted to Singapore by 31 July 2000.

Future Direction of the ARF

(i) Enhanced Role of the Chair

40. The meeting had a substantive exchange of views on the Enhanced Role of the Chair based
on the Co-Chairs' paper (at [ANNEX Q](#)). The discussion added clarity to the issue and
helped members understand better the parameters of the ARF Chair's role. The meeting
recognized that CBMs continued to be a key element in the ARF's priorities. The meeting
agreed to Thailand's suggestion that the ARF Chair could serve as a useful conduit for
information-sharing in between ARF meetings, and that members could utilize this on a
voluntary basis. The meeting also agreed to recommend to the ARF SOM that discussion
on the enhanced role of the ARF Chair continue, and that Japan would revise the paper,
taking into account the views expressed at this meeting and further written comments
to be submitted to Japan by 31 July 2000.

(ii) ARF Register of experts/ eminent persons

41. The meeting discussed the paper on the ARF Register of experts/ eminent persons
(at [ANNEX P](#)). The meeting agreed that ARF members can only nominate their own
nationals as experts/ eminent persons, that no country can veto the nominees of another
ARF member, and that the Register would be available to ARF members to be used on
a voluntary basis. On the basis of these agreements, the ISG agreed to recommend to
the SOM that the ARF proceed to collate the Register on the understanding that further
discussions and agreement on the terms of reference was needed.

Other Issues

(i) Defense Officials' lunch

42. Singapore, as co-chair of the Defense Officials' lunch with Japan, briefed the meeting
on the discussions. The meeting agreed that the interaction among the defense officials
within ARF meetings was a useful confidence building measure in itself and should
be encouraged. In this regard, the meeting noted that the informal lunch gathering
among defense officials had promoted better understanding among the officials, and
that defense officials would continue to exchange views on issues of common interest
during future defense lunch gatherings.

(ii) Maritime Specialist Officials' lunch (MSOL)

43. The US, as co-chair of the Maritime Specialist Officials' lunch with Thailand, briefed the meeting on the discussions. The MSOL Co-Chairmen's summary report is at ANNEX Q.
44. Vietnam briefed the meeting on the preparations for the 4th Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief to be held in Hanoi from 4-6 May 2000.

Co-Chairmanship of ISG on CBMs in the 2000/2001 intersessional year

45. The meeting agreed to the offer by Malaysia and ROK to co-chair the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year. ROK informed the meeting that the next ISG could tentatively be held in early November, and preceded by the EGM on Transnational Crime. Malaysia indicated that the 2nd ISG could be held in April 2001.
46. The meeting also noted that India and New Zealand had indicated their interest to be the non-ASEAN Co-Chair of the ISG on CBMs in the inter-sessional year 2001-2002.

CO-CHAIRMEN'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FOURTH ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON DISASTER RELIEF

HA NOI, VIET NAM, 4-6 MAY 2000

1. In accordance with the Chairman's Statement of the Sixth ASEAN Regional Forum (Singapore, July 27, 1999) and in pursuance of the recommendations of the Third Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (Moscow, 11-14 April, 1999), the Fourth ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR) was held in Ha Noi from 4-6 May, 2000. The Meeting was co-chaired by Lt. Gen. Nguyen Huy Hieu, Deputy Minister of National Defense, concurrently Permanent Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam National Committee for Search and Rescue and Lt. Gen. Stanislav N. Suanov, Deputy Minister for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegations from 20 ARF participants. Representatives of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), participated as resource persons and guest speakers. Most delegations included representatives from respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense as well as other agencies involved in disaster management. The list of participants is attached as ANNEX A. The updated list of ARF contact points on disaster relief is attached as ANNEX B.
3. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, attached as ANNEX C. The Programme of Activities of the Meeting is attached as ANNEX D.
4. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Nguyen Cong Tan, Deputy Prime Minister and concurrently Chairman of the Viet Nam National Committee for Search and Rescue. In his address, Mr. Nguyen Cong Tan pointed out that while national efforts play a decisive role in disaster preparedness and disaster relief, international and regional cooperation is also very important. In this regard, he commended the activities of the ARF ISM on Disaster Relief. These activities have not only helped enhance mutual understanding and trust among the ARF participants but also produced many recommendations for effective cooperation, some of which have been implemented to improve disaster management capability both at national and regional level. It is now time to build upon the achieved progress and focus on the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

5. The major objectives of the Meeting were to continue the exploration of practical ways and means to further broaden and promote effective cooperation; to define a future framework for co-operation in disaster preparedness and disaster relief among the ARF participants, and above all, to further enhance mutual trust and confidence among the ARF participants.

