

**CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ASEAN
REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE
BUILDING MEASURES AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY**

**Honolulu, Hawaii
United States of America
17-19 October 2005**

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (**ARF**) held in Laos on July **29, 2005**, the first meeting of the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy (**ISG CBM/PD**) was held in the United States of America in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 17-19, 2005. The Meeting was co-chaired by the United States and the Republic of the Philippines.

2. Representatives from **Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada**, the People's Republic of China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United States, Viet Nam and, for the first time, Timor **Leste**, participated in the meeting. Members of the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. A session of the Defence Officials' Dialogue took place on October 17. **ISG CBM/PD** and Defence Officials' Dialogue participants toured U.S. naval vessels and received a command briefing from the U.S. Pacific Command (**USPACOM**). The Agenda for the **ISG CBM/PD** is attached as **Annex 1**, the Program of Activities is **Annex 2** and a List of Participants is **Annex 3**.

Exchange of Views on the Regional and International Situation

3. In order to incorporate Defence Officials' Dialogue discussion into its own consideration of the Regional and International Situation, the Meeting was briefed on the outcome of the Dialogue at the outset of consideration of this agenda item (**Annex 4**).

4. The Meeting expressed its outrage at the atrocious assault on innocent life in Bali, Indonesia, on October **1, 2005** and offered its condolences to the government and people of Indonesia and to other countries that lost citizens. Participants agreed that this attack and others elsewhere in the region highlight the importance of continuing cooperation against terrorism including through inter-faith dialogues that enhance mutual understanding and tolerance.

5. The Meeting noted that a number of countries in the region have been affected by recent natural disasters and welcomed resumption of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief as an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in responding to major disasters of all kinds. Participants expressed their sincere condolences for the devastation and loss of life caused by the recent earthquake in South Asia and welcomed international efforts to assist governments and communities in their response to the disaster. Participants also expressed

condolences to those countries in Southeast Asia affected by Typhoon **Damrey** and to the United States for the losses it sustained from Hurricane **Katrina**.

6. Some of the participants expressed deep concern over the lack of progress toward genuine democracy and national reconciliation in Myanmar and called for the **immediate release** of Daw Aung San **Suu Kyi** and other **NLD** political prisoners, meaningful dialogue with all parties, and the implementation of a roadmap to democracy. Other participants noted that the situation in Myanmar does not constitute a threat to international and regional security and stability, and affirmed the need to continue engaging Myanmar. The meeting agreed to continue working together to support democratic change in Myanmar.

7. The Meeting welcomed the successful outcome of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks, noting that the September 19 Joint Statement of Principles represents the historic decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and to return, at an early date, to the **NPT** and to IAEA safeguards. Participants expressed support for the Joint Statement and endorsed the goal of the Talks — the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner. The Meeting further noted that the other parties agreed in the Joint Statement to provide economic cooperation, energy assistance, and security assurances and that the U.S. and North Korea agreed to take steps to normalize relations subject to their respective bilateral policies and that Japan and North Korea agreed to take steps to normalize their relations in accordance with the Pyongyang Declaration, on the basis of the settlement of unfortunate past and outstanding issues of concern. The meeting encouraged **the** six parties to continue to work to reach a concrete agreement with regard to the implementation of the adopted principles. Participants welcomed the on-going inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation, and expressed the hope that inter-Korean relations will continue to be conducive to peace and stability and to the resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

8. The meeting welcomed the accession of New Zealand and Mongolia to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast **Asia**, and **Australia's** expressed intent to do so in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005. They affirmed the continued relevance of the principles and purposes of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in promoting cooperation, amity and friendship between and among **ARF** participants.

9. The meeting welcomed the steps taken by ASEAN and China towards the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (**DoC**), including the first meeting in Manila on August 2005 of the ASEAN China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DoC. They acknowledged the valuable contribution of the DoC in ensuring the peace and stability of the South China Sea, and towards the **security** and stability of the region as a whole.

Voluntary Background Briefings

10. Canada briefed the Meeting on its national plan of action for addressing the emerging health threat of pandemic influenza, highlighting its cooperation with Southeast Asia. It also reported

to the Meeting its intention to host an International Meeting of Ministers of Health in Ottawa on October 24-25, 2005, to advance global cooperation for pandemic preparedness.

11. Singapore provided a briefing on its preparations for pandemic influenza. It further updated the Meeting **on recent** developments in **maritime** security cooperation and outlined the concrete progress that the defense agencies have made in maritime security such as the "Eyes in the Sky" maritime air patrols and the conduct of exercises under the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (**Annex 5**).

12. Malaysia updated the meeting on recent developments in the International Peace Monitoring Team (**IMT**) in Mindanao (**Annex 6**).

13. Indonesia briefed the meeting on steps it has taken to address the threat of avian influenza and the recent Tripartite Ministerial Meeting of Littoral States in **Batam** August 1-2, 2005 and the meeting in Jakarta with the **IMO** on enhancing safety, security, and environmental protection.

