

**Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the ARF Roundtable Discussion on
Stocktaking Maritime Security Issues
Bali, 24-25 August 2007**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 14th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Manila on 2 August 2007, the meeting of the ARF Roundtable Discussion on Stocktaking Maritime Security Issues was held in Bali on 24-25 August 2007. The Meeting was co-chaired by Indonesia and China.
2. Representatives from all ARF participants and ASEAN Secretariat, except European Union, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Russian Federation, were present. The List of Delegates appears as **ANNEX A**.

Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks

3. The Indonesian SOM Leader, Mr. Primo A. Joelianto, in his Opening Remarks, highlighted the increasing challenges in non-traditional security issues, particularly that of maritime security. Mr. Joelianto suggested that comprehensive national strategies and multinational cooperation are the key elements to address maritime security challenges, not to mention the importance of the use of technologies and adherence to international principles and laws. In addition, maritime security must be strengthened particularly in the areas of surveillance and sharing of best practices in cooperation with other ARF participants. Mr. Joelianto stressed that the outcomes of this meeting should be followed-up with concrete actions to implement measures to tackle maritime security challenges. The Opening Remarks appears as **ANNEX B**.
4. In her Welcome Remarks, the Chinese Co-Chair, Ms. Yu Hong viewed that countries in the region had intensified cooperation in the area of maritime security and noted past and current initiatives to convene workshops, seminars and practical exercises that covered the areas of piracy, terrorism, disaster relief and maritime environment protection. Ms. Yu Hong welcomed the development on the field of capacity building and information sharing among ARF participants. As the ARF is a forum to facilitate mutual understanding, it thus should be used as a venue to discuss issues such as maritime security by stocktaking common threats and new ways of cooperation, achievements and lessons learned. The Welcoming Remarks appears as **ANNEX C**.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

5. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as **ANNEX D**.

Agenda Item 3: Administrative Arrangements

6. The Meeting agreed on the proposed administrative arrangements which appear as **ANNEX E**.

Agenda Item 4: Keynote Speech

7. In a Keynote Speech, Mr. Eddy Pratomo, the Director-General for Legal Affairs and International Treaties, Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that maritime security issues have many stakeholders and have become the subject of many arguments as well as cooperative efforts. He however noted that despite efforts in defining maritime security issues have been carried out for some time, there was yet no common understanding on the issue and different countries have different interests in maritime security. He stressed that a common understanding on maritime security could improve cooperation among countries.
8. Mr. Pratomo cautioned that care must be exercised because there is a limit on what ARF could do given the sensitivities in undertaking maritime-related activities. Within this realm, he emphasized that within maritime security issues, such initiatives plays a key role but have to consider and respect at first place state's sovereignty. He also drew attention to the need to develop a mechanism to concretize efforts in addressing maritime security issue at a pace comfortable to all. The Keynote Speech appears as **ANNEX F**.

Agenda Item 5: Overview and Discussions on Identifying the Agreed Principles and Issues Discussed in Previous ARF Meetings

9. The Meeting agreed that in principle, ARF has moved forward in the area of maritime security and recognized that in the last fourteen years, many issues have been discussed in the ARF concerning maritime security, among others: sea piracy and armed robbery, transnational crimes, terrorism, capacity building, training and information sharing. The Meeting recalled the convening of a number of ARF activities on maritime security in the previous years and called for concrete implementations of recommendations and commitments made in this endeavor.
10. The Meeting discussed a number of agreed principles on ARF maritime security cooperation, namely:
 - 10.1 The importance of applying the UN Charter and widely recognized international principles, international and regional conventions, and institutional frameworks for cooperation such as the UNCLOS 1982.
 - 10.2 Respect for ASEAN spirits and principles, namely: respect of state sovereignty, enhanced interactions, equality, non-intervention and need to promote dialogue and networking;

10.3 Adherence to ARF principles, namely: to move forward at a pace comfortable to all; focus on regional and regional issues in a global scope; peaceful resolution of conflicts; emphasis 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.

