**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF
THE TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY
INSTITUTIONS (NADI) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON
"ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity"
28 April – 1 May
2025
Malaysia**

1.   The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) Annual General Meeting on "ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity" was organised by the Malaysia Institute of Defense and Security (MiDAS), Malaysia, from 28 April to 1 May 2025.

2.   Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attended the annual meeting. Lieutenant Jen Dato' Seri Haji Muhammad Huzaimi bin Sabri, Chief Executive, MiDAS Malaysia, chaired the Meeting.

Opening Remarks by Lieutenant General Dato' Seri Haji Muhammad Huzaimi bin Sabri, Chief Executive, MiDAS and Chairman of the NADI Workshop

3.   Chief Executive of MiDAS, warmly welcomed keynote speaker and all delegations to the NADI Meeting. He extended his condolences to colleagues from Myanmar and Thailand following the recent devastating earthquake and highlighted ASEAN's support for their recovery efforts. He outlined the meeting's agenda, which included discussions on enhancing ADMM's strategic role and harnessing emerging technologies to strengthen ASEAN unity. He encouraged participants to fully cooperate to produce valuable outcomes that would be presented to ADSOM and ADMM, urging them to approach discussions with determination and foresight. Addressing broader global trends, The Chairman noted that ASEAN was at a turning point amid intensifying great-power rivalries, escalating trade wars, and the weaponisation of economic tools. These developments, he warned, threatened ASEAN's centrality and unity, necessitating swift, decisive adaptation. He emphasized NADI's responsibility to advise ASEAN leaders on strategies for strengthening collective security.

4.   He further highlighted the complex security landscape facing ASEAN, including non-traditional threats such as climate change, environmental degradation, Cyber Security risk, and transnational crimes like human trafficking, drug smuggling, and terrorism. These challenges, he stressed, required coordinated regional responses to safeguard ASEAN's stability. On the opportunities presented by emerging technologies, The Chairman stressed that these innovations could strengthen ASEAN unity by fostering a shared technological

vision and regional collaboration, enhancing ASEAN's cohesion and global standing.

5.   Concluding his remarks, The Chairman expressed hope for fruitful discussions, acknowledged MiDAS's preparations since 2023, and officially declared the 21st NADI Annual General Meeting open.

Adoption of Agenda

6.   The Meeting adopted the agenda and the programme, which are appended in Annex I and Annex II respectively.

SESSION I – Keynote Address on ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity

Keynote Speaker: YBhg. Datin Roszanina binti Wahab, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia

7.   In her keynote address, Datin Roszanina binti Wahab, Deputy Secretary General in the Ministry of Defence Malaysia, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, extended a warm welcome to the NADI delegates and began by acknowledging the devastation caused by the 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar on 28 March 2025, offering condolences to Myanmar and Thailand, and praising the resilience of their people. She emphasised the importance of resilience during crisis and the value of sharing such experiences across ASEAN as well as on the ASEAN's swift humanitarian response, noting the deployment of Search and Rescue (SAR) and Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) from several ASEAN member states (ASM), supported by the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT). She commended the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) for leading the coordination, overseeing twelve relief flights using military aircraft from ASEAN countries. She detailed the flights from DELSA warehouses in Malaysia and the Philippines, along with the contributions by the Singapore Red Cross Society and Mercy Relief. She stressed that Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) remains a core focus of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM).

8.   Turning to future challenges, Datin Roszanina discussed how ongoing geopolitical tensions — including Sino-U.S. relations, the South China Sea issues, and developments in Myanmar — test ASEAN's unity. Despite this, she was confident ASEAN could navigate these challenges with strong internal support, especially under Malaysia's leadership. She outlined three focus areas for Malaysia's 2025 Chairmanship, namely maintaining regional stability by avoiding escalations, strengthening ASEAN's diplomatic influence through ADMM and ADMM-Plus followed by deepening collaboration through training programs, joint initiatives, and enhanced defence diplomacy. Datin Roszanina reiterated that Malaysia's strategy is rooted in

stability, influence, and cooperation, aligning with the ADMM 2025 theme, "ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity". She addressed criticisms of ASEAN by emphasising the importance of recognizing its internal dynamics, quieter achievements, and resilience. Using vivid analogies, she described ASEAN as a vigilant and adaptable "Tiger" responding to global economic tensions like U.S. tariff changes, with Malaysia, as Chair, promoting economic resilience through regional trade and diversification.

