

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) Workshop on Strengthening Strategic Security Cooperation in ASEAN

**27 – 30 March, 2013
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand**

Introduction

The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) Workshop on “Strengthening Strategic Security Cooperation in ASEAN” was organised by the National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI) of the Royal Thai Armed Forces at the Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 27-30 March 2013.

Welcome Statement by General Chusak Meksuwan, Commanding General of NDSI

1. General Chusak expressed his delight in participating at the opening of Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions Workshop on “Strengthening Strategic Security Cooperation in ASEAN” and welcomed all distinguished guests. Traditional and non-traditional security concerns posed challenges to ASEAN members in the political and security fields. NADI therefore had an important role to play in making proposals to the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM).
2. General Chusak noted that NADI Workshops have two distinctive features. The Workshops allow discussion on a range of defence and security issues. NADI Workshops are also conducted in an informal atmosphere, allowing the free expression and exchange of ideas. He looked forward to the fruitful outcomes of the Workshop and declared open the Workshop.

Round Table Meeting on “Conceptual Framework of ASEAN Security Cooperation Strategy 2015-2019”.

Chairperson: Major General Chaianan Jantakananuruk, Director of Strategic Studies Center (SSC)

3. The Chairman expressed his hope that everyone would enjoy a useful exchange of ideas in the Workshop. It was proposed to have a further Workshop on the topic of an ASEAN Strategy, a draft of which has been circulated to all participants and other relevant stakeholders.

Session I: Conceptual framework of ASEAN strategic Security Cooperation Strategy 2015

4. The presentation on Conceptual framework of ASEAN strategic Security Cooperation Strategy 2015 by Colonel Nared Wongsuwan, Director of Strategic Studies Division, SSC. He highlighted the aim is to develop a strategy based on input from all parties and shared on how the strategy was developed.

Changing Security Challenges

5. The world is facing changing security challenges in society and community, as well as the pace of change in security challenges. Civil society and the private sector are now also involved in national security. These security challenges also include human, national and global security. No agency can manage these issues alone, and there is a need to develop comprehensive and cooperative security.

Strategic Environment of ASEAN Community Scanning

6. The history of the ASEAN community was outlined from the Hanoi Action Plan onward. The ASEAN Charter and its three pillars, the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) are based on respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of member states, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in member states' internal affairs, and the right to live without external interference.
7. APSC envisages a security environment based on a rules-based community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security; and a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world.
8. The elements of APSC include promoting an understanding and appreciation of political systems, culture and history of ASEAN Member States; establishing a programme for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member States in the development of strategies for strengthening the rule of law and judiciary systems and legal infrastructure; promoting good governance; the promotion and protection of human rights; adjusting the ASEAN institutional framework to comply with the ASEAN Charter; promoting ASEAN maritime cooperation; conflict prevention/confidence building measures; strengthening ASEAN humanitarian assistance; and strengthening cooperation in addressing non-traditional security issues, particularly in combating transnational crime and other trans boundary challenges.
9. The ASEAN Economic Community strategy will be realized in 2015 based on a single market and further integration into the global economy. This will increase the likelihood of security problems in terms of illegal business and non-traditional security threats.
10. ASCC deals with a number of issues, including building an ASEAN identity, which is as yet unclear; and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA), which has a clear security dimension.

11. The ADMM has signed a Joint Declaration on Strengthening ASEAN Defence Establishments to Meet the Challenges of Non-Traditional Threats, and adopted three key security-related documents (Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR); ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and ASEAN Defence Establishments, as well as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security.

Strategic Formulation Methodology

12. There is a need to first define ASEAN security interests, then to develop a vision, from which goals and objectives are derived, constituting a strategy.
13. Security interests have three characteristics: rule-based, shared norms and values; cohesive, peaceful, stable, resilient with shared responsibility; and dynamic and outward-looking. To achieve these goals, a strategy of comprehensive and cooperative security involving the following five areas: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; Maritime Security; Military Medicine; Counter-Terrorism; and Peacekeeping Operations, was proposed.

Session II: Political and Security Community's Strategy 2015

14. The five goals respond to the vision of a harmonious and secure community, living together in peace, with peaceful means of conflict resolution. Each goal has objectives to establish structures that are still evolving.
15. The Workshop considered the suggested vision and agreed on the need to define ASEAN security interests, followed by developing a vision, from which goals and objectives are derived, thus constituting a strategy for APSC.
16. The Workshop concluded with the recommendation that the APSC Strategy Vision would be as follow:
“A harmonious and secure community, living together in peace in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and the principles and norms of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation”.

Summary of Discussion

17. NADI Workshop participants shared the view that the APSC strategy 2015 should be more proactive in terms of preparedness and readiness; and need to be prioritised which would build on the APSC including the ADMM process.
18. It was also noted that in addition to the suggested five dimensions of the strategy; there are other emerging non-traditional security issues such as cyber security, biological security as well as transnational crimes. National focal points are needed in each country with national bodies responsible to ensure an effective response.
19. The Workshop also noted the proposal from Vietnam on demining as a new area for consideration. Several ASEAN member countries are still facing problems of unexploded

ordnance, mines and Agent Orange (Vietnam). As such, NADI Workshop participants agreed that a NADI Workshop could be held to discuss the measures to resolve these problems. Following this, the issue of de-mining could also be raised at the ADMM and with the ADMM-Plus, which has the expertise to assist in resolving these problems.