10.4 Importance of facilitating information sharing among ARF participants, stocktaking and building up maritime security cooperative database, explore the suggestion of regional center for maritime training in the context of stocktaking and capacity building, joint coordinated efforts on bilateral or multilateral arrangements, private-sector cooperation particularly shipping and insurance industries in the context of promoting maritime security.

10.5 Noting the need to consider further the technical implementation of related international maritime conventions related to maritime security.

11. The Meeting shared the view that ARF should not reinvent the wheel in its attempt to address maritime security issues. Rather, the ARF should utilize the various existing mechanisms, among others the UNCLOS 1982.

12. The Meeting took note of the list of status of ARF participants' accession to relevant maritime international conventions and arrangements as prepared by Australia.

13. Indonesia, Japan, Australia and the Philippines presented the following briefings:

- Indonesia – Agreed Principles in Maritime Security Cooperation (**ANNEX G**)
- Japan – Overview and Discussions on the Identifying the Agreed Principles and Issues Discussed in Previous ARF Meetings (**ANNEX H**)
- Australia - Agreed Principles and Issues Discussed in Previous ARF Meetings: the way forward
- The Philippines

Agenda Item 6: Discussion on Identifying Common Issues, Threats and Priorities Related to Maritime Security

14. The Meeting agreed that the main threats to maritime security includes, sea piracy and armed-robberies, over-lapping claims and territorial disputes, terrorism, environmental degradation and the smuggling of goods and persons. As maritime security threats ignore political boundaries, the Meeting agreed on the importance of addressing the root cause of the problem and employing a comprehensive approach in dealing with maritime security.

15. The Meeting discussed the following recurring themes of the maritime security in the ARF:
 - a. Maritime security is important and plays a key role to the stability and security of states in the region.
 - b. ARF participants need to have a common understanding of the definition of maritime security.
 - c. Prudent verification of information with regard to incidents of crime at sea in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore should be clarified through relevant and recognized authorities within littoral States.

16. The Meeting identified lessons learned on responding to maritime security threats namely:
 - a. Inter-agency technical cooperation could play as one of the key element in addressing the maritime security threats;
 - b. Importance of sharing of information/intelligence, plans and objectives;
 - c. Learn each others' culture, processes, procedures, requirements, capabilities, limitations;
 - d. Complement instead of compete with each others' efforts;
 - e. Understand and implement plans, policies and operational activities;
 - f. Need for integrated training/exercise plans and SOPs, cooperative education programs and legal cooperation.

18. The Meeting noted India's proposal to undertake training of personnel from ARF countries on maritime security. The proposed training will be held in two phases namely basic and advanced and the training curriculum will include anti-piracy, search and rescue, offshore and port security, anti-smuggling and narcotics control, and anti-poaching operations.

19. The Meeting noted the maritime security issues facing large archipelagic nations such as Indonesia and the Philippines including that of maintaining its national and territorial integrity, illegal fishing and smuggling of goods and persons through its large borders.

20. The Meeting noted the concerns expressed by Indonesia on the accuracy of piracy data by the International Maritime Bureau and in this respect took note of the establishment of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Center (ISC) in 2006 which could assist in data gathering.

21. Canada requested clarification from Indonesia on the accusation that corruption is the cause of piracy in Indonesia. Indonesia responded emphasizing that the current problems on the field are the lack of capacities and capability and very limited cooperation with the neighboring countries to curb piracy. Indonesia therefore strongly called for a closer cooperation with neighboring countries particularly in addressing the issue of smuggling of goods in addition to sea piracy. Indonesia welcomed assistance rendered particularly in capacity building to Indonesian law enforcement officers.

