

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE 3rd MEETING OF TRACK II NETWORK OF
ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI)
19-22 April 2010, Vietnam**

Introduction

The third meeting of the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) was organized by the Institute for Military Strategy (IMS), Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam at Legend Hotel Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City from 19-22 April 2010.

The meeting was chaired by Lieutenant General Associate Professor Tran Thai Binh PhD, Director General of IMS, co-chaired by Colonel Tran Hau Hung, Deputy Director of Institute of Defense International Relation and attended by representatives of defence and security think tanks and defence institutions from ASEAN countries. Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh PhD, Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam attended the meeting as Guest of Honor and presented the welcome remarks. The list of participants is at **Annex A**.

Adoption of Agenda

- Opening Speech by Lieutenant General Tran Thai Binh
- Welcome Remarks by Lieutenant General, Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam, Nguyen Chi Vinh
- Exchange of Views on Regional Security and Political Outlook and Emerging Regional Architecture
- Prospects for Enhancing ASEAN Militaries' Cooperation
- Exchange of Views on ADMM Plus
- Presentation on Maritime Security
- Presentation on Climate Change and Impacts on National Security
- Guest speaker's presentation on the role of ASEAN in the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and prospect for Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea
- Exchange of Views on How to Increase the Effectiveness of NADI
- Other Matters
- Concluding Remarks

The meeting considered and adopted the Agenda, which appears as **Annex B**.

Chairman's Opening Address

In his opening speech, Lieutenant General Tran Thai Binh emphasised that the NADI meeting provided a conducive environment for think tanks from ASEAN countries to have a frank discussion and contribute new ideas to defence and security cooperation in dealing with emerging security issues. He acknowledged the importance and contribution of NADI in building ASEAN Political-Security Community.

He also briefed the security situation in the region, in particular non-traditional security challenges, including terrorism, transnational organized crimes, epidemics, natural disasters, etc. He also highlighted the importance and difficulties in tackling non-traditional security

challenges which needed the cooperation of many countries and nations. Although emerging security issues have been on the rise, defence and security cooperation among ASEAN member-states has faced with difficulties which demand us to think of new ideas for effective cooperation among ASEAN member-states and between ASEAN and outside partners, among which defence cooperation is very important.

Welcome Remarks

In his welcome remarks, Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh, on behalf of Ministry of National Defense of Vietnam, welcomed and thanked all the delegates from ASEAN defence and security institutions for participating the meeting. Lieutenant General Vinh acknowledged the importance and contribution of NADI and highlighted its role in generating reliable and prompt recommendations on defence cooperation to Track I meetings as ASEAN Defence Senior Officials Meeting (ADSOM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM).

Lieutenant General Vinh also briefed the meeting on recent progress and development of ASEAN defence cooperation in which adopted ADMM initiatives are under way of implementation while other new and significant initiatives are being forged and realized, most notably the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus). He also informed the meeting on the outcomes of the 16th ASEAN Summit where the leaders touched upon the establishment of ADMM Plus, sharing with each other the agreement that ADMM Plus was important in the building of ASEAN community in the sense that it helps ASEAN in capacity building and resources mobilization through the engagement with external partners. State leaders of ASEAN countries also agreed on the ADMM-Plus 8 configuration, its timely establishment and strongly supported Vietnam's hosting the inaugural ADMM Plus in 2010. There have been positive signals from perspective Plus countries on this matter. In the process of ADMM Plus realization, it is important to uphold ASEAN fundamental principles, especially the centrality of ADMM. In this regard, Lieutenant General Vinh underscored that NADI should further involve in the process by bolstering the cooperation among defence think-tanks and research institutes of the network so that relevant proposals should be made to ADSOM and ADMM.

Exchange of Views on Regional Security and Political Outlook and Emerging Regional Architecture

The meeting shared the view of Mr. Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in his presentation on Regional Security and Political Outlook. He stated that in recent years, there were significant changes in the global strategic landscape. The main changes were the rise of China and India, the US' re-assertion of its presence in Asia, Japan asserting its right as a "normal" state and its desire to be on equal status in the US-Japan security alliance as well as Russia's re-asserting its role and influence.

At the regional level, the ASEAN Charter which will enhance ASEAN as a more rules-based organisation, will continue to be recognised as a significant stable regional organisation which the major powers could engage and interact with.

