

ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

Work-Plan for Maritime Security

2022 – 2026

Context

The challenges to maritime security within the ASEAN Regional Forum require a holistic, and comprehensive approach to address them. Sharing best practices, developing confidence building measures and capacity building programs are some such measures towards enhancing our collaborative efforts and capabilities in dealing with maritime security issues.

The ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security (ISM-MS) was established by the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in July 2008. Ministers at the 18th ARF in Bali, Indonesia adopted the first ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security in July 2011 in order to build common perceptions of threats and challenges in maritime security. The Work Plans have been updated regularly following the current co-chairmanship of the ISM. The last Work Plan was endorsed at the 25th Meeting of the ARF in Singapore, on 4 August 2018.

Regional heads of government and ministers continue to place high importance on maritime security issues, as reflected in the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies at the 23rd ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 26 July 2016 in Vientiane, Laos; and the East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Marine Sustainability, on 14 November 2020.

The range of maritime security issues is not limited to traditional security issues, but also extends to non-traditional maritime security issues relevant to the region. The dynamic nature of the regional security landscape, coupled with recognizable progress made in confidence building, best practice exchanges and practical cooperation under the ARF ISM-MS and other fora, underscored the need for the ARF to keep the Work Plan under review.

OBJECTIVE

As a guiding document approved by the ARF Ministers, the principal objective of this Maritime Security Work Plan is to create a practical, coordinated and comprehensive plan to develop ASEAN Regional Forum's cooperation and coordination in accordance with international law, including 1982 UNCLOS, on issues related to the maritime security that:

- prioritizes the issues on which the ARF ISM-MS should concentrate its future efforts;
- creates a compilation of shared experiences and lessons learnt;
- strengthens existing networks to share and exchange information;
- assists in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional capacity-building exercises and training related to maritime security;
- maintains and builds on existing ARF participants' efforts in capacity-building, technical support and information exchange;
- complements and coordinates with existing relevant regional and international agencies, arrangements and initiatives; and
- advances ARF Maritime Security efforts in a direction that contributes to the goals of the ARF Vision Statement endorsed by Foreign Ministers in July 2009 and the implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action - II (2020 – 2025) endorsed by Foreign Ministers on 12 September 2020.

A key issue is the extent to which the ARF ISM-MS should balance its work between traditional and non-traditional security issues. Non-traditional security issues are recognized as useful early building blocks, which are conducive to the cultivation of mutual trust and consensus in the region. Consistent with the Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan and based on consensus, potential measures of Preventive Diplomacy and confidence building in the maritime domain have a place in the ARF Work Plan on Maritime Security.

FRAMEWORK

Consistent with the long-term goals of the ARF Vision Statement, including the development of the ARF into an action-oriented mechanism, the Work Plan should identify Priority Areas for the ARF's maritime security efforts and distinguish the ARF's role in the context of other regional efforts. While there are various important aspects of international maritime security cooperation, the ARF should focus its own work in the fields where it can bring the most benefit given its geographic focus, participation, and past work, as well as the specific interests of its members. Accordingly, within the framework of the ARF, this Work Plan will seek to complement, as appropriate, other ARF work plans, including on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime; Disaster Relief; Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies; and Preventive Diplomacy.

PRIORITY AREAS

The following Priority Areas will serve as the primary guideposts for cooperative efforts under this ARF Maritime Security Work Plan:

- 1) Shared awareness and Exchange of Information and Best Practices;
Co-leads: [tbc]
- 2) Confidence Building Measures based on relevant International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation, including the 1982 UNCLOS;
Co-leads: [tbc]
- 3) Capacity Building and Enhancing Cooperation of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region.
Co-leads: [tbc]

When developing a proposal for an official ARF maritime security activity, ARF participants are encouraged to consider the said Priority Areas.

ISM-MS

In order to facilitate active participation by ARF participants at the annual ARF ISM-MS, Annex A: *Guide to 2022-2026 ISM-MS* provides details on the key topics that the 2022-2026 ISM-MS Co-chairs will feature in the ISM agenda.

ARF Maritime Security Project Proposals

With a view to strengthening the connection between ARF official events and this Work Plan, in submitting project proposals to acquire the status of an official ARF event, ARF participants are encouraged to indicate, as appropriate, how their project can contribute to the Priority Areas of the Work Plan.

Projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular needs and nature of the Priority Areas. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of activities with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

1. ARF-wide or sub-regional training focused on minimizing direct and indirect negative impacts on the marine environment;
2. Capacity-building workshops that share information on experiences to maximize the capacity of regional governments to uphold international law, and enhance maritime domain awareness for peaceful purposes only; and anchored in international law;
3. Multilateral tabletop and/or field exercises that would enhance maritime security and maritime cooperation and combat transnational organized crime.

Co-Chair and Lead Countries' Responsibilities

The Co-chairs of the ARF ISM-MS and Lead Countries for each priority area will work to implement this Work Plan through, *inter-alia*, encouraging ARF participants to organize ARF official events in line with the Priority Areas and taking into consideration the ISM-MS Topics.

Along with co-chairing the annual ARF ISM-MS, the Co-chairs are responsible for updating the Work Plan and encouraging complementarity between the ARF ISM-MS and other regional/sub-regional maritime fora. The Co-chairs will also cooperate with the ARF Unit to update the list of ARF Points of Contact for Implementation of the Maritime Security Work Plan in Annex C.

Lead Countries for each Priority Area (one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN) are responsible for coordinating and presenting input provided by ARF participants in their respective Priority Area, proposing projects, coordinating the work in their Priority Area, and seeking out funding and hosts for projects in need of assistance. Lead Countries are also responsible for:

- Liaising with the ARF Unit on the coordination and implementation of Priority Area requirements;
- Updating the ARF Unit on Work Plan contributions every six months; and
- Working with the ARF Unit to ensure maximum synergies among projects, as appropriate.

Relationship with Other Regional/International Efforts

There is an obvious need for the Work Plan to be complementary to and coordinated appropriately with relevant regional and global efforts on maritime security. These efforts include those undertaken by various regional and international organizations (see Annex B). The following actions will be taken to ensure activities do not create unnecessary redundancy but are complementary to and in coordination with other regional and international efforts.

- The participation, as appropriate, of regional/international organizations acceptable to all participants in annual ISM-MS meetings;
- The ARF Unit and ISM-MS Co-chairs may also seek participation in relevant meetings of other regional/international efforts;
- Consistent sharing of organizational reports, strategies, and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations is encouraged;
- Lead Countries, ARF Unit, and ISM-MS Co-Chairs may consult when needed with representatives of other fora;
- The ARF Unit should publish the ARF MS Work Plan on ARF and ASEAN public websites; and,
- A priority for maritime security in the ARF is to ensure that it is complementary with the various fora/mechanisms in the region. The ASEAN Maritime Forum has reported that there are currently 13 different bodies associated with ASEAN that deal with maritime issues.

Implementation Timeline:

The current Co-Chairs (Indonesia, India and the United States) at the 13th ARF ISM-MS held on 12 May 2022, presented the draft Work Plan 2022-2026, before submitting the draft to the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (ARF ISG on CBMs and PD) held on 17 May 2022, and the ARF SOM scheduled on 09 June 2022 for consideration and subsequently to the 29th ARF in 2022 for adoption.

Co-chairmanship cycle:

1. Inter sessional year 2021-22: (Indonesia/India/US), 13th ARF ISM on MS 12 May 2022, video conference
2. Inter sessional year 2022-23: (Cambodia/China), 14th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]
3. Inter sessional year 2023-24: (Indonesia/India/US), 15th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]
4. Inter sessional year 2024-25: (Cambodia/China), 16th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]
5. Inter sessional year 2025-26: (Indonesia/India/US), 17th ARF ISM on MS [TBA]

The Annexes to this Work Plan will be reviewed annually and updated, as necessary.

ANNEX A

Guide to 2022 – 2026 ISM-MS

In order to facilitate active participation by ARF participants at the annual ARF ISM-MS, this Annex provides details on the key topics that the 2022-2026 ISM-MS will feature in the ISM agenda.