9.   Reflecting on broader global issues, Datin Roszanina emphasised several important points. She noted that the world's unpredictability demands constant reflection and adaptation, and ASEAN's geographic realities necessitate long-term cooperation among its members. She stressed the importance of cross-sectoral coordination—across defence, economy, culture, and education—for building resilience. Datin Roszanina also underlined the need for ASEAN to maintain neutrality amid great-power rivalries, and highlighted that collective action aligned with both national and regional interests is crucial. Finally, she stressed that preparing future generations is key to sustaining ASEAN's enduring strength and also praised NADI's critical role in linking research, industry, as well as policymaking to strengthen ASEAN's security and resilience. In conclusion, Datin Roszanina stressed the importance of ASEAN unity, resilience, and collective action through the ADMM framework.

SESSION II – Presentation on The Strategic Role of ADMM in Addressing the Complex and Diverse Challenges Facing ASEAN Unity

Brunei Darussalam

Presentation by Dk. Dr. Noor Hasharina binti Pg. Hj. Hassan, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, (SHHBIDSS)

10.   In her presentation, Dk. Dr. Noor Hasharina binti Pg. Hj. Hassan discussed the strengths of the ADMM in promoting ASEAN unity amidst the complex and diverse challenges. The ADMM has taken a pragmatic approach to defence collaboration, primarily tackling non-traditional security challenges while demonstrating a measured ambition in its regional objectives. The "consensus culture" provides certain advantages within the ADMM framework and ASEAN in general, however, adaptive mechanism may be considered to facilitate faster and assertive responses particularly in a time where regional security threats are evolving quickly.

11.   With the changing geopolitical landscape, the ADMM to reflect on their mechanisms or approaches to enhance the stability, unity and centrality of the regional bloc. There is a need for the ADMM to adapt in response to the rapidly changing global challenges, particularly emerging security threats. Several potential key strategies to enhance

ADMM's effectiveness in addressing global and regional security challenges include:

a. Enhancing Regional Resilience. Enhancement of soft and hard defence and security infrastructure through continued and more multilateral cooperation, whether through workshops, conferences, civilian and military training, financial aid during crisis and disasters, as well as disaster and risk avoidance mechanisms or alerts.

b. Adaptive Strategies. To explore adaptive strategies that can enhance ADMM's responsiveness to ASEAN's evolving security landscape, in particular to address the region's time-sensitive and complex security challenges. This involves identifying the type and scope of issues that warrant such strategies, and draw lessons from other regional or multilateral organisations on how they respond to such issues of critical importance while maintaining our ASEAN identity and unity.

c. Active Dialogue and Access to Regional and Global Security Networks. ASEAN must continue maintaining active dialogue and leverage its access to regional and global security networks (such as the ADMM and ADMM-Plus), to ensure strategic mutual trust and common understanding among member states and external partners to mediate tensions and promote peaceful resolutions.

Kingdom of Cambodia

Presentation by Lieutenant General Nem Sowathey, Deputy Director General, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs, Director of Sena Techo Unit, Ministry of National Defence, (GDPFA)

12. Lieutenant General Nem Sowathey emphasized the strategic role of ADMM in preserving ASEAN unity amid evolving security threats, ranging from geopolitical tensions and trade wars to climate-related disasters and technological disruptions. Since 2006, the ADMM has been pivotal in promoting open dialogue and coordinated responses through joint exercises and institutional collaboration. She underscored the growing significance of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus mechanisms as models of multilateral defence cooperation during a time of global uncertainty. These initiatives not only improve regional institutional capacity but also elevate ASEAN's standing in the international arena. Highlighting initiatives like the concept paper on military history for peacebuilding, she called for continued defence cooperation, solidarity, and inclusive dialogue to safeguard regional peace and prosperity. To strengthen unity and promote prosperity, she advocated for prioritized strategies and thorough assessments of internal challenges within ASEAN. Emphasizing on the importance of solidarity and mutual understanding among member states, she called

for win-win approaches to address internal conflicts and external pressures in order to maintain ASEAN unity, security and prosperity.