All these new developments have resulted in the new power balance emerging in the Asia Pacific region in particular in East Asia. The Obama Administration has re-affirmed that the US was back in Asia, indicating that it would continue to assert its presence and role in the region. Though the US has been weakened by the recent financial and economic crisis, it nevertheless remains, in relative terms, the pre-dominant global power in the foreseeable future.

The rise of China is the most significant in view of its remarkable growth and economic strength and influence regionally and globally through its trade and investments, economic and technical assistance programmes and quest for natural and other resources.

The existing institutions or dialogue relationships like the ASEAN + relationships, EAS and ARF as well as the ASEAN Dialogue Partnerships, have enabled ASEAN to play a central role and as a driving force. These institutions and dialogues have made up the multi-layered architecture. But the ASEAN +3 and the EAS are the two prevailing institutions making up the regional architecture in East Asia. All these have contributed to a relatively peaceful and stable environment in the region. The Meeting believed that major conflicts or war are unlikely in the East Asia region.

The ADMM has recently adopted the ADMM-Plus idea which may be inaugurated in the near future. This will be a significant development as the ADMM-Plus will include the regional powers and certain external major powers with significant interests and relations with ASEAN. The ADMM-Plus will include eight ASEAN Dialogue Partners. The ADMM-Plus 8 would ensure ASEAN's centrality and would promote regional peace and security.

Singapore has recently proposed the ASEAN-Plus 8 idea which is another new layer of regional security architecture that could serve the purpose of engaging regional powers and certain major external powers which have strong interests and substantive relations with ASEAN. In parallel with the ADMM-Plus 8, an ASEAN Plus 8 could be the new regional architecture to discuss political and security cooperation, economic and other strategic issues. However the ASEAN Plus 8 would be at Summit level and it could be held back-to-back with the APEC Summit for reasons of convenience for the leaders of the major powers to attend the ASEAN Plus 8 Summit when the APEC Summit is held in an ASEAN country.

Prospects for Enhancing ASEAN Militaries' Cooperation

Mr. Ho Shu Huang, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, highlighted three key challenges. First, the ASEAN defence community needed to dispel the inaccurate perception that the region's defence establishments were disunited because the region is experiencing an "arms-race", even if the raw statistics suggested defence procurement had dramatically increased in recent years. Second, ASEAN militaries should carry out the work-plans that were already agreed upon at the ADMM and ACDFIM, and raise awareness of these activities through better information dissemination and publicity. Finally, fertile ground for continued defence cooperation within each country's defence establishment needed to be created through greater interaction and the transmission of ASEAN's values across all ASEAN defence establishments. Regional defence cooperation would be needed to tackle new regional challenges such as HADR that no single country can

manage it alone. ASEAN militaries should also educate their officials, from junior leaders up, relevance of ASEAN's values in the current and future strategic environment.

Enhancing ASEAN Defense Cooperation in Emerging Regional Security Issues

Sr. Col., Le Kim Dzung, Head of International Division, IMS, MND of Vietnam outlined the emerging traditional and nontraditional security issues in the region such as the territorial disputes on land and at sea, terrorism, piracy, natural disasters, climate change etc. He also indicated that the emerging security issues demand all members of ASEAN to enhance security and defense cooperation among the members as well between ASEAN and the outside partners. In spirit of ASEAN solidarity, ASEAN members should practice restraint and good control in dealing with any incidents. ASEAN should also exert mechanisms of conflict prevention which include mechanisms to prevent and solve the conflicts. Setting up mechanisms of law enforcement forces in the overlapped areas, disputed ones at sea or in land such as setting up of hotlines among ASEAN armed forces, and MODs in terms of settling any incidents, naval joint patrol etc. to terminate the factors which may lead to piracy, terrorism, transnational crimes, should be enhanced. Extension of successful cooperation between ASEAN and the outside partners in ARF and ADMM plus frameworks should be promoted to make sure that ARF and ADMM plus will be the main channels of regional defense and security cooperation. ASEAN should carry out joint research projects on defense cooperation among ASEAN members as well between ASEAN and the outside partners.

He suggested that heightening the effectiveness of the NADI is important in defense and security cooperation. The NADI members should establish a network of the NADI researchers (NNR) by which researchers can share information, exchange of views on security issues, and participate in the NADI meetings, seminars and workshops. The websites of the NADI members should be linked to the NADI website to heighten information sharing in the NADI.

