

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF  
THE TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS  
(NADI) 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
2-5 April 2018  
Singapore**

1. The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore, at the Marina Mandarin, from 2 to 5 April 2018.
2. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Annual Meeting. The list of participants is attached in Annex I. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, chaired the Annual Meeting.

**OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ONG KENG YONG, EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, RSIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE NADI ANNUAL MEETING**

3. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong warmly welcomed all delegates and guests to the 11<sup>th</sup> NADI Annual Meeting. He appreciated the participation of all NADI friends for attending this Annual Meeting.
4. He noted increased uncertainty in the geopolitical landscape in light of intensified US-China strategic competition. Southeast Asia also faces a range of non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, cybersecurity and climate change, which underscores the need for greater cooperation between ASEAN countries. In conclusion, Ambassador Ong noted that NADI must be able to identify emerging security challenges and propose relevant and substantive recommendations to the ADMM on appropriate policy responses.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MR KEITH TAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY (POLICY), MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, SINGAPORE**

5. Mr Keith Tan expressed gratitude to NADI for its continued support of ADMM. He recalled the evolution of NADI and the significant strides it has made since its inauguration in 2007. He noted the continued significance of NADI as a platform for discussion and confidence-building among ASEAN think tanks. In commending NADI for its track record of providing creative recommendations to ASEAN Defence Ministers in many areas, he stressed the importance of strengthening the links between NADI and ADMM.
6. He identified emerging issues: (i) militarisation in Northeast Asia and implications for ASEAN; (ii) major power rivalry in the Indian Ocean region; (iii) trade issues between US and China, and consequences for ASEAN economies; (iv) Opportunities presented by initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Initiative, and the importance of upholding ASEAN unity and centrality; (v) non-traditional security issues such as terrorism and cybersecurity. He highlighted that developments outside the region will have implications for ASEAN. In this light, he expressed support for NADI's effort to engage non-ASEAN think tanks to broaden the dialogue on emerging security

challenges in the future. In conclusion, he wished all delegates a productive 11<sup>th</sup> NADI Annual Meeting.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

7. The Annual Meeting adopted the agenda and the programme, which are appended in Annex II and Annex III respectively.

## **SESSION I: REVIEW OF EVOLVING REGIONAL POLITICAL, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **Cambodia**

#### **Presentation by Major General Nem Sowathey, Deputy Director General, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs**

8. Major General Nem Sowathey said that geopolitical landscape continues to be uncertain and has shaped a reality where we find increasingly difficult to distil global complexities for our region today. ASEAN is setting foot into the second half-centenary within the backdrop of a dynamic power revision, greater power rivalries, and evolving strategic adjustments that are impacting the political, security and economic environment in the region. In addition to the major powers' influence between China and the US over security in the Asia-Pacific, there are other countries that have been contributing to the shaping of the architecture in the region such as Japan, India and the DPRK. The ASEAN way of non-interference and ASEAN centrality and cooperation form a strong basis through which ASEAN Member States navigate regional strategic competition in responding to such regional security challenges. Additionally, terrorism threat continues to be the focus in Southeast Asia and across the globe as a result of the spread out of foreign terrorist fighters while the Islamic State loses its foothold in the Middle East. The complexity of non-traditional security concerns has been heightened to include the use of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive device (CBRNE), cybersecurity and weaponisation of technology. Importantly, extreme weather, natural catastrophes, and man-made catastrophes have been perceived by risk experts to be much more impactful and probable in the near future.
9. Addressing security challenges in the region requires multilateral cooperation and engagement towards specific issues. ADMM and ADMM-Plus can consider an 'inclusion approach' to involve civilian institutions in future exercises to receive more information from other stakeholders, especially women, which reflect the commitment to UN agenda on Woman, Peace, and Security. ASEAN Military Ready Group (AMRG) can also be linked and synergised with Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC), in order to accelerate its effectiveness as first responders to disaster. The pronouncement of diversity among the ASEAN Member States will pose challenges in looking into the issues of cybersecurity. With this, cooperation among all stakeholders can be promoted by means of strengthening capacity building in the region, developing confidence-building measures, and promoting technical cooperation, namely in information sharing. It will also require ASEAN to be resolute and unified. ASEAN centrality and

leadership should be strengthened in all ASEAN-led fora so that ASEAN will remain as a driving force in the regional security architecture.