22. The Meeting took note of the Philippines' offer to be a lead shepherd in marine environmental protection cooperation in the ARF should this mechanism be in place.
23. Representatives from Malaysia, United States, Viet Nam, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka briefed the Meeting on their view the following issues:
- Malaysia – Identifying Common Issues, Threats, and Priorities Related to Maritime Security (**ANNEX I**)
 - United States – Maritime, Port and Border Security (**ANNEX J**)
 - India – Common Issues, Threats and Priorities Related to Maritime Security (**ANNEX K**)
 - Pakistan – Maritime Security Issues – Pakistan's Perspective (**ANNEX L**)
 - Bangladesh
 - Sri Lanka

Agenda Item 7: Discussion on Issues of Common Concerns That Can Be Further Discussed and Followed Up by Concrete Measures

24. The Meeting agreed that the ARF has come to a common understanding on many of the principles of maritime security. On this note, the Meeting suggested that ARF has the potential to endorse the steps to be implemented within its mandate.
25. The Meeting agreed that the ARF should use the currently existing mechanisms, such as the ISG/ISM, to focus on different issues from time to time and to move ahead from discussions to implementation of concrete and practical measures.
26. The Meeting undertook a stocktaking exercise of common concerns in the area of maritime security as follows:
- a. The implementation of a security plan for port security should be consistent with international or other countries' arrangements;
 - b. Concentrate on capacity building of the implementer including training involving military and civilian at tactical and strategic levels;
 - c. Intensified the possibility of enhancement of military training assistance program and engagement to other partners;
 - d. Enhance possible regional cooperation to identify and to collect the practice of maritime security laws to strengthen member's legislation in the area of enforcement;
 - e. Exchange experience and information at the regional and international levels;
 - f. Increase capability and equipment required for monitoring and patrolling maritime areas;

- g. Diversify intelligence maritime capability by establishing integrated information and networking as well as intelligence gathering and sharing;
- h. Need for coordinated approach including cooperation between government agencies and private sectors;
- i. Regional cooperation should encourage national implementation to curb smuggling;
- j. Promotion of dialogue and communication between the government and people living by the coastal area.

27. The following countries presented briefings:

- China – Implementation of Maritime Security in China (**ANNEX M**)
- Brunei Darussalam – (**ANNEX N**)
- Canada – Canada Maritime Security Issues (**ANNEX O**)
- Singapore

28. The Meeting took note of the following activities relevant with ARF efforts in addressing maritime security issues, to be convened in the near future:

- ARF Initial Planning Conference on Disaster Relief Table Top Exercise, Darwin, 5-7 September 2007
- 3rd Coast Guard Meeting, Singapore, 24-25 October 2007 with the themes on combating threats to maritime security and capacity building and sharing from various agencies
- Training Capsule on Maritime Security, Chennai, India, end of 2007
- ARF Seminar on the Law of the Sea Convention, Manila, the Philippines, on 5-7 December 2007
- ARF Disaster Relief Table Top Exercise, Jakarta, April 2008

29. The Meeting noted that to-date there was no venue for ARF to discuss specifically maritime security issues. Therefore there was a suggestion on the possibility of establishing an ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security. Indonesia expressed its intention to organize a possible meeting to discuss further on the issues related to maritime security.

Agenda Item 8: Update on Contact Points of ARF Maritime Security

30. The Meeting requested the ARF participants to submit their updates on contact points for maritime security. The updated list appears as **ANNEX P**.

Agenda Item 9: Other Matters

31. The Meeting agreed to submit updates on the matrix of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among ARF participants on maritime security to the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat within two weeks time.

32. The Meeting took note of the draft Matrix of Stocktaking of ARF Decisions and Recommendations on Maritime Security Issues (**ANNEX Q**) to be discussed in the forthcoming ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on

Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ISG on CBMs and PD). The Matrix is aiming for submission for the consideration and endorsement of the ARF Senior Officials and consecutively by the 15th ARF. The Meeting invited ARF participants to submit their comments to the draft to the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat.

33. The Participants expressed great appreciation for the generosity and hospitality of the Co-Chairs from Indonesia and China. In return, the Co-Chairs thanked the participants for the presence and generous contribution to the Meeting.