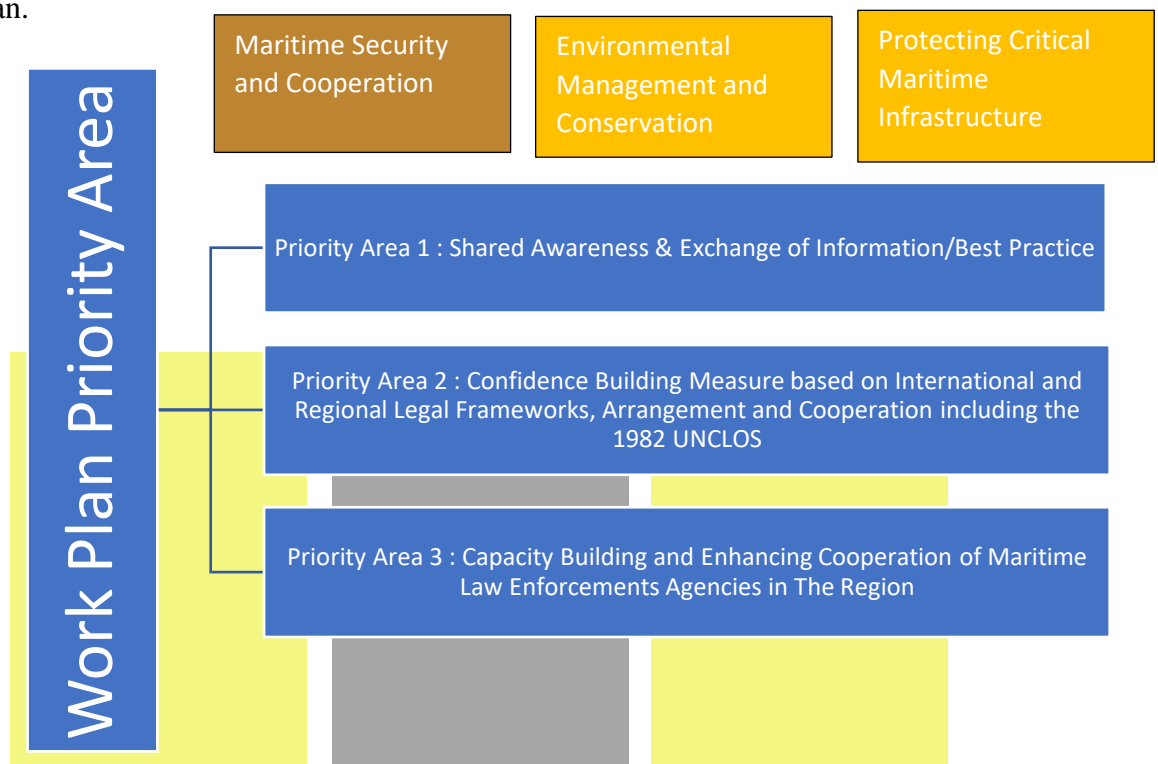
There are non-traditional challenges such as piracy and armed robbery against ships, people smuggling, terrorism, money laundering and terrorist financing, illicit drugs and illicit small arms trafficking, and human trafficking.

Other maritime-related challenges where cooperation can be enhanced including search and rescue, piracy and armed robbery, safety of seafarers, marine litter, IUU fishing, natural disasters, climate change, marine conservation and resource management, autonomous vessels and drones.

As such, the following are specified as Topics for guiding the development of the ISM-MS agenda during the 2022-2026 co-chairing cycle:

1. Maritime Security and Cooperation;
2. Environmental Management and Conservation;
3. Protecting Critical Maritime Infrastructure.

As an important mechanism for implementing this Work Plan, the ISM-MS agenda will address these topics from the perspective of the Work Plan Priority Areas: Shared Awareness and Exchange of Information and Best Practices; Confidence Building Measures based on relevant International and Regional Legal Frameworks, Arrangements and Cooperation including the 1982 UNCLOS; and Capacity Building and Enhancing Cooperation of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region. This method will establish a mechanism to link the ISM-MS agenda to the Work Plan.



ISM-MS Topic#1: Maritime Security and Cooperation

Scope:

The topic should strengthen the cooperation in advancing the ability of the governments, including through partnerships with accredited and mutually acceptable civil society organizations and stakeholders, towards implementation of state's international obligations including those under the 1982 UNCLOS. Build trust, coordination, and interoperability, and implement practical solutions to maritime security challenges through greater engagement and information sharing and a common understanding of regional security issues.

The topic will also be in line with the effort to: (a) Improve understanding and build cooperation among various maritime security agencies and organizations; (b) Improve understanding and application of UNCLOS and other multilateral maritime instruments and related mechanisms; (c) Enhancing understanding as well as cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies and industry in addressing piracy and armed robbery; (d) Improve understanding on opportunities and challenges associated with autonomous vessels whether operating on surface, sub-surface or air, in the maritime domain; (e) Enhance regional cooperation on ferry safety, maritime search and rescue, and improve capacity for addressing maritime accidents; and, (f) Share latest experience on maritime digitalization and explore technical cooperation on smart maritime, marine dynamic awareness and maritime *single window*.