## **Indonesia**

### **Presentation by Brigadier General Benny Octaviar, Chief, Center for Strategic Studies, Indonesian Armed Forces, CSS TNI**

10. Brigadier General Benny Octaviar indicated that geographically, most of AMS are in the vicinity of the equator. This region still has considerable energy resources. The rising of world's population and the scarcity of natural energy resources, bring the area as a target contested by big power countries to increase their influences on economy, political and security means. Moreover, Foreign Terrorist Fighter from other regions, have been spilling out to Southeast Asia in many strategic ways. Facing those situations, ASEAN has to work seriously on managing common platforms to handle it. Some efforts have drafted and some are on the move in facing real security threats and global political and economic competition. Dialogue and diplomatic efforts among ASEAN countries is still a need to meet the collective goals.
11. In facing global politics, economy and security issues, ASEAN should strengthen its uniquely regional strategy and use ADMM as a tool and venue to accommodate the work. Our Eyes Initiative (OEI), which is the cooperation in exchanging intelligence information in the region should be considered, adopted and implemented as an ASEAN framework legal basis, particularly to combat terrorism threats.

## **Lao PDR**

### **Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Souksan Khaiphom, Deputy Chief of the Office of Military Science and History Department, Ministry of National Defence**

12. Lieutenant Colonel Souksan was of the view that political, security and economic environment of the ASEAN region is evolving and developing dramatically amidst regional and global security uncertainty. Even though ASEAN has made significant progress in many certain areas, especially the successful establishment of the ASEAN Community and ASEAN defence-related cooperative mechanisms, ASEAN is facing with non-traditional security threats which have an adverse impact on regional security and economic status. To address the security challenges, ASEAN needs to increase its capacity and mobilise internal strengths and resources in order to enhance ASEAN related mechanisms, so as to work collaboratively on the basis of ASEAN unity and centrality, sincerity, transparency, responsiveness and constructive discussion, better coordination and regular knowledge and information sharing.
13. He also discussed UXO issue in Lao PDR as one of the regional security threats since it has become an obstacle hindering the processes of socio-economic development and poverty eradication in the country. To respond to this difficult situation, the government has established the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (UXO-NRA) and the Lao People's Army has

actively engaged in activities under the framework of the ADMM-Plus Expert's Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action in order to help contribute to addressing the UXO problem.

## **Malaysia (MiDAS)**

### **Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Rosli Bahrun, Deputy Director, Non-Traditional Military Affairs, Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security, Malaysia**

14. Lieutenant Colonel Rosli Bahrun said that Southeast Asia region remain of interest for many countries due to its political interest, strategic location, and its resources. The Straits of Malacca and South China Sea retain a position of traditional critical strategic and economic importance. China's rise has presented both economic opportunities and security challenges in particular the South China Sea when we have witnessed renewed tensions between the US and China which have escalated to military responses. Beyond the traditional scenario, ASEAN are faced with multidimensional security issues; terrorism and extremism, human rights, ethnic violence and displaced persons, survival for energy sources, mineral or manpower, rival claim to territories, maritime border disputes, cyber threats, trans-border crimes etc, continue to be pressing matters for most governments.
15. ASEAN membership functionally serves to build on common interest and it has thus far been successful. Nevertheless, ASEAN must not remain complacent and shall strive for continuous security improvement. For that, ASEAN has to anticipate any changes of security outlook and policy, continue to cooperate and continue speaking with one voice to ensure the stability of this region for the benefit of all. He noted the developments along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and their impact on the regional security situation. He recommended as follows: (a) ASEAN efforts to address the regional impact of migration issues related to humanitarian crises through sharing of experiences and best practices; (b) ASEAN to enhance law enforcement and to counter-terrorist narratives; and (c) to work towards an appropriate regional framework for increased ASEAN cyber cooperation and collaboration.

## **Myanmar**

### **Presentation by Major General Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chief of the Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training, Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

16. Major General Soe Naing Oo talked about ASEAN Vision 2020 in brief. He highlighted that ASEAN should continually enhance its cooperation and cohesiveness among the member states and build its capacity in order to maintain ASEAN centrality and its driver role in cooperation with the Plus countries.
17. He mentioned that terrorism, drug smuggling, illegal immigration, illegal fishing, illicit small arms smuggling, environmental pollution and cyber attacks are non-traditional security challenges and threats to regional peace and stability. He

advised that AMS should be more cohesive and develop a common vision on how to deal with the evolving non-traditional security challenges.

