

## **CONCEPT PAPER**

### **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response**

#### **Proposal**

The Republic of the Philippines and the United States propose to sponsor and host a project under the ARF Work Plan on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) that will focus on the “Next Steps to Multilateral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response” starting in 2013.

This multi-year project includes a series of workshops and appropriate activities that intend to build on, plan for, develop and substantiate concrete and practical follow-on activities to implement the “Best Practices” and “Recommendations” resulting from the 2009 ARF Workshop on Biological Threat Reduction; the 2010 ARF Workshop on Bio-Risk Management; the 2011 ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance; and the 2012 ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response for a Biological Event, (Enclosures 1 through 6). Additionally, the Priority Areas delineated by the ARF Work Plan on CTTC, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD), Disaster Relief (DR) and other related work plans will be taken into consideration and incorporated as appropriate to the activities, concepts and products developed.

A cross-sectoral endeavor that straddles both the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSCC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) as indicated in appropriate sections of the APSCC and ASCC blueprints, this project will facilitate accomplishing multiple ARF and ASEAN objectives including those outlined in Priority Area #2 (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) of the ARF CTTC Work Plan, the Priority Area #A (nonproliferation) of the ARF Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD) Work Plan, Priority Area 1 of the ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief 2012-2014 (Networking and Information Sharing) and the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement, as well as support the vision of “Healthy ASEAN 2020.” This will also contribute to the 2014-2015 focus on preparedness and response under the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention and serve as a useful example of advancing regional security cooperation.

#### **Background**

The first ARF Workshop on Biological Threat Reduction, jointly hosted by the Republic of the Philippines and the United States in 2009, introduced four pillars of international biological threat reduction: threat assessment; prevention; detection and surveillance; and response and recovery.

In 2010, Australia joined the Republic of the Philippines and the United States as co-sponsors to the second ARF Workshop focused on best practices of laboratory biorisk management to prevent accidental release and intentional misuse of pathogens. The 2011 workshop focused on enhancing human and animal health networks and communities to improve infectious disease detection and surveillance to ensure the early detection of outbreaks, whether accidental, deliberate or natural, in origin. The fourth workshop in 2012 focused on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event.

The Republic of Philippines and the United States seek to expand this partnership with ASEAN and ARF participants to combat global biological threats arising from the nexus of terrorism, global/emerging infectious disease, and rapid expansion of dual use biological materials, technology and expertise. At the same time it will also allow participating countries, individually and collectively, to further consider the “best practices and recommendations” from earlier projects, further enhancing disaster risk reduction cooperation.

The desired objectives and results when achieved will enhance capacity for regional preparedness and generate support for developing collective response to a biological event that if not properly mitigated can precipitate a major disaster that ignore national boundaries and potentially result in widespread loss of life and property causing severe economic hardship.

### **Project Objectives**

1. The co-sponsors working with ARF participants and the ASEAN Secretariat will plan and develop concrete and practical follow-on activities to build upon and implement the outcomes from the 2009 ARF Workshop on Biological Threat Reduction; 2010 ARF Workshop on Biorisk Management; 2011 ARF Workshop on Disease Detection and Surveillance; and 2012 ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event.
2. Develop a roadmap for practical and effective multilateral and cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration to implement and validate bio-preparedness and disaster risk reduction best practices.
3. When practicable, consider focus areas and objectives from the various work plans ARF ISM and ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group (EWG) as well as the ASEAN Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (AWGPPR).
4. Initial focus areas that promote Multilateral Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Cooperation may include: Planning, Capacity Building, Communications and Sharing Information, Mitigation, and Risk Reduction.
5. Build upon previously related ASEAN and ARF security cooperation activities.
6. Improve cooperation and coordination among foreign affairs, public and veterinary health, civilian law enforcement, and military sectors.
7. Support ASEAN related Disaster and Emergency Response Plans particularly the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Program 2010-2015, as well as the SASOP (Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations).
8. Strengthen Regional, International, Interagency and Private Sector Response Capacity as well as coordination mechanisms including the role of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Center.
9. Enhance the “Whole of Society” as well as ASEAN Regional Disaster and Emergency Response.

### **Language, Venue, Date, Duration**

Language: English

Location: TBD, Philippines or ASEAN Secretariat – First Activity

Date: TBD September 2013 – First Activity

Duration: 3 days

### **Participants**

Desired participants and contributors to this project will include health, veterinary, law enforcement and security leaders, bureaucrats, subject matter experts and practitioners. In particular, appropriate representation from the ministries of agriculture, health, law enforcement and defense would significantly add value to the technical deliberations. Details on the first and subsequent workshops or activities will be developed by the sponsors and provided via separate correspondence in due time.

### **Administrative Arrangements**

The Republic of the Philippines will host the workshops and the United States will bear the administrative costs. International travel, accommodations, and other related costs necessary for participation will be borne by the participants' respective host nation though some funding may be available to provide assistance with participation. Points of contact for this proposal are:

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