13. While stressing the importance of ASEAN unity in addressing contemporary security challenges influenced by internal and external factors, she provided several key recommendations for the ADMM's consideration:

    a.   Ensure that the ADMM remains a key agenda-setter in regional security discussions, especially with Plus countries.

    b.   The ADMM must evolve and adapt to confront both traditional and non-traditional challenges that could undermine member state security and unity.

    c.   There should be a stronger emphasis on contemporary issues such as climate change, cyber defence, and emerging technologies, including AI. Enhancing cooperation among member states' defence forces in addressing these issues is crucial.

    d.   Strengthening collaboration between civil and military sectors on interconnected issues is vital for collective action and shared resources, not only within the ASEAN defence sector but also among various cross-sectoral bodies.

    e.   The ADMM must adopt a firm and united stance on upholding ASEAN's centrality and principles in the face of external pressures, as well as maintaining a collective and neutral approach regarding its engagement with major powers to prevent internal divisions and enhance balanced partnerships.

Republic of Indonesia

Presentation by Brigadier General I Made Kusuma Dhyana Graha, Center for Strategic Studies, Research and Development, Tentara Nasional Indonesia (CSSRD,TNI)

14. Brigadier General I Made Kusuma Dhyana Graha, S.I.P, emphasised the strategic importance of the ADMM in addressing emerging security challenges driven by advances in information technology and AI. He pointed out that mechanisms such as ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE), the ADMM Cyber Security and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE), and ADMM-Plus play critical roles in boosting ASEAN's cyber readiness and closing technological gaps among member states. However, he also noted that geopolitical dynamics must be carefully managed. Strengthening internal cooperation and maintaining balanced relationships with major global powers are essential steps toward building an independent and sustainable technological security system, enabling ASEAN not only to resist evolving digital threats but

also to emerge as a leader in Cyber Security across the Indo-Pacific region.

15. Under his recommendations:

    a.   Expanding AOE's scope to include cyber threat and AI abuse monitoring through a new Cyber Threat Intelligence Sharing Platform.

    b.   Called for ACICE to intensify Cyber Security training and simulations, while establishing an AI research laboratory to develop regional defense technologies independent of external powers.

    c.   The ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Cyber Security promote ethical and regulatory standards for AI use in Cyber Security, including the creation of an ASEAN AI Security Framework to ensure transparency, limit misuse, and protect against digital threats such as disinformation and cyberattacks.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Ammala Phongphaekham Representative of Military Science and History Department, Ministry of National Defence, (MSHD)

16. She highlighted the vital strategic role of the ADMM in serving as a crucial platform for strategic dialogues, defence cooperation and confidence-building, reinforcing ASEAN's position as the central driver of regional defence diplomacy as well as bolstering ADMM's resilience and relevance amidst a complex security environment characterised by traditional and non-traditional threats, great power competition, and technological disruption. By adhering to the principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and engaging inclusively with dialogue partners, it allows the ADMM to fosters ASEAN Centrality and unity despite divergent strategic interests, particularly through its focus on non-traditional security issues that provide common ground for practical cooperation and reduce strategic mistrust.

17. Furthermore, she concluded that the ADMM strategically contributes to ASEAN resilience through capacity-building, interoperability, and information-sharing initiatives, including joint exercises under the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups. The existing ADMM's key initiatives exemplify ASEAN's growing collective response capacity and its commitment to self-reliance in addressing regional security challenges. To remain relevant and effective, the ADMM must uphold inclusivity and adapt swiftly to evolving security dynamics, and regularly assess its cooperative mechanisms to avoid duplication and to ensure resource efficiency.

Malaysia

Presentation by Mr. Ahmad Tajuddin bin Mohd Said, Assistant Director of Contemporary Security, Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS)

18. Mr. Ahmad Tajuddin bin Mohd Said emphasised that the ADMM, established in 2006, was designed to promote regional peace and stability through defence dialogue, cooperation, trust-building, and support for the ASEAN Political-Security Community. Since its inception, the security landscape has evolved significantly, with geopolitical tensions and non-traditional threats posing new challenges. Nevertheless, ADMM has achieved considerable success, notably through the creation of ADMM-Plus and its seven expert working groups, which have demonstrated effective defence cooperation. These initiatives reflect continuous policy innovation, capacity building, joint exercises, and coordinated responses, underlining ADMM's commitment to strengthening regional defence diplomacy.

19. Recognising the increasing need for greater ASEAN unity amid rising pressures, Malaysia put forward two key recommendations as follows;

    a. Developing the Defence Economy within ASEAN by drawing lessons from the economic sector to enhance defence industrial collaboration, particularly by supporting and strengthening the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration (ADIC). A stronger ADIC would contribute to building a more self-reliant and capable ASEAN defence sector.

    b. Incorporating cultural and youth diplomacy into ADMM's initiatives to address non-traditional security threats such as radicalisation and disinformation. By expanding the ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme (ADIP) to engage millennials beyond military circles, ADMM could foster a deeper sense of regional identity and resilience, using a "soft power" approach to complement traditional defence strategies and advance a more secure and united ASEAN.