14. China offered a briefing on the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction attended by 42 Asian-Pacific countries and several international organizations.

15. Japan briefed on its regional outreach activities on nonproliferation (**Annex 7**) and its international counter-terrorism cooperation (**Annex 8**)

16. Thailand briefed the meeting on its efforts in the post-tsunami period (**Annex 9**) and on avian influenza.

17. The Philippines gave a briefing on its campaign against terrorism.

18 Australia briefed the meeting on its participation in international efforts to respond to the threat of WMD proliferation and provided participants with copies of its recent publication Weapons of Mass Destruction. Australia's Role in Fighting Proliferation.

19. The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (**SEARCCT**) circulated a paper on its planned activities (**Annex 10**).

20. The European Union reported on the **Aceh** Monitoring Mission, which comprises observers from Europe and five ASEAN states.

Non-traditional Security Issues

21. Discussion in the Meeting reflected the general agreement among participants that Non-traditional Security Challenges present some of the best opportunities to strengthen cooperation among participants and, in most instances, a successful response actually requires sustained international cooperation. Participants also reaffirmed their view that Non-Traditional Security Challenges are among the most amenable issues for the application of Preventive Diplomacy in the ARF context.

22. Participants welcomed the **ARF's** continuing focus on the issue of Maritime Security and reaffirmed the importance of addressing this issue within a cooperative framework that respects both the rights of littoral states and the legitimate security concerns of users. Participants welcomed the August 1-2, 2005 meeting in **Batam**, Indonesia, where the foreign **ministers** of the **littoral** states of the Strait of Malacca agreed to cooperate with user states on **security** issues. Participants also welcomed the August 6-7 Jakarta Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore that was hosted by Indonesia and the International Maritime Organization (**IMO**) on enhancing safety, security, and environmental protection as a continuation of **littoral** and user state cooperation. Participants noted with approval that there will likely be follow-on meetings in 2006 in the IMO context that complement **ARF** cooperative efforts to further information-sharing, capacity-building, technical assistance, and best practices. The Meeting also noted the importance of agreements such as the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (**ReCAAP**) in enhancing maritime security in the region.

23. Recalling ARF Ministers' determination at the 12th ARF meeting **that** "...**the** proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles remains a serious security challenge of our time and the most dangerous one as they might fall into terrorist **hands**..." participants agreed that the ARF should pursue efforts to counter this common danger and welcomed recent efforts by ARF countries to address it. A number of participants expressed support for the goals of the Proliferation Security Initiative (**PSI**), although some others expressed reservations, specifically with regard to its implementation. Participants also reaffirmed the role of international efforts to combat proliferation within the UN system. Participants applauded the approval by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of governors of Additional Protocols submitted by Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

24. Participants agreed that pandemic influenza represents an acute threat not just to public health but also to the economic health and even to the security of countries in the region. They welcomed the formation of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza and took note of the partnership's first meeting in Washington D.C. on October 6-7. They also emphasized the important role of multilateral organizations. Participants considered security dimensions of the threat of pandemic influenza as part of a comprehensive response to this international challenge (Annex 11). They considered possible avenues for enhanced cooperation among defense and security officials. Several participants pointed out that some of these modes of cooperation could be considered examples of Preventive Diplomacy. Among these were contact lists and the formulation of agreed Standard Operating Procedures. Participants also discussed the utility of a table top simulation for security and foreign affairs officials of an outbreak of pandemic influenza in the region.

25. Other non-traditional security threats discussed by participants that require international cooperation are trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking, money laundering, smuggling of goods as well as illegal fishing and illegal trade in natural resources.

26. Participants also discussed the development of Preventive Diplomacy in the ARF, particularly as it might be applied to Non-traditional Security Threats. This discussion included consideration of a possible way to move further on Preventive Diplomacy, starting with a "soft

approach," which could include: (1) tasking the ARF EEPs to examine how the ARF could implement PD, (2) tasking the ARF Unit to undertake studies on PD, and (3) compiling a list of best practices including on **traditional/non-traditional** security issues, drawn from other bilateral/multilateral experiences. Participants agreed to come to the next meeting of the **ISG CBM/PD** prepared to discuss issues related to Preventive Diplomacy, recognizing that any future proposals must take full account of the sovereignty of individual countries and that any future implementation of these proposals will take place at a pace comfortable to all.

27. Cognizant of the continuing threat of terrorism, China and Brunei updated the meeting on preparations for the 4th Inter-Sessional Meeting on Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

28. China and Indonesia also updated participants on preparations for the 5th Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, which will take place in Bandung, Indonesia, November 30 - December 2, 2005 on the theme of "Civil-Military Cooperation in Disaster Relief (**Annex 12**). The Meeting urged the ISM to take into account the outcomes of the Workshop on Civil-Military Operations co-chaired by Australia and the Philippines in September 2005. China offered to host the 6th Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief with Indonesia in China next year.