Item 1. Review of the Previous Meetings

6. Russia briefed the Meeting of the 3rd ISM-DR, held in Moscow, Russia from 11-14 April 1999, as well as the implementation of its recommendations. The Meeting agreed that the 3rd ISM-DR helped to define major areas of possible cooperation in disaster preparedness and relief and that its recommendations were very useful and practical.
7. The Meeting was briefed by Thailand on the results of the ARF Train the Trainers Seminar "Towards Common Approaches to Disaster Relief Training," co-chaired by Thailand and Australia in Bangkok from 25-28 January 2000. The Meeting was of the view that the recommendations of the Seminar be discussed further with a view to bringing them into implementation by the ARF participants as they deem appropriate.

Item 2. Exchange of Experience on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Relief

8. The Meeting emphasized the importance of inter-agency coordination, especially between the military and civilian agencies in disaster relief. Participants shared the view that in order to ensure smooth and timely coordination between different agencies, it is important, *inter alia*, to have a steering body comprising of representatives from the concerned agencies and headed by a high ranking figure, and to have clear-cut regulations for inter-agency coordination.
9. The role of the military in disaster relief within the national boundaries, especially in large-scaled and acute disasters was highlighted by many participants. This attributes to the high mobility, the discipline and the ready-to-use equipment and large manpower of the armed forces. Some delegates were of the view that since a focus of the ARF is on confidence building measures, disaster relief co-operation should contribute to enhancing contacts among ARF participants, including military-to-military.
10. A number of participants made presentations on their national structure and experiences for dealing with natural and man-made disasters. Delegates reiterated the need to continue co-operation in sharing accumulated experiences in disaster management among the ARF participants.

Item 3. Exchange on Feasible Means for Future Co-operation, among ARF Participants in Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Relief

11. The Meeting agreed that co-operation in information exchange and experience sharing is of great importance to the ARF participants in disaster management. In this connection, the participants exchanged views on how to access updated data on disasters of each country. It was recognized that putting disaster-related data onto the Website of individual countries so that others can visit, is a simple and low-cost but very efficient way. The Meeting appreciated the activities of the ADPC and the ADRC and welcomed their offers to make available facilities of these institutions for the ARF participants in information sharing.
12. The Meeting saw great benefits in utilizing data obtained from satellites in order to forecast and monitor disasters. The Meeting welcomed Russia's willingness in providing the technology of forecasting and monitoring disasters to the interested ARF participants.
13. Cooperation in Early Warning was considered by the Meeting as a critical component of disaster preparedness and mitigation. To facilitate cooperation in this area the compilation of a list of the Early Warning capabilities of individual countries and information sharing should be carried out soon. The Meeting welcomed the Philippines' confirmation to host a Conference on Enhancing Capacities of Early Warning Systems in September this year and appreciated ADPC's efforts in developing an inventory of Early Warning Systems of the ARF participants.
14. The Meeting was of the view that mutual assistance among ARF participants in disaster relief is of great importance. Participants were encouraged to provide assistance in terms of information, expertise, material, and equipment. The U.S. shared with the Meeting some common forms of requests for assistance from recipient countries in different types of disasters such as fire, flood, typhoon, etc.
15. The Meeting agreed that networking among agencies directly involved in disaster management should be further enhanced. For this purpose, the List of Contact Points for disaster management among the ARF participants was updated and circulated.
16. The Meeting saw a big demand and great potential among the ARF participants for disaster relief training. There was intensive information exchange among the participants on disaster management training institutions and courses, which could be made available for ARF participants. The Meeting agreed that such information exchanges are very useful and should be carried out more frequently and in more details.