Exchange of Views on ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

Senior Colonel Nguyen Duc Thinh, Senior Adviser on Multilateral Defence and security issues, Ministry of National Defence of Socialist Republic of Vietnam briefed the meeting on the progress of establishing the ADMM-Plus. The idea of an ADMM-Plus was mooted by the Chairman of the first ADMM as recognition that ADMM would need to have closer interactions and engagement with countries outside ASEAN. Since then, the ADMM made significant progress in evolving the concept of the ADMM-Plus. The second ADMM adopted the concept paper of establishing ADMM-Plus that outlines the principles and broad modalities for establishing the ADMM-plus. The 3rd ADMM also moved forward the development of the ADMM-Plus by adopting the Concept Paper on "ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership" which outlines a set of principles that governs admission of extra-regional countries into the ADMM-Plus. In further progress, the configuration and composition for the ADMM-Plus was discussed by the ADMM Retreat held in Bangkok in November 2009. The 16th ASEAN Summit held in April 2010 in Hanoi agreed with the ADMM Plus 8 and assigned ASEAN Ministers to realise this idea.

He further highlighted the role of ADMM Plus as an important component of the regional security architecture. The ADMM-Plus would serve as a platform for meaningful and

effective practical cooperation between ASEAN and extra-regional countries in areas of common security interest.

Dr. Tan See Seng, Associate Professor, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore further stressed the role and responsibilities of the ADMM-Plus. The ADMM-Plus would comprise 2 levels of cooperation including minister-level dialogue and practical cooperation. ADMM-Plus would enhance regional peace and stability, should focus on building capacity among ASEAN member states, and contribute to the realization of the ASEAN Political-Security Community.

In discussion, the meeting agreed that it was the time for the ADMM to engage with Dialogue Partners via the ADMM-Plus. The ADMM-Plus would promote wider cooperation to deal with regional security issues.

The meeting also agreed with the ADMM-Plus 8 configuration which would bring on board 10 ASEAN member countries and 8 Dialogue Partners namely Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the US. The meeting suggested ADMM-Plus not duplicate the work of the ARF.

The meeting had an exchange of views on ADMM Plus 8 and supported Vietnam to host the inaugural meeting of ADMM Plus in the year 2010.

Presentation on Common Strategy for Asia-Pacific Region

Major General Surasit Thanadtang noted that the Asia-Pacific region becomes more important to the global politics today than ever before and together with its growing importance there has emerged a number of factors that may pose as threats to security. Undoubtedly, there are various types of non-traditional threats to maritime security such as outbreaks of ethnic conflict, problems of identity, the contagious impact of economic crises and related issues of governance and institutional development, increasing awareness of the seriousness of environmental degradation, and the problems caused by resource scarcity in the context of poverty and the population explosion. These challenges have obviously threatened and severely jeopardized the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

In his viewpoint, it is necessary to lay the appropriate framework for drafting a common strategy which eventually enables countries in the Asia-Pacific region to effectively tackle the linked vulnerabilities of non-traditional security issues in a coherent and coordinated manner. Such a strategy must be built upon a context and values of a long-standing positive engagement of all key stakeholders in the region, the fundamental of openness, inclusion and mutual prosperity. It must address interlinked aspects among factors including policy and regulation, human capital and other resources concerned. In addition, the trend toward cooperative mechanisms seems inevitable and, in particular, the political environment of the region appears especially propitious for the development of a framework for security cooperation by implementing under the contexts of regional arrangement. More strikingly, the engagement of a broad range of actors including the national authorities and the local population in a long term effort must be essentially emphasized.

He concluded that the “Regional Arrangement for the Emerging Challenges” can be accomplished, only by enhancing mutual understanding on the meaning and creating the concrete framework at both the national and regional level. The role of military to use capabilities and assets to help tackle the Non-Traditional security challenges should be focused more on learning from each other, particularly on the basic experiences in preventing any mismanagement, the specific areas of interest and what can be done to facilitate coordination, while the Common Ways of the ‘Common Strategy’, or ‘Means’ and the clarification of the blurring lines between civilian and military capability to be integrated in some parts. In this regard, valuable military joint concepts such as synergy, interoperability, and team working should be pursued for further concrete result. Moreover, the Command Post Exercise (CPX) should be more extensive and oriented more to confidence building.