## **Philippines (NDCP)**

### **Presentation by Rear Admiral (Retired) Roberto Estioko, President, National Defense College of the Philippines**

18. Rear Admiral Estioko indicated that three major politico-security developments may shape the future of the Asia-Pacific security environment. First, the Asia-Pacific security architecture is evolving in view of the increasing major power competition between U.S. and China. Next, the nuclear threat in the Korean Peninsula continues to be a source of regional tension despite recent efforts towards the resumption of peace talks. Finally, the rise of Islamic State-affiliated radical groups and networks in Southeast Asia indicate that violent extremism will continue to be a regional concern for ASEAN-Member States (AMS).

19. In view of these developments, AMS must continue to cooperate in the following: 1) avoiding ASEAN entanglement in major power competition and enhancing ASEAN centrality and unity within an evolving regional security architecture; 2) maintaining a common voice in addressing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Asia Pacific Region; and 3) promoting regional counter violent extremism initiatives to prevent networking among violent extremist groups.

## **Singapore**

### **Presentation by Mr Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, RSIS**

20. Mr Tan Seng Chye highlighted the significant changes in the regional political, security and economic environments since Donald Trump assumed the US Presidency in December 2016. Trump has pursued new foreign, security and economic policies and orientations that rolled back former President Barack Obama's key policies. His pursuit of the "America First" policy, which is protectionist and nationalistic, coupled with his imposition of significant tariffs on certain commodities aimed mainly at China, will also affect other countries including the EU and US allies. Trump's policies have attracted strong reactions and strained the US' relations with them. China is retaliating against US tariffs and this has started a trade war. The EU which has been affected by the US tariffs, can be expected to similarly retaliate. Trump has asserted that the tariffs, amounting to about US\$60 billion being imposed on China, were to address its huge trade deficit with China. The trade war will affect all countries as well as the welfare of Americans. Trump is also restricting Chinese investments in the US and this will reduce jobs for Americans. Overall, Trump's policies have caused unease and tensions in the US' relations with China, EU and its allies as well as the Middle East.

21. Mr Tan indicated that all these are part of the US-China rivalry for influence not only in the Asia Pacific but globally as well. China's continuing rise and its growing political and economic influence in Asia, Africa and Latin America, coupled with the modernisation of its military, are viewed by the US as a

challenge to its own dominance on the global stage. While China pursues free trade and globalisation, the US under Trump has become protectionist and inward looking. China is pursuing a “new type of major powers relations”, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) can be viewed as part of a rising China and its growing influence. Trump’s signing of the Taiwan Travel Act on 20 March 2018 will seriously heighten tensions between the US and China. For Southeast Asia, Trump is paying less attention to ASEAN, and with the rollback of former President Obama’s Pivot to Asia, there has been calmer waters in the South China Sea with the ongoing negotiations between China and ASEAN for a Code of Conduct, the adoption by the ADMM-Plus of an agreement on a Code on Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES) last year, and likely a similar arrangement for the air in the near future, will reduce tensions in the South China Sea. In this environment, ASEAN must maintain its unity and centrality in the regional architecture so as to engage all the major powers economically for the benefits of all ASEAN countries.

## **Vietnam**

### **Presentation by Senior Colonel Pham Ngoc Thanh, Director of International Studies, Institute for Defense Strategy**

22. The international and regional security and political environment in 2017 have developed complicatedly impacting not only on peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific but also on ASEAN-centric security mechanisms including ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM Plus. The most significant impacts include (1) the rise of the populism and realism introducing challenges to multilateralism as well as regional security architectures; (2) strategic competition between major powers impacting on the unity and neutrality of ASEAN; (3) the emergence of the new cooperative mechanisms competing to ASEAN-centric mechanisms for influence; (4) the non-traditional security issues become more serious in increasingly wide integration and linkage that disperse resources and concerns of member states.
23. In the coming time, it is predicted that the political and security environment in the world and region continue to have unforeseen changes threatening to the regional security. ASEAN-centric security mechanisms need to be continually improved and enhance their effectiveness in order to successfully deal with security issues contributing to peace and stability in the region. To achieve this end, it is necessary to consolidate the unity and maintain the neutrality of ASEAN while enhancing the effectiveness of these mechanisms by some solutions as follows: First, pushing up ASEAN integration and linkages combined with narrowing the gap in the levels of development among member states; Second, actively improving national capability to cope with their security challenges and enhancing people’s awareness of the ASEAN Community; Third, harmonising individual national interests with interests of the whole Community; Fourth, ASEAN should play an active role in resolution of disputes between member states; Fifth, cooperative initiatives, programs and plans should be practical, feasible and suitable to the conditions and capability of each member states, especially developing ones.