17. The Meeting shared the view that the existing training establishments in the region could be utilized to meet the need for training in ARF participating countries on bilateral, sub-regional and regional basis. Many participants stressed the need to organize workshops and training courses on specific skills for disaster management.
18. The Meeting was briefed by Thailand on the latter's Concept Paper concerning Training for Disaster Managers in the ARF participating countries and took note with appreciation the proposal by Thailand to organize the said training programmes, which would address the identified needs of disaster managers in the region and capitalize upon past experiences of disaster management in the ARF participating countries. The Meeting also requested Thailand to submit additional information on the project such as date and funding, to the ARF participants in time for the consideration by the ARF SOM in Bangkok on 17-18 May 2000.
19. The Meeting was briefed by Singapore on its plan to conduct, together with the US the "Training Course on Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response" in August 2000 in Singapore within the framework of ISG on CBMs subject to approval by the ARF SOM.
20. The Meeting was briefed by New Zealand and Thailand on their proposal on the Development of a Glossary of Terms on Principles, Concepts and Understandings of Disaster Management, in line with the 3rd ISM-DR, with a view to publishing it for the use of ARF participants. The Meeting welcomed, in principle, the objectives of the project which would help to establish a framework that will assist not only those nations whose primary interest is in response and relief after disasters, but also those who are concerned with more strategic management issues encompassing the analysis and control of natural disasters. Details of the project are set out in the Concept Paper attached as ANNEX E.
21. The Meeting agreed that promoting awareness is of importance in disaster preparedness and mitigation, especially for developing countries, where the public awareness of disasters is still low and the government's capabilities are limited due to financial constraints. In order to improve the public awareness, apart from efforts by individual country, support and assistance from other ARF countries and international organizations would be helpful.
22. The Meeting recognized the complimentary role of regional and international organizations responsible for disaster management. The Meeting was briefed by representatives from the ADPC, ADRC and IFRC as resource persons, on how they can contribute to the ARF activities in the field of disaster preparedness and relief.

Item 4. Future Direction of ARF ISM-DR

23. The participants exchanged views on the future direction of cooperation within the ARF framework in disaster relief. The Meeting arrived at a broad consensus on future directions for cooperation, focusing on:
 - Exchange of experience and information sharing, in particular update data on disasters and early warning information;
 - Enhancing individual and regional capacities for disaster preparedness and disaster relief through mutual assistance and networking;
 - Training with emphasis on providing specific skills in disaster management; and
 - Promoting greater awareness of the government agencies and the public in disaster preparedness and disaster relief.
24. The Meeting reiterated that ISM-DR contributes significantly to the overall goals of enhancing confidence and mutual trust through practical cooperation in disaster relief among the ARF participants. Some delegates highlighted the need to keep a balance in pursuing objectives of ARF cooperation in disaster relief, namely between confidence-building and operational requirements. The Meeting was of the view that the implementations of various activities should be undertaken at a pace comfortable to all.
25. The Meeting agreed to recommend to the ARF SOM that the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief should continue its activities. It was also agreed that a certain period of time is needed to implement current projects and tabled proposals. The timing of the next ISM-DR will be decided by the ARF participants later. In the meantime, Expert Group Meeting focusing on specific activities of disaster management may be convened upon the agreement of all the ARF participants. The Meeting encouraged participants to assume co-chairmanship for the next ISM-DR.

Acknowledgments

26. The Meeting thanked Viet Nam and Russia for co-chairing the ISM-DR for two consecutive years, ensuring that its activities made a significant contribution to the promotion of confidence and understanding among the ARF participants. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairs for the hospitality accorded to all the delegations and excellent arrangements made for the success of the Meeting.

CSCAP'S LIST OF PROPOSALS ON ENHANCING INTERACTION BETWEEN TRACK I AND TRACK II

1. CSCAP working groups to submit the outcome of their deliberations on key issues affecting regional security to the ARF Chair;
2. Generating policy studies and recommendations on security issues relevant to areas of primary concern to the ARF, as well as those which CSCAP believes the ARF should take into serious deliberation;
3. Developing policy memoranda on these issues for transmittal to the ARF Chair;
4. Exploring ways by which these policy inputs may be more effectively fed into the ARF processes;
5. Exploring possible measures including:
 - Periodic briefings of designated ARF senior officials by CSCAP officers and attendance of ARF senior officials at CSCAP meetings;
 - Periodic briefings of CSCAP officers by ARF senior officials;
 - Attendance of CSCAP Working Group Co-Chairs at relevant ARF inter-sessional meetings;
 - Coordination of some CSCAP Working Groups and ARF ISG meetings;
 - Tasking of CSCAP Working Groups by the ARF to research particular cooperative measures, such as preventive diplomacy and measures to combat transnational crime.