

**6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON  
MARITIME SECURITY, BALI, 22-23 MAY 2014**

**BRIEFING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN MARITIME FORUM AND  
2<sup>nd</sup> EXPANDED ASEAN MARITIME FORUM BY MALAYSIA**

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair for giving me the floor to brief the meeting on the outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) both held in Kuala Lumpur from 1 - 3 October 2013.

Before I begin, on behalf of my delegation I would like to thank the host, the Government of Indonesia for the excellent arrangement made in hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security.

Mr Co-Chair,

Malaysia hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> AMF followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAMF in Kuala Lumpur on 1 – 3 October 2013. The meetings were held back-to-back, as outlined in the Concept Paper establishing the EAMF. I had the pleasant task of chairing both fora.

**4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Maritime Forum**

2. The 4<sup>th</sup> AMF was held on 1 – 2 October 2013. The forum, was attended by delegates from all ASEAN countries, numbering approximately 67 participants at Track I level. The ASEAN Secretariat was also in attendance. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia officiated at the opening of the Forum by delivering his Opening Remarks.

3. The Meeting deliberated on three substantive issues, all of them focused on the functioning of the AMF and how ASEAN may wish to take it forward. This follows from a recommendation made during the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMF held in Pattaya, Thailand in August 2011 that “a thorough review of the scope of work and modus operandi of the AMF could take place after the third or fourth AMF”. With this in mind, we detailed the agenda of the meeting to focus on the topics of *Enhancing Maritime Cooperation; Fostering Sectoral Coordination and Cooperation within ASEAN*; and on the *Future Work of the AMF*.

4. We note from the previous meetings of the Forum, discussions centred on the need to reduce or eliminate the duplication of work while at the same time enhancing effective coordination and the sharing of information between and among AMF and the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. There are 11 ASEAN

sectoral bodies dealing with various aspects of maritime cooperation. We provided the opportunity for the Chairmen of these mechanisms to brief the Forum on recent developments, progress and impediments of their respective programs and activities. Of the six countries identified as cumulatively chairing the 11 sectoral bodies, two agreed to make a presentation. However, I believe that if we could identify an arrangement acceptable to all with minimal cost, then this collaboration would get off the ground.

5. The Forum also tried to address the issue of the lack of an appropriate modality or reporting mechanism. The Chair prepared a matrix which would identify the issues discussed by the various ASEAN sectoral bodies over a 5-year period, so that at a glance the AMF would be able to see if duplication exists. At the same time the matrix could be used to identify gaps in discussing issues that we have identified as important to ASEAN but have had minimal or no discussions on them. It should also inform ASEAN of what it might want to work on in the coming years. This matrix would go some way towards encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration among the different bodies. This should lead to heightened efficiency in the work of ASEAN bodies within the maritime domain, not to mention better results on the ground.

6. A new development emerging from the 4<sup>th</sup> AMF was the decision taken by the Forum to present a summary of the salient points discussed during the Forum to the EAMF, which was held following the closing of the AMF. The AMF remains open to discussions on strategic issues as well as programs and activities dealing with capacity building. It was felt that the highlights of the discussions in the AMF could be communicated to the EAMF so as to generate a measure of symbiosis between the two Fora. The decision was well-received by the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAMF, which roundly expressed its appreciation for the sharing of information and expressed hope that the exercise would become a regular feature of future meetings.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum**

7. The 2<sup>nd</sup> EAMF was held on 3 October 2013 and attended by the 10 ASEAN member countries plus the East Asia Summit Dialogue Partners. Participation numbered at 95 persons at Track 1.5 level.

8. The first substantive agenda item, entitled *Promoting Maritime Cooperation: Priorities for ASEAN – Dialogue Partners* presented an opportunity for the Dialogue Partners to present existing as well as new areas of maritime cooperation with ASEAN partners. Since it was the first concrete activity stemming from the inaugural EAMF, delegates welcomed the US initiative in cooperation with the Philippines of a civilian ASEAN seafarer training focusing on counter piracy. Delegations further welcomed the broadening of the seafarers

training to include safety of navigation, marine environmental awareness and capacity building.

9. Brunei Darussalam had then informed that they will be hosting the inaugural meeting of the EAS Track II Study Group to deliberate on ways to enhance food security in the East Asian region through fisheries management and marine environmental conservation on 22-24 October 2013.

10. The second substantive item that was discussed - *Freedom of Navigation, Military and Law Enforcement as well as Other Activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone* - saw active discussions by participants as well.

11. There were also some discussions regarding the South China Sea issues.

12. Overall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAMF provided an opportunity to discuss strategic issues as well as project oriented activities.

Thank you.

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