Session III: Goals and Objectives on 5 concepts of ADMM

20. The meeting exchanged extensive views on the five areas of the APSC Strategy 2015 Vision as proposed by Thailand which is attached in Annex 1.

HADR

On the issue of HADR, it was noted that greater coordination among the countries had to be achieved, and that ASEAN militaries could share information with each other in HADR-related issues. On the proposal for a Rapid Deployment Force, the meeting felt that it was unnecessary as existing mechanisms provided for individual ASEAN states to respond adequately. Greater emphasis instead should be placed in enhancing the capacities of individual ASEAN states to deal with HADR. The following objectives were agreed upon:

- a) To increase ASEAN's capability in dealing with disaster;
- b) To strengthen procedures and processes for related state; agencies and NGOs from each member country to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; and
- c) To promote cooperation to enhance capabilities of individual ASEAN countries for a rapid and effective response to an affected ASEAN country in need of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Maritime Security

On maritime security, the Workshop reiterated the importance of promoting greater understanding of maritime issues. Greater focus had to be placed on the safety of navigation as well as search and rescue missions. On territorial disputes in the South China Sea, it was agreed that claimant states should abide by the Declaration of Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the South China Sea, and the Code of Conduct (COC) when concluded, as well as in accordance with international laws. The following objectives were also agreed upon by the meeting:

- a) To promote understanding of maritime issues.
- b) To strengthen cooperation in maritime areas including safety of navigation and search and rescue among ASEAN member states.
- c) To expand cooperation and ensure safety of navigation along important Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOCs).

Military Medicine

On military medicine, the Workshop noted the importance of dealing with non-traditional security threats such as epidemics and natural disasters and to foster greater information sharing and exchange of experiences among ASEAN member states. The following objectives were being listed:

- a) To promote sharing of information and experience among ASEAN member countries;
- b) To strengthen cooperation framework in dealing with non-traditional security threats;
- c) To promote ASEAN approach in setting up medical units for HADR.

Counter Terrorism

On counter terrorism, the Workshop noted the existing strong networks of law-enforcement and intelligence agencies among individual ASEAN states and that greater collaboration on joint counter-terrorism capabilities could be fostered. The objectives listed were as follows:

- a) To strengthen mechanisms for exchange of intelligence among ASEAN member countries to prevent and counter international terrorism;
- b) To reinforce the existing network of related agencies among ASEAN member countries
- c) To enhance capabilities among ASEAN countries to counter international terrorism.

Peacekeeping Operations

On peacekeeping operations, the meeting noted that the consent of the host country was essential, in accordance with the principles of non-interference and sovereignty in the TAC. A more immediate objective would be to develop the capabilities and capacity of the individual countries, as well as to promote cooperation among the peacekeeping units in the ASEAN countries. The Workshop agreed on the following objectives:

- a) To share knowledge and experiences among ASEAN countries in peacekeeping operations.
- b) To enhance the capability in peacekeeping operations among ASEAN countries.
- c) To promote cooperation in peacekeeping operations among ASEAN member countries.

Exchange of Views on Future NADI Cooperation

21. The Workshop noted the first dialogue meeting with ADSOM Working Group Chairman at the 6th NADI Meeting as well as Brunei's agreement to inaugurate the NADI Retreat to develop new ideas and recommendations to further build on the ADMM process and its relations with the ADMM-Plus. It was also noted that NADI would also proposed more Workshops on specific areas relevant to the ADMM Track.

22. The Workshop noted new proposals were made to conduct more NADI activities including the following areas:

- Cyber security (RSIS, TBC)
- NTS Threats : Military role in enhancing Human Security (Human Trafficking, money laundering) (Thailand, TBC)
- De-mining : Involvement of ADMM-Plus (Vietnam, TBC)

Consideration of the Chairman’s Report of the Workshop on Strengthening Strategic Security Cooperation in ASEAN

23. The Workshop considered and endorsed the Chairman’s Report of the NADI Workshop.
24. The Workshop agreed that the Chairman’s Report of the NADI Workshop be submitted to the NADI Chairman for circulation to ADSOM.
25. The NADI Workshop members expressed appreciation for Thailand in hosting the NADI Workshop on Strengthening Strategic Security Cooperation in ASEAN during 27-30 March, 2013.

Closing Remarks by Lieutenant General Ruampon Meechoo-Arrth, Deputy Commanding General of NDSI

26. Lieutenant General Ruampon expressed his delighted in participating at the closing of Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions Workshop on “Strengthening Strategic Security Cooperation in ASEAN”. He also expressed his appreciation to all NADI’s members for intention and effort to create the strategic security cooperation in ASEAN strategy.
27. Lieutenant General Ruampon noted that the Chairman’s Report from this workshop will be presented to the ADMM meeting. He hoped that the outcome from this workshop will generate necessary motivation for proper posture and role of the security sector at all levels of cooperation in the near future.

29 March 2013