Consideration of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

29. The Meeting agreed that the implementation of various CBMs has contributed significantly to the development of confidence and trust among ARF participants. Participants briefed the Meeting on CBMs they had organized or conducted since the conclusion of **the second ISG CBM** meeting of that year on February 23, 2005, with a particular focus on recommendations for action.

- Singapore reported on the Singapore-United States ARF CBM on "Regional Cooperation in Maritime Security" held in Singapore **2-4 March 2005**.
- China reported on the Seminar on "Enhancing Cooperation in the Fields of **Nontraditional** Security Issues" that it chaired in **Sanya, Hainan, in March 7-8, 2005**.
- Mongolia reported on the seminar it co-chaired with Vietnam on "Evolving Changes in the Security Perceptions of ARF Countries" **21-22 June in Ulaanbataar (Annex 13)**.
- Thailand and United States reported on the seminar on "Missile Defense" they co-chaired in Bangkok **October 6-7, 2005**. They noted, and participants agreed, that the seminar was a milestone in the evolution of the ARF as the premier cooperative security forum in the Asia-Pacific region (**Annex 14**).
- Vietnam reported on the 9th Meeting of ARF Heads of Defence **Universities/Colleges/Institutions** it hosted in Hanoi on 10-13 October, 2005 (**Annex 15**).
- The Philippines reported on the Seminar it co-chaired with Australia in Makati City, the Philippines, September 12-13, 2005, on "Civil-Military Operations," which focused on disaster response (**Annex 16**).
- The Philippines also reported on the Seminar on Cyber Terrorism it co-chaired with the Republic of Korea in Cebu 3-5 October 2005 (**Annex 17**). The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Philippines to draft an ARF ministerial statement on cyber-terrorism, as recommended by the seminar.

30. Participants also apprised the meeting of preparations for upcoming events.

- Singapore and Canada encouraged participation in the Export Licensing Experts Meeting that they will co-chair in **Singapore** 17-18 November 2005 (**Annex 18**).
- The European Union announced the upcoming workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be co-chaired by the EU and Cambodia in the near future.
- Japan and Indonesia encouraged participation in the workshop on capacity building for Maritime Security that they will co-chair with Indonesia in Tokyo December 19-20, 2005.
- India and Malaysia highlighted their upcoming "Workshop on Training for Cooperative Maritime Security" that will be held in **Kochi**, India 26-28 October 2005 (**Annex 19**).
- The United States announced that the seminar on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, which it first proposed in **Phnom** Penh in October of 2004, and which it will co-chair with Singapore and China, will be held in Singapore in late March 2006.
- Malaysia informed the Meeting that it will host the 10th Meeting of **ARF** Heads of Defence **Universities/Colleges/Institutions** 4-7 September 2006.

31. Vietnam and Australia tabled a proposal for a CBM on "The Role of Military and Civil Cooperation in the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases such as **SARS** and Avian Influenza" (**Annex 20**). The Meeting welcomed the proposal and agreed to consider further the timing and organization of the session.

32. Singapore announced its intention to table at the next Meeting of the **ISG CBM/PD** a proposal for a CBM on "Emerging Infectious Diseases."

33. Japan announced its intention to propose at the next meeting of the **ISG CBM/PD** a workshop to follow-up on the Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy it hosted in March 2004.

34. Singapore also circulated a revised concept paper for a Maritime Security Capacity Building Exercise (**Annex 21**). Participants welcomed this revised paper and agreed to study and further discuss this proposal.

35. China announced its intention to propose an ARF Seminar on Illicit Drugs for the 2006/2007 Inter-Sessional year as a follow-up to the ARF Alternative Development Seminar it hosted in September 2004.

Future Direction of the ARF

36. The Philippines briefed participants on progress in the development of Terms of Reference for "Friends of the Chair."

37. The ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat briefed participants on **ASEAN's** efforts to formulate Standard Operating Procedures for the ARF Chair to perform its enhanced role.

38. The Republic of Korea and Malaysia briefed participants on discussions on holding a meeting of **ARF** Experts and Eminent Persons and outlined options for convening such a meeting in the coming year.

39. The meeting welcomed Thailand's offer to produce a concept paper outlining the format for presentation to the **ISG** by the CSCAP Chair in order to give expression to the ARF Ministers' decision to strengthen the linkages between Track I and Track II. The paper might also address the **ARF's** interaction with other regional security organizations.

Preparations for the Second ISG CBM/PD Meeting

40. The Philippines and the United States will co-chair the Second ISG **CBM/PD** Meeting in Manila, the Philippines, March **1-3, 2006**.

Other Matters

41. The meeting encouraged participants to make their submissions to the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat for the three ARF Directories recommended by the 3rd ARF ISM on **CTTC**, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand 6-8 April 2005 (1. national points of contacts for information exchange and intelligence sharing; 2. national points of contact for information exchange on official documents, including supporting documents, and document fraud for purposes of enhancing document integrity and security; and 3. national points of contact for police and law enforcement). The meeting agreed that these registers should be placed on the "members only" section of **ARFNet**.

42. The ARF Unit briefed participants on updates to its "Matrix of ARF Decisions and Status."