## **SESSION II: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON NEW EMERGING NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY ISSUES THAT POSE CHALLENGES AND THREATS TO REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY, AND RESPONSES OF ASEAN STATES**

### **Brunei**

#### **Presentation by Ms Alina Abang Omarzuki, Acting Assistant Director, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies**

24. Ms Alina Omarzuki, in her presentation, identified the advent of new technologies and the associated risks that come with it as one of the new emerging Non-traditional security issues. The increase of cyber attacks and growth in impacts are profound as the advancement of technologies presents more opportunities for cyber criminals to leverage on to execute their agenda in exploiting the interconnected and global nature of the cyber domain. She also shared the observation that there is (1) still a lack of recognition and understanding of cybersecurity urgency and (2) the current cybersecurity related initiatives are still fragmented.

25. In moving forward, she recommended the need to prioritise on (1) multi-stakeholders involvement in cybersecurity dialogues and practical initiatives, whether at the national, regional or international level with the key aim of bridging the gap between the policy and technical components in the cybersecurity ecosystem; and (2) synergising all the cooperative efforts towards the same direction that would build up and converge in producing tangible outcomes/benefits in a form of strengthened national and regional cybersecurity capabilities and resilience against cyber attacks and other surprises that new and emerging technologies may bring in the future.

### **Indonesia (IDU)**

#### **Presentation by Colonel Dr Pujo Widodo, Head of Education Development Centre, Indonesia Defense University**

26. Colonel Dr Pujo Widodo indicated that Indonesia government has two strategies to overcome terrorism issues. These are internal strategy and external strategy. The internal strategy consists of:

- a) Neutralising the ISIS sleeper cells.
- b) Disbanding Hizbut Tahrir of Indonesia.
- c) Increasing military and police forces to counter-terrorism.
- d) Enhancing information and communication networks among citizens and enforcement agencies.

27. The external strategy consists of:

- a) Joint maritime and air patrols in the Sulu Sea pursuant to the Trilateral Cooperative Agreement 2017, signed by Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia.
- b) Coordination between Indonesia's National Agency for Counter-Terrorism and the Philippine Government.

- c) Coordination of the ministerial meeting involving Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Brunei, Australia and New Zealand, on facing ISIS terrorist threat in the sea border of Indonesia and the Philippines.

### **Malaysia (NDUM)**

#### **Presentation by Professor Dr B.A. Hamzah, Director, Centre for Defence and International Security Studies, National Defence University of Malaysia**

28. Professor Dr B.A. Hamzah said that the region will continue to be plagued by threats from non-traditional sources like natural disasters. Despite all efforts, sea robbery and other forms of violence at sea will continue to be with us in the foreseeable future, as they have been in the past. Likewise, the issue of political violence and militancy will continue to be a menace, grabbing headlines in the region. The challenge in this digital age is how to harness the virtual technology for a productive global order and not to use the advantages from the advancement in technology to create mischief and undermine the security of friendly countries.
29. One area that is likely to have an impact on regional security is cyber warfare - the transformed version of information warfare. Managing cyber warfare calls for a regional and global approach. Unfortunately, states are reluctant to tackle the problem for two main reasons: their own insecurity and the fact that they are also perpetrators in this spooky game. States with the means and capacity to undertake cyber warfare will always want to be ahead of the curve and retain the advantage for their operational use. Such is the nature of digital espionage. The challenge for policy planners is to stay ahead of the curve and to continuously hone our crisis-management skills to collectively and separately mitigate the impact of shared non-traditional security challenges in the region. The importance of regional collaboration to address the shared challenges of militancy and violent extremism, for example, needs no emphasis.

### **Philippines (AFP-OSSM)**

#### **Presentation by Colonel Adriano Perez Jr, Chief, Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management, Armed Forces of the Philippines**

30. Colonel Perez Jr provided an overview of non-traditional security challenges facing the Philippines. Violent extremism of both the Maoist and religious kind is one of the most persistent non-traditional challenges, strengthened by poverty and underdevelopment as evidenced by the context which led to the Battle of Marawi in May-October 2017. Transnational crimes is also on the rise, which is also becoming intertwined with the threat of violent extremism as terrorists begin to engage in profitable criminal ventures. Cybersecurity is also becoming important, as the world becomes more interconnected in the digital space and e-commerce expands. An increasing number of cyber threats are affecting the Asia Pacific, and the cyber domain also provides avenues for transnational crimes and radicalism. Finally, natural hazards are a long-standing concern for the

Philippines, which has experienced several major natural disasters that have killed thousands and caused extensive damage.