Republic of the Philippines

Presentation by Miss Arielle Ann Nicole Lopez, National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP)

20. In her presentation, Miss Arielle Ann Nicole Lopez presented an

overview of the role of the ADMM that promotes regional peace and stability, trust and confidence, and provide guidance to existing senior defence and military official dialogues through dialogue and cooperation among ASEAN member states and ASEAN dialogue partners. She explained that ASEAN as a region has enjoyed a longstanding period of peace and stability in the absence of war. This can be attributed to the principles upheld by the association such as ASEAN centrality or unity. However, there is a rapidly growing issue on the relevance of ASEAN from external powers that continues to challenge its unity. The perceived lack of internal cohesion and neutral stand or even its muted support for its member states that suffered illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive actions of external actors raises doubt on the relevance of the association in ensuring peace and stability in the region. It cannot be denied that the main challenge to ASEAN unity is when we fail to uphold our very own principles as well. ASEAN's purpose is to unite the region against external threats and conflicts, however, the continued silence on matters and violations that affect member states of the association diminishes ASEAN, thus, it fails to uphold international law and norms that very much serve as the guiding principles of the foundation of the association.

21. She presented some recommendations moving forward as follows:

    a. ADMM should establish a collective position regarding regional threats, particularly addressing the illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive actions of China against the Philippines and other ASEAN member states. Despite differences in policy and threat perceptions, such actions are violations of the United Nations Charter.

    b. ADMM should strengthen ASEAN Regional Consciousness in Defence Education. Integrate ASEAN history, security architecture, and values into the defence curricula to hone shared regional perspective and lay the foundation for establishing collective actions.

    c. ADMM should create mechanisms to strengthen operational cooperation among member states, including the promotion of sub-regional cooperation among select nations. Such approaches would not diminish ASEAN unity but would enhance responsiveness to specific security challenges, promote coordination, and uphold regional peace and stability.

Kingdom of Thailand

Presentation by Group Captain Choosak Kasatewit, Director, Regional Studies Division, Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters

22. Group Captain Choosak Kasatewit highlighted that Southeast Asia

faced severe challenges in the past, particularly the competition between major powers during the 1960s to the 1980s. Southeast Asia not only overcame those challenges but also prospered due to its resilience. Today, Southeast Asia faces an increasingly complex security environment shaped by both traditional and non-traditional threats. As a result, ASEAN and its member states are encountering difficulties stemming from the following challenges highlighted by him as follows:

    a. Transition from a unipolar to a multipolar world: The global order is shifting from unipolarity to multipolarity, with the United States and China as the principal powers. Tensions between the two over issues such as trade war, and technological decoupling have exacerbated regional security challenges. Trade wars significantly disrupt the continuity of defense supply chains, leading to procurement delays, increased costs, and restricted access to critical components. Additionally, AMS may face increasing geopolitical pressure to align their technological acquisitions with either U.S.-NATO systems or China-Russia alternatives.

    b. Climate change: Many natural disasters are becoming increasingly severe, partly due to climate change. Southeast Asia is among the world's most vulnerable regions to natural hazards. These challenges are expected to trigger insecurities in food supplies and economic stability. It is projected that by 2027, Thailand will face water shortages and significant flooding events.

    c. Transnational criminal activities: The rise in transnational criminal activities, including drug trafficking and online scams, has directly impacted public safety and security. In this context, ASEAN defence establishments have the potential to support the efforts of law enforcement agencies, which hold primary responsibility for addressing such issues.

23. The ADMM serves as the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism within the ASEAN framework. It plays a strategic role in strengthening ASEAN unity by fostering trust, facilitating practical cooperation, managing external engagements, and institutionalising regional norms. To address the aforementioned challenges, the following recommendations are proposed:

    a. ASEAN should prioritize enhancing trade connectivity and collaborating on regional strengths, such as food security.

    b. AMS should engage in serious and structured dialogue to identify practical steps toward the development of an ASEAN defense industry, with the goal of achieving a certain level of strategic autonomy and technological self-reliance.

c. ASEAN Defence Senior Officials should participate in more candid strategic discussions regarding the challenges facing the region. While ASEAN's diversity may render some issues difficult to resolve, establishing a shared understanding of the strategic environment is essential for identifying actionable responses.

d. The ADMM should emphasise the exchange of disaster response experiences among ASEAN member states by utilising the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) to strengthen preparedness and support countries affected by natural disasters.

e. In response to transnational criminal activities, ASEAN defence establishments should promote cooperation in areas such as information sharing, patrolling, surveillance, and cyber operations.