Presentation on Maritime Security

In his presentation on “South East Asia Maritime Security Challenges: Indonesian Perspective”, Col. Dr. A. Yani Antariksa said that the continued growth in international commerce has been accompanied by growth in the use of the maritime domain for criminal and terrorist’s purposes. Estimated future maritime security challenges faced by ASEAN which range from transnational threats, including maritime terrorism, sea piracy, illegal migration, refugees and human trafficking, disaster relief, smuggling, illegal fishing, pollution and destruction of ecosystem, have spawned a multitude of additional “out of area” operational roles for regional navies, and have dramatically increased the maritime security challenges of the South Asia region.

Incidents of piracy, maritime crime, and terrorism tend to be concentrated in areas of heavy commercial maritime activity, especially where there is significant political and economic instability in the region and little or no maritime law enforcement capacity. Terrorism in the maritime domain provides opportunities to cause significant disruption to regional and global economies. Some terrorist groups have used shipping as a means of conveyance for positioning their agents, logistical support, and generating revenue.

Dr. A. Yani stated that another challenge to overcome is the gaps in cooperation, capabilities and enforcement. Littoral states, which had experienced the domination of colonists, were reluctant to authorize warships or ships of other States to patrol or exercise in their maritime territories due to sensitive issues on their sovereignty and jurisdiction. Thus, any proposal on maritime security cooperation is unlikely acceptable to some states if it seemed to conflict with their sovereignty and jurisdiction. In addition, since ASEAN is not a solid organization in the area of security, most maritime security and defense forces lack the capabilities and capacities to maintain timely and accurate maritime situational awareness, and automatic tools to identify and prioritize relevant and actionable information to avoid information overload.

Dr. A. Yani also said that transnational challenges in nature ignore political boundaries. The agenda has ranged from traditional security concerns to non-traditional ones such as terrorist activities, drug and weapons trafficking, smuggling of goods and people, illegal fishing and environmental degradation. Maritime security threatens the economic growth and welfare of the ASEAN member countries and their people. Countering these threats and challenges

requires consistent cooperation between the states affected and the associated maritime agencies.

Dr. A. Yani proposed such possible areas of cooperation among ASEAN militaries to manage above-mentioned threats as enhanced information sharing, interagency cooperative frameworks through bilateral and regional arrangements, implementation of international laws and standard of security measures such as ISPS code, strengthening of the capacity of national law enforcement.

At operational level, coordinated patrol among Navies, hot pursuit arrangement, developing standard operational procedures and inter-operability, exchanges in port security measures, the use of advanced technology, establishment of Maritime Electronic, establishment of Auto Track Information System for ship, establishment of focal points, tactical training and exercises should be carried out.

Climate Change and Impacts on National Security

Lieutenant (Navy) Proscoro Ervin Mundo, Office of Strategic & Special Studies, Armed Forces of the Philippines indicated that there are three processes through which climate change could cause social instability and conflict: intensification of natural disasters, increasing resource scarcity, and the rise of sea levels. Climate change is a primary challenge to development and human security, which could stop or reverse developmental achievements and threaten livelihoods.

Climate change acts as a catalyst for economic and political instability, social fragmentation, migration and inappropriate responses by the host governments. Climate change issues have been threat multipliers for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world. “The link between climate change and national security are worthy of concern in their own right, and because some significant climate change is inevitable, strategies that go beyond long-run efforts to rein in greenhouse gas emissions are required.”

In seeking for appropriate responses to the global climate change phenomena, institutions, effective governance, and disaster risk mitigation measures by communities play a key role in reducing the vulnerability of the people through managing the unavoidable changes in the environment (adaptation) and avoiding the unmanageable (mitigation) though numerous legal, physical and spatial preventive measures.

Responding to the transnational security consequences of climate change will require ASEAN countries to support policies that will insulate the region as well as other countries in the Pacific from the most severe effects of climate change.

Guest speaker’s presentation on the role of ASEAN in the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and prospect for Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea

Ms. Luan Thuy Duong, Director of Strategic Institute, Diplomacy Academy noted that tensions over the East Sea (South China Sea) seemed to be on the rise. At the same time, fear is rising as the fundamental conflicts over islands, maritime space, and resources have not

been resolved. There's also the raising concern when interest in harvesting hydrocarbons from the area grew dramatically.