31. He then outlined the Philippines' efforts to address these challenges, using the whole-of-nation approach:
- a) Overarching medium-term and long-term holistic development encapsulated by the six-year Philippine Development Plans, and the *Ambisyon 2040* initiative, that aim to address socio-economic and human development issues to improve the lives of Filipinos.
  - b) Defence and security initiatives meant to enable an environment conducive to development, such as the National Security Policies and Armed Forces Campaign Plans like the Development Support Security Plan *Kapayapaan*.
  - c) Immediate post-conflict and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives in conflict- or disaster-affected areas.
  - d) Cooperation with international partners in bilateral and multilateral avenues; in addition to tried and tested cooperation with the whole of ASEAN and with traditional security partners like the United States, the Philippines also seeks new initiatives like the Trilateral Cooperation Agreement of 2017 with Malaysia and Indonesia.

## **Singapore**

### **Presentation by Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeng, Associate Research Fellow, RSIS**

32. Mr Tsjeng highlighted that in the coming years, three main non-traditional security issues will pose the greatest challenge to regional peace and security, and possibly undermining the resilience of ASEAN Member States (AMS). Firstly, terrorism is and will remain the foremost concern among many countries in Southeast Asia, especially with the increasing presence of ISIS in the region. Secondly, related to this will be the rise in radicalisation, with its implications for Southeast Asian societies. A major strategy of ISIS is the recruitment of new followers by radicalising impressionable minds using online propaganda. Third, cybersecurity issues will continue to pose major risks to critical infrastructure. AMS must address these threats by promoting inter-agency cooperation within their own countries, and also collaborate with the counterpart agencies of other AMS to tackle these issues. The ADMM should continue to work towards fostering regional cooperation, and facilitate the transfer of technical expertise from the Plus countries to the AMS.
33. As such, Mr Tsjeng recommended the following for the consideration of the ADMM:
- a) The AMS must pay greater attention to the risks of terrorism, radicalisation and cyber threats, which threaten regional peace and security.
  - b) AMS should encourage inter-agency cooperation and also coordinate with their counterparts in other AMS to tackle these threats. They should also work in enhancing the national resilience of each AMS through these efforts.
  - c) The ADMM should continue efforts to promote regional cooperation among the national agencies of AMS, and facilitate the transfer to technical expertise from the Plus countries to the AMS.

## **Thailand**

### **Presentation by Colonel Pratuang Piyakapho, Director of Regional Studies Division, Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters (RTARF HQs)**

34. Colonel Pratuang highlighted that current and future non-traditional security challenges that would affect the ASEAN region, are:
- a) Terrorism; which has become more sophisticated both in their forms and tactics and the target of terrorist attack in the future will be governmental agencies, soft targets and public places;
  - b) Cybersecurity; ASEAN faces more cyber attacks. In the future, cybersecurity concerns will be more serious as information technology becomes part of our daily life;
  - c) Transnational Crimes; the growth of ASEAN economies brought with it increasing transnational crimes such as human trafficking, money laundering, drugs, counterfeit goods, illegal wildlife trade, terrorism, etc. These crimes can transfer more easily from one country to other country;
  - d) Environmental Issues; in the future environment issues in the region including water and food security will be more important but complex as these issues directly affect a large number of people in ASEAN; and
  - e) Natural Disaster; natural disasters will be more frequent in the future as a result of climate change and this may seriously affect people's life and property, and consequently national and regional security. Good preparation and public awareness can mitigate the adverse impact.
35. Non-traditional security is security threat for all AMS. Increased cooperation is needed to meet these challenges. SSC has considered 2 steps to mitigate the problem; in the short term and long term. In the short term, using of the 4 "Ms" method of management - Man, Money, Materials, and Management. In the long term, it may be necessary to look at non-traditional security threats in connection with the emerging idea of "hybrid security", which merits further studies.