Proposed Projects under consideration:

Implemented Projects:

1.

Past ARF Work:

1. 4th ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety, video conference, 6-7 July 2022
2. 4th ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation, video conference, 6-7 April 2022
3. 3rd ARF Workshop on implementing UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, in a hybrid format, Ha Noi, 01-02 June 2021
4. ARF Training on Ferry Safety Capacity Building, video conference, 22-25 June 2021 and 05-09 July 2021
5. 3rd ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation, video conference, 16-17 March 2021
6. 3rd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety, Guangzhou, 12-13 November 2019
7. 2nd ARF Workshop on implementing UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, Ha Noi, 12-14 November 2019
8. 2nd ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation Da Nang, 12-13 March 2019

9. ARF Workshop on implementing UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, Nha Trang, 26-27 February 2019
10. 2nd ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety, Guangzhou, 26-28 November 2018
11. ARF Workshop on Enhancing Regional Maritime Law Enforcement Cooperation Nha Trang 18-19 January 2018
12. ARF Ministerial Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies, Vientiane, Laos, 26 July 2016
13. ARF Workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact Cebu 28-29 April 2016
14. ARF Seminar on Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) Security, Beijing, 07-09 December 2014

ISM-MS Topic#2: Environmental Management and Conservation

Scope:

The topic should explore ARF efforts to prevent and minimize direct and indirect negative impacts on the marine environment with the goal of sustaining the health and resilience of the regional maritime ecosystem.

The topic will also develop cooperation to: (a) Raise awareness and understanding of threats emanating from the maritime domain in conjunction with and/or in support of IUU fishing activities and improve cross-agency collaboration on tools and authorities needed to confront these potential threats; (b) Enhance cooperation on fishery development and sustainable conservation of fishery resource, and safeguard food security; (c) Promote public education and outreach as well as increasing partnerships throughout the region and with local governments, communities, and industries to cooperatively address marine pollution including marine litter and oil pollution; and, (d) Improve capacity of dealing with marine conservation and resource management issues – improve the conservation of marine biodiversity and blue carbon, early warning of marine disasters, sea level rise and marine de-oxygenation, response of marine ecosystem to climate change, as well as development and utilization of marine renewable resource.

The topic may also discuss on the potential cooperation related to: a. Sustainable development of fisheries sector in line with existing laws and regulations and conservation of fish and their habitats; b. Development of small scale aquaculture for socio-economic development of rural people and extending of commercial fish farming; c. Food security, production of safety fishery products and improvement of the production of value added fisheries products.

Justification:

This topic was selected based on trends of cooperation in the ARF. See below for list of proposed, implemented, and previous ARF projects/activities that are related to this ARF-ISM Topic.

Relationship to Work Plan Priority Areas:

The Work Plan Priority Areas will help guide the discussions under each of the ISM-MS Topics.

When developing a proposal for an official ARF maritime security activity, ARF participants are encouraged to consider the said Priority Areas as well as the fields of cooperation identified.

Proposed Projects under consideration:

1.

Implemented Projects:

1.

Past ARF Work:

1. ARF Workshop on Law of the Sea and Fisheries, on 07-08 December 2021 on video-conferencing, by Australia, Indonesia and India.
2. 2nd ARF Workshop on International Cooperation Maritime Domain Awareness, Tokyo, 20 February 2020
3. ARF Workshop on Marine Debris Management for Sustainable Fisheries and Food Security in Southeast Asia Nha Trang 13-15 May 2019
4. ARF Workshop on Regional Climate Change and Coastal Disaster Mitigation, Tinajin, 01-02 November 2018
5. ARF Workshop on Sustainable Fisheries Management and Food Security in Southeast Asia on 13-14 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.
6. ARF Workshop on International Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness, Tokyo, 7-8 March 2018
7. ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Manila, the Philippines, 7 August 2017
8. ARF Workshop on Management of Marine Hazards in the Asia-Pacific Beijing 6-8 December 2016
9. ARF Workshop on Green Shipping, Hangzhou, 29-30 March 2016
10. ARF Workshop on Improving Fisheries Management, on 22-23 March 2016 in Honolulu, USA.
11. ARF Workshop on Marine Oil Spill Emergency Response Management and Disposal Cooperation Kunming 17-18 December 2015
12. ARF Seminar on Regional Cooperation on Offshore Oil Spill, Qingdao, 26-28 March 2014
13. ARF Maritime Security Workshop on Marine Environmental Protection Cooperation: Preparedness and Response to Pollution Incidents Involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances Honolulu 4-5 March 2014