Facing the potential instability, the Declaration on Conduct (DOC) was reached with the compromise from both sides: ASEAN and China. However, the DOC exposed many substances that would render the document not as effective as they had expected. For long-term and sustainable peace and stability in the region, ASEAN needs to achieve a more legal agreement as ASEAN's wish to move towards a Code of Conduct (COC) which remained out of reach. ASEAN needs to continue its efforts for the COC.

Towards the COC, there have been many factors hampering but also there are some positive factors and implications from the process of reaching the DOC. Several suggestions were raised referring to political-security and military/defense cooperation within ASEAN.

Mr. Nguyen Hung Son, Researcher, Strategic Institute, Diplomacy Academy argued that the East Sea is at the heart of South East Asia. A peaceful and stable East Sea is fundamental to peace, stability and prosperity throughout South East Asia. There has been new developments to both traditional, non-traditional securities issues in the East Sea, and new security issues are emerging, including energy and food security, climate change and rising sea level, environmental protection, security and safety regarding fishermen in the East Sea, new aspects related to safety of sea lines of communication etc. Although several bilateral and multilateral mechanism are in place to manage these security issues, further cooperation are needed. Possible paths for regional cooperation could be: (i) to enhance the observance and implementation of ASEAN's various instruments such as TAC, DOC etc.; (ii) to enhance the ARF confidence building measures and step by step moving onto preventive diplomacy; (iii) to further utilize other ASEAN led mechanisms such as ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, EAS and any new mechanism to engage dialogue partners in the areas of common interest.

Exchange of Views on how to increase the effectiveness of NADI

The meeting appreciated RSIS for launching the NADI website (<http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nadi>) in July 2009 and managing it effectively. It is suggested that the NADI members could link their websites to the NADI website. Researchers of the NADI core institutions were also encouraged to provide their commentaries and academic papers relating to defence and security for inclusion in the NADI website.

Other Matters

As suggested at the 2nd NADI meeting, Mr. Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, RSIS, Singapore, informed the Meeting that RSIS hosted the Workshop on Maritime Security in July 2009. Malaysia informed that the Workshop on Peace-keeping Operations would be hosted by Malaysia in October 2010.

The meeting also agreed with Thailand's proposal to host the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Workshop in 2011.

The meeting agreed that the fourth NADI would be hosted by Indonesia in April 2011.

Concluding Remarks

The representatives of ASEAN think tanks and defence institutions expressed their sincere appreciation to the Institute for Military Strategy and the Institute for Defence International Relations of Ministry of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements, which ensured the success of the third meeting of the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions.

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Annex B. Agenda of the 3rd NADI Meeting

- (1) Opening speech by Lt. Gen. Associate Professor Tran Thai Binh, General Director, Institute of Military Strategy, Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam
- (2) Welcome remarks by Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh, Deputy Minister of National Defence of Vietnam
- (3) Exchange of views on regional security and political outlook.
(NADI participants could briefly give their views on regional security and political outlook and the challenges facing the region)
- (4) Prospects for enhancing Asean Militaries' cooperation to manage regional security issues and to suggest recommendations.
(Participants could exchange views on how the Asean Militaries could cooperate to manage emerging traditional and non-traditional security issues including on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HARD) and piracy)
- (5) Exchange views on role of ADMM Plus, especially in regional security cooperation.
(Institute for Defense International Relations could update the NADI participants on the concept of ADMM Plus and its composition, and its role and function in regional security as well as the progress made in regard to ADMM Plus's establishment. NADI participants could discuss and suggest ideas for the role of ADMM Plus in regional security)
- (6) Indonesia representative presents about maritime security issues. The Philippines representative presents about impacts of climate change to national security. The Guest Speakers present about the role of ASEAN in DOC and the building of COC; security issues in the East Sea and regional cooperation.
- (7) Heightening the effectiveness of the NADI
- (8) Other matters
 - (a) Follow up to NADI Meetings' recommendations including on holding of seminars/workshops
 - (b) Venue for 4th NADI meeting
- (9) Wrap-up session to consider draft report of the 3rd NADI meeting and adoption of the report
- (10) Concluding remarks by Lt. Gen. Associate Professor Tran Thai Binh, General Director, Institute for Military Strategy