## **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

36. In Session I, NADI delegates agreed that the regional political, security and economic environment had undergone many changes in the past few years. Issues such as the worsening Sino-U.S. dynamics, recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, as well as the potential remilitarisation of Japan, and the possibility of a trade war, are sources of uncertainty and instability in the region. Consequently, these developments pose a challenge to ASEAN centrality and unity, as well as ASEAN's relevance and importance in regional and international affairs. In this context, NADI delegates underscored the need to preserve ASEAN-centric mechanisms in the regional architecture. The priority is to maintain a conducive environment for continued economic growth and political stability in the region.
37. In Session II, NADI delegates had an active exchange of views, ranging from climate change, piracy, transnational crimes, natural disasters, and scarcity of

natural resources. They identified three main non-traditional security threats in the region. These are: terrorism, radicalisation and cybersecurity. It was acknowledged, however, that the threat perception towards each of these issues vary among the ASEAN Member States (AMS). The divergent threat perceptions stem from the different root causes and conditions specific to each country in which the challenges emerge. To deepen ASEAN cooperation on these issues, it is thus important to first bring about a convergence of views among AMS on the threats they face. This would involve enhancing the mechanisms for information sharing and exchange on the nature of these threats.

38. In view of the foregoing discussions, the following recommendations are proposed for the consideration of the ADMM:

- a) AMS should enhance cooperation with each other, by maintaining ASEAN unity and centrality in the regional architecture. AMS should engage major powers without becoming entangled in their rivalry, and focus on greater economic cooperation and development of ASEAN.
- b) ADMM could concretise more capacity building programmes and help strengthen interagency cooperation in non-traditional security issues, especially counter-terrorism, counter-radicalization and cybersecurity.
- c) In view of the evolving regional situation and contemporary issues requiring attention such as transnational crimes and humanitarian issues, ADMM may wish to direct more policy attention and strategic discussions on the impact and possible solutions of such challenges.

#### **BRIEFING ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE BY DR CHRISTOPHER LIM, SENIOR FELLOW, EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

39. Dr Christopher Lim said that antimicrobial resistance ("Superbug") is the emerging threat to ASEAN society, both for human, animal, and environment. While dangerous, the slow and steady march of antibiotic resistance does not cause people to bleed to death in the streets, the way Ebola virus does; neither does it cause heart-rending birth defects, the way Zika virus does. The slow speed of this catastrophe could perhaps indirectly create a false sense of security. In short, both humans and livestock farming are in danger; and the issues of food security and safety are called into question.

40. Dr Lim's recommendations for an ASEAN Action Plan for NADI's consideration can be found in his commentary in Annex IV.

#### **MEETING WITH ADSOM WORKING GROUP LEADER**

41. COL Aaron Beng, Director, Defence Policy Office, Ministry of Defence of Singapore and ADSOM Working Group Leader, briefed the Meeting on the key thrusts of the Singapore ASEAN Chairmanship for the ADMM, namely, enhancing regional counter-terrorism cooperation, improving regional capabilities against CBR threats and developing practical CBMs/CUE. This was summed up as the three "Cs". ADMM is committed to implementing the three "Cs" thereby

enhancing ASEAN centrality and unity. He noted that ADMM-Plus would be an annual meeting from 2018. He said that ADMM also agreed to the conduct of the ASEAN-China Maritime Exercise later this year. In addition, ADMM also agreed to have observers from the non-Plus countries for ADMM-Plus Experts Working Groups' activities and the ADMM is developing the criteria for the selection of observers. He also mentioned that Singapore would host a Track 1.5 symposium on counter-terrorism later this year. He would welcome inputs from the NADI Workshop on Counter-terrorism, Counter-radicalisation, and Cybersecurity, scheduled for 25-29 June 2018 in Singapore.

## **ANY OTHER MATTERS**

### **Forthcoming NADI Activities**

42. NADI Singapore, represented by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, briefed the ADSOM Working Group on the NADI workplan for the year, in January 2018.

43. The meeting noted the updates on upcoming NADI activities:

- a) Thailand (SSC) will host a NADI Workshop on "ASEAN Cooperation in Cyber Capacity Building", Ayutthaya Province, Thailand, on 7 – 11 May 2018.
- b) Singapore (RSIS) will host a NADI Workshop on "Counter-Terrorism, Counter-Radicalisation and Cybersecurity", Singapore on 25 – 29 June 2018.
- c) Indonesia (IDU) will host a NADI Workshop on "Transnational Organised Crimes", Bogor, Indonesia, on 22 – 25 August 2018.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

44. The Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> NADI Annual Meeting extended his sincere appreciation and thanks to all the delegates for their participation in and constructive contribution to the Annual Meeting.

45. The NADI delegates expressed their appreciation to the RSIS for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 11<sup>th</sup> NADI Annual Meeting.