ISM-MS Topic#3: Protecting Critical Maritime Infrastructure

Scope:

The topic should discuss the measures to combat transnational organized crime through enhanced port and vessel information sharing and technical cooperation throughout the region. The topic should discuss the measures to combat transnational organized crime through enhanced port and vessel information sharing and technical cooperation throughout the region.

The topic may also develop the discussion in the effort to: facilitate achieving the optimum balance between ports and waterways security and the recovery of maritime transportation capabilities; and Maximize the Maritime Transportation System's (MTS) continued operational equilibrium.

Justification:

This topic was selected based on trends of cooperation in the ARF. See below for list of proposed, implemented, and previous ARF projects/activities that are related to this ARF-ISM Topic.

Relationship to Work Plan Priority Areas:

The Work Plan Priority Areas will be used to help guide the discussions under each of the ISM-MS Topics.

Proposed Projects under consideration:

1.

Implemented Projects:

1.

Past ARF Work:

1. ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Using Maritime Data to Combat Transnational Organized Crime Bali 17-19 July 2018
2. ARF Workshop on Maritime Risks Management and Cooperation Beijing 13-15 December 2015
3. ARF Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation on Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue, on 9 August 2014 at the 21st ARF, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

ANNEX B

List of Regional and International Maritime Organizations and Fora

Regional Organizations/Fora

1. ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF)
2. Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)
3. ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)
4. ADMM-Plus Experts Working Group on Maritime Security
5. ASEAN Center for Biodiversity
6. ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)
7. ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM)
8. ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM)
9. ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF)
10. ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME)
11. ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME)
12. Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) Forum
13. Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM)
14. Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia- Pacific Region (Tokyo MoU)
15. Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)
16. North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCG)
17. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
18. Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)
19. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
20. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)
21. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
22. Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IO MoU)
23. Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
24. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC)
25. Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystems (YSLME) Project
26. Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWAP)
27. East Asia Summit (EAS)
28. Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)
29. ASEAN Chiefs of Police Association (ASEANAPOL)
30. Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC)
31. Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

International Organizations/Fora

1. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
2. International Maritime Bureau (IMB)
3. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
4. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

5. Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)
6. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
7. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)
8. Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOMFC)
9. East Asia Hydrographic Commission
10. IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) Sub- Commission for the Western Pacific
11. Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (Jakarta)
12. International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
13. International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
14. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
15. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

ANNEX C

List of ARF POCs for Implementation of the Maritime Security Work Plan

ARF Participants	Name	Designation	Agency	Contact Details
Australia				
Bangladesh				
Brunei Darussalam				
Cambodia				
Canada				
China	Mr. ZHAO Shuai	Attaché	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	zhao_shuai@mfa.gov.cn
Democratic People's Republic of Korea				
European Union				
India	Mr. Anmol Bedi	Under Secretary	D&ISA Division, Ministry of External Affairs	dsdisa@mea.gov.in Tele: +91-11-23012927
Indonesia	M. Robbi Firly	Attaché	Directorate of ASEAN Political and Security Cooperation – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	arf.indonesia@kemlu.go.id
Japan	Mr. KURAGANE Kei	Assistant Director	Space and Maritime Security Policy Division – Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kei.kuragane-2@mofa.go.jp
Lao PDR				
Malaysia				

Mongolia				
Myanmar	Mr. Tin Myo Kyaw	Assistant Director	ASEAN Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	myokyawmofa2014@gmail.com
New Zealand				
Pakistan				
Papua New Guinea				
Philippines	Mr. Reinir C. Padua	Principal Assistant	Office of ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs	asean.div2@dfa.gov.ph
Republic of Korea				
Russia				
Singapore				
Sri Lanka				
Thailand	Mr. Yanapat Pattanakeaw	Attaché	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand	asean03@mfa.go.th
Timor-Leste				
United States	Calvina Coleman	Political-Security Officer	U.S. Department of State	colemanca@state.gov
Viet Nam	-	-	ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	asean.mfa.vn@gmail.com