

### **NADI Retreat Chairman's Statement**

1. The inaugural NADI Retreat was held on 3 September 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The Retreat was facilitated by Mr. Muhammad Shahrul Nizzam Umar, Acting Director of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS) and Chairman of the NADI. In attendance were the Heads and representatives of the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI).
2. The Retreat discussed the recently held ADMM and ADMM Plus meetings, including the Joint Declarations. In this regard, the NADI members were briefed on the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM that was held on 7 May 2013 and the ADMM Retreat and 2<sup>nd</sup> ADMM Plus Meeting on 28 and 29 August 2013 respectively.
3. NADI members also discussed the ADMM's progress in enhancing regional security through strategic dialogue and practical cooperation, and exchanged views on the future direction and prospects of ADMM cooperation. Among others, the Retreat exchanged views and observations on the ADMM and ADMM Plus processes, as follows:
  - a) The ADMM must continue to be proactive in the process and actively participate in its cooperation in order to maintain ASEAN centrality. This could also include further efforts to communicate its achievements clearly.
  - b) There is a need to continue and deepen cooperation in the current six areas of cooperation, especially in HADR as it provides a platform for stronger confidence building measures, but necessary mechanisms should be in place to facilitate HADR.
  - c) The non-traditional security (NTS) cooperation is an important basis for further cooperation in other areas and there is a need to bolster cooperation within the NTS at different levels. This would require more dialogue to promote mutual understanding and build confidence among ASEAN member states.
  - d) The discussion on traditional security should remain under the diplomatic domain as it impinged on sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was highlighted how tensions over traditional security issues such as the South China Sea should not overshadow other wider areas of NTS cooperation which are important for promoting peace and security in the region.

- e) The readiness of the ADMM to discuss traditional security issues such as managing and preventing conflicts by reducing vulnerability to miscalculations, and avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea, is a welcome progress in the ADMM process.
  - f) There is a need to avoid gradual erosion of ASEAN unity. In this regard, the high level of appreciation of ASEAN in regional security environment is important and the publication of the ASEAN Security Outlook is a good step towards a common appreciation of regional security. In addition, ASEAN must encourage positive incentives for ASEAN member states to cooperate with each other, and Ministers must be proactive in strengthening ASEAN solidarity.
  - g) Interoperability between defence and military officials should remain the main principle in the ADMM and ADMM Plus cooperation. In this regard, the exchange of views on experiences and sharing of best practices could be intensified, to promote cooperation.
4. The Retreat also discussed on NADI's future work programme including NADI's Two Year Work Programme which included workshops and collaborative efforts between NADI members. NADI's future work programme aims to support the work and priorities of the ADMM and ADMM Plus process. It was noted that, between 2007 and 2013, a total of six annual NADI meetings and eight workshops had been conducted. NADI members agreed on the following:
- a) It is important for NADI to be positioned in such way that it becomes relevant to, and can influence, the ADMM process. There has to be recognition of NADI inputs into the ADMM discussion process. In this regard, NADI is ready to look into areas of importance to the ADMM and undertake requested studies by the ADMM, as and when required.
  - b) Consultations between NADI and ADSOM should take place as a recurrent process, to generate fresh and forward thinking ideas for discussion at the ADMM and ADMM Plus meetings. Such consultations may involve the past, current, and future Chairmen of NADI as well as the NADI Secretariat.
  - c) NADI members are encouraged to promote the work of NADI in their respective Track I process.
  - d) The Retreat will tentatively be held every two years, with the frequency being reviewed in the future when the need arises. The next Retreat will be held in Malaysia sometime in May or June 2015.

- e) The NADI two-year work programme and its associated activities are divided into clusters, namely Maritime Security, Peace Support Operations, New and Emerging Security Issues, and Defence and Strategic Issues. The Retreat also noted the upcoming activities planned for 2014 and 2015 to be hosted by NADI members.
  - f) As a way forward, the Retreat agreed to build on past workshops and encourage collaboration through joint papers between institutions on a voluntary basis. The joint papers should be concise and be focused on policy recommendations which would supplement and complement the Chairman's report on workshops conducted. These papers should value-add to the Track 1 process.
  - g) In this regard, the Retreat welcomed the offer by the Strategic Studies Centre, Thailand to provide a concept paper for a joint paper in preparation for the Workshop on ASEAN Community 2015: Integration of the AEC, APSC and ASCC to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
  - h) The NADI members also acknowledged that the planned Workshop to be hosted by Indonesia on ASEAN Community: Challenges and Opportunities beyond 2015 will focus on assessment of ASEAN Community in 2015 in particular the APSC. This will build upon the workshop to be conducted by Thailand in 2015.
  - i) In addressing the NTS areas of research, NADI may explore interoperability among defence and military in terms of prevention, preparation, mitigation, response and rehabilitation, with emphasis on the role of defence and military establishments and interface between civilian and military establishments.
5. The Retreat took note of respective institutions' activities and welcomed the invitation to the:
- a) BRIDEX Conference, 1 - 2 December 2013 in Brunei Darussalam which will be followed by the BRIDEX Exhibition held from 3 - 5 December 2013.
  - b) Asia-Pacific Security Conference, 10 - 11 February 2014 in Singapore which will be held back-to-back with the Air Show held from 11 - 16 February 2014.
  - c) Putra Jaya Forum, 14 - 15 April 2014 in Malaysia which will be held back-to-back with the Defence Services Asia (DSA) held from 14 - 17 April 2014.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ADMM**

The NADI Retreat Meeting held on 3 September in Brunei Darussalam agreed to put forward the following recommendations to ADMM for their consideration:

- Strengthen ASEAN's centrality through the ADMM's proactive role as the primary driving force in regional defence cooperation, including with its Dialogue Partners.
- Continue to work on the agreed six areas of cooperation in the ADMM with emphasis on HADR and also to look into areas which need to be implemented such as cooperation on search and rescue operations.
- Look into new areas of cooperation including the impact of environmental hazards to defence and security such as climate change and trans-boundary haze, cyber security, human security such as cross-border or trans-border cooperation, aviation security and biosecurity.
- In view of the new areas of NTS cooperation, ADMM may wish to consider raising the number of EWGs to eight so that there will be participation by all the Plus members as co-chairs in the EWGs.
- Continue to look into both traditional and non-traditional security issues which are under the purview of the ADMM
- The ADMM should be more proactive in communicating through the media all its achievements.
- Encourage the ADMM to consider NADI inputs and recommendations and suggest that they be reflected in the ADMM's annual report or official documents.