

2024 ASEAN Regional Forum Draft Concept Paper

Compendium of Best Practices on the Implementation of the ISPS Code among ARF Participants

I. Background

In accordance with the goals and aspirations of the ASEAN Regional Forum Hanoi Plan of Action II (2020-2025), particularly Item 1.3.7 on promoting shared awareness and exchange of information and best practices on ensuring maritime security, safety and freedom of navigation and overflight, sustainable development of marine environment, in accordance with international law, the co-sponsors will propose the development of a Compendium of Best Practices which is a collection of best practices on the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code across the region.

This proposal will further the goals under the 2022-2026 ARF Maritime Security Work Plan, *Priority area 3: Capacity Building and Enhancing Cooperation of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies in the Region* and serve as a concrete deliverable following the conclusion of the three-part “International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) Training Series and Manual” as approved at the 26th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Thailand on August 2, 2018.

Throughout the training series, ARF Participants showcased exemplary models, practices, and key resources on the effective implementation of the ISPS Code. Part 1 in London, United Kingdom, September 5-9, 2022, addressed the ISPS Code topics of access control, perimeter control, and lighting. Part 2 in Mumbai, India, April 10-14, 2023, addressed ISPS Code topics of guards and police, trainings and procedures, security infrastructure, and cyber risk management. Part 3 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, April 23-25, 2024, focused on ISPS Code topics of communications, robust national architecture for port security, implications of piracy on maritime security & ISPS code adherence, documents and forms, and electronic surveillance. Additionally, during Part 3, attending participants worked together to develop and provide preliminary inputs into a virtual Best Practices Compendium or “Best Practices Manual.”

II. Objectives

The objective of this proposal is to increase ARF Participants’ understanding and strengthen their implementation of the requirements under the International Maritime Organization’s Safety of Life at Sea Convention on International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) by adopting the Best Practices Manual as a key tool and resource for possible adoption within the country-specific needs and requirements by ARF Participants.

This proposal will ensure that the Best Practices identified at-and developed as a result of the training series, are captured and disseminated for use by all ARF Participants. Further, this proposal will ensure that the Best Practices Manual is comprehensive, inclusive, and would reflect the inputs from all ARF Participants.

III. Co-Sponsors

United States, Philippines, India, and Papua New Guinea (open to other co-sponsors)

IV. Activities and Timeline

Activity	Proposed Timeline
ARF Unit circulates a link for ARF Participants to upload suggested Best Practices on the Implementation of the ISPS Code	July 2024
The period for ARF Participant input closes; Co-Sponsors will begin to compile the Best Practices Manual	December 2024
Co-Sponsors complete compilation of Best Practices Manual and circulate to ARF participants through the ARF Unit for final review in advance of the ARF ISM on Maritime Security in 2025	February 2025
Co-Sponsors present the final Manual and officially table it at the ARF ISM on Maritime Security and the ARF ISG on CBMs and PD and ARF SOM in 2025 for consideration of adoption by the ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2025	Second and Third Quarter 2025
ARF Unit uploads the final Best Practices Manual to the ARF Website	Third Quarter 2025

V. Funding and Arrangements

The co-sponsors will coordinate with the ARF Unit to come up with an efficient system of collecting and consolidating the inputs or contributions for the “Best Practices Manual”. After the final version has been approved at the ARF Ministerial Meeting, the co-sponsors recommend that the ARF website host the final version of the Compendium for access by all ARF Participants.

VII. Focal Persons

Please direct comments or questions on this proposal to:

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