SESSION III – Presentation on Harnessing Emerging Technologies to Strengthen ASEAN Unity: A Strategic Perspective from ADMM

Republic of Indonesia

Presentation by Brigadier General Elphis Rudy, Republic of Indonesian Defense University (RIDU)

24. Brigadier General Elphis Rudy emphasised that Southeast Asia, situated at the heart of the Indo-Pacific, has faced increasingly complex security challenges over the past two decades. These challenges stem from shifting geopolitical dynamics and the rapid emergence of technologies such as AI, autonomous systems, cyber capabilities, and quantum computing. The growing strategic competition between major powers, particularly the United States and China, has heightened regional tensions over territorial disputes and political crises, while technological advancements have reshaped the nature and character of warfare and security threats. Given this evolving landscape, he highlighted the necessity for ASEAN to strengthen its collective capacity and effectively incorporate emerging technologies into regional defence strategies through mechanisms like the ADMM.

25. The ADMM, along with its extended format ADMM-Plus, plays a pivotal role in fostering defence dialogue, building trust, and facilitating practical cooperation among AMS and their dialogue partners. ASEAN's existing defence initiatives, especially in Cyber Security, provide a solid foundation for integrating new technologies. He noted the recent adoption of the ADMM Joint Statement on Cooperation in the field of AI as a major step toward this goal. He recommended that ASEAN further expand its focus to other emerging technologies such as unmanned systems and quantum computing, using platforms like

the ASEAN Cyber Defence Network (ACDN) and the ADMM Cyber Security and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE) to drive joint research, best practice sharing, and capacity-building. Enhanced collaboration through the ADMM-Plus framework would also enable ASEAN to leverage global technological expertise, thus reinforcing regional security and strengthening ASEAN unity in a rapidly evolving strategic environment.

26. Under such circumstances, he then recommended three policies to address the challenges so that AMS can work hand in hand to promote ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity as follows:

   a.   Promoting ASEAN Education and Training Exchange Program on Emerging Technologies - This program aims to establish formal exchange programs for defence personnel to study and collaborate on emerging technologies among AMS. This will enhance their technological capabilities as well as foster a shared understanding and expertise on emerging technologies, including AI, unmanned systems, and quantum computing across AMS.

   b.   Promoting Interoperability Standards, Ethics and Regulations on the Use of Emerging Technologies - Technologies in Defence Sector among AMS ADMM should promote interoperability standards, ethics and regulations on the use of emerging technologies in the defence sector among AMS. Such standards, ethics and regulations are essential so that emerging technologies can integrate seamlessly during joint operations and exercises as well as build mutual trust among ASEAN defence establishments.

   c.   Establishing ASEAN Defence Research Hub on Emerging Technologies - In this regard, AMS are required to collaboratively allocate resources for joint research and development projects focused on AI, unmanned systems, quantum computing, and other emerging technologies. Such collaboration will facilitate innovation and reduce duplication of efforts. Joint ASEAN research initiatives on emerging technologies can facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Collaborative platforms for technology exchange can also support the transfer of knowledge and resources, enabling AMS to learn from each other's experiences.

27. He emphasised that emerging technologies present transformative opportunities for strengthening ASEAN unity and enhancing regional security. By leveraging these technologies and fostering deeper collaboration, ASEAN can reinforce its position as a global leader in defence innovation. Through the ADMM framework, ASEAN has the

ability to promote cooperation, harness technological advancements, and bolster its regional defence posture. Whereby, with implementing recommended policies, ASEAN can ensure a cohesive and resilient security environment that contributes to regional stability and prosperity. He also stressed that the integration of emerging technologies into the defence sector is not merely an option but a necessity for ASEAN's future security landscape. With sustained collaboration and a commitment to innovation, ASEAN has the potential to lead in the responsible application of AI, unmanned systems, and quantum computing in defence. The path forward, he noted, requires a steadfast commitment to cooperation, continuous learning, and a shared vision for a secure and prosperous future for the region and beyond.

Malaysia

Presentation by Professor Dr Adam Leong Kok Wey, Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM)

28. Professor Dr. Adam Leong Kok Wey highlighted those emerging technologies such as AI, Quantum Computing, and Autonomous Machines offer significant potential for both military and civilian applications. These technologies have demonstrated usefulness in fields including healthcare, Cyber Security, cybercrime prevention, and maritime and border security monitoring. Some have also proven their combat effectiveness in recent conflicts. Nevertheless, from the perspective of ASEAN and the ADMM, these technologies, when applied to civil and non-military purposes, could serve as powerful tools to develop cohesive strategies aimed at strengthening ASEAN unity.

29. Drawing on examples of past joint border security operations, such as the Malacca Straits Patrol (MSP) and the Trilateral Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the NDUM proposed leveraging emerging technologies to enhance future collaborative efforts. It was suggested that ADMM could initiate projects that incorporate autonomous systems, AI, and networking technologies for joint border security operations. This strategic direction could act as a catalyst to revitalize ASEAN unity, using technological advancements to strengthen cooperation and foster greater cohesion among AMS.

The Republic Union of Myanmar

Presentation by Brigadier General Win Bo, Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training (OCAFT)

30. Brigadier General Win Bo expressed sincere appreciation to AMS for their support following Myanmar's recent earthquake. He emphasised that ASEAN Unity built on trust, dialogue, and respect for sovereignty is vital in today's complex geopolitical environment. To strengthen this

unity, he recommended deeper consultations, joint initiatives, and promotion of a shared ASEAN identity. He highlighted the ADMM's key role in fostering regional peace, mutual trust, and practical defence cooperation. While the ADMM-Plus adds value, he cautioned it may strain unity if not aligned with ASEAN priorities. He stressed the importance of managing emerging technologies, which offer both opportunities and risks for regional security. He called for joint training, responsible technology use, and enhanced Cyber Security cooperation. These efforts, he mentioned, would reinforce ASEAN's unity, resilience, and leadership in regional security.

31. He highlighted that, the current emerging technologies present both significant opportunities and complex challenges for regional defence cooperation. The ADMM is committed to leveraging AI, cyber tools, and unmanned systems to enhance interoperability and coordination among ASEAN forces. Joint research, training initiatives, and innovation networks can strengthen trust and address shared threats. He acknowledged existing technological gaps but viewed them as opportunities for inclusive capacity-building. He stressed the importance of developing regional Cyber Security frameworks and ethical standards to protect ASEAN's digital space. The ADMM continues to lead key initiatives, including Cyber Security exercises, defence innovation dialogues, and confidence-building measures, to enhance transparency and unity. He underlined the importance of establishing a mechanism for the joint development and application of emerging technologies suited to regional needs, as well as conducting regular ASEAN- wide cyber defence and AI-enabled simulations. He further stressed the urgency of formulating a shared ASEAN code of conduct to guide the military use of emerging technologies in a responsible and coordinated manner.

Republic of the Philippines

Presentation by Brigadier General Joel M Paloma PA, Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management (OSSSM), Armed Forces of the Philippines

32. Brigadier General Joel M. Paloma, PA, stated that ASEAN is actively adapting its defence and security strategies to address both traditional and non-traditional challenges, with increasing attention on the proliferation of dual-use technologies that serve both civilian and military purposes. He noted that among the most significant technological advancements are dual-use technologies such as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), which play a vital role in both security and socio-economic sectors. The integration of UAS enhances capabilities in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), as well as rapid response in maritime and remote areas. However, the integration of UAS into ASEAN's Defence Cooperation is not without challenges. These include the absence of a comprehensive regulatory framework for UAS operations, technological disparities among

member states, and vulnerabilities to counter-drone measures such as hacking and jamming. He proposed that ASEAN can address these gaps by enhancing the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, supporting regional start-ups in UAS technologies through the ASEAN Start-up Initiative, and incorporating UAS advancements into capacity-building programs and joint training exercises under the ADMM Cyber Security and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE).

33. He further emphasised that as digital technologies continue to reshape the security environment, ASEAN must effectively integrate these innovations to tackle non-traditional security threats, particularly in the areas of disaster response, defence cooperation, and Cyber Security resilience. This could be achieved by updating the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics specifically for UAS, enhancing regional coordination through joint surveillance and military drills, and leveraging expertise from the private sector to strengthen ASEAN's collective digital security. In conclusion, he underscored that through the integration of UAS into ASEAN's strategic frameworks, the reinforcement of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), the prioritisation of capacity-building initiatives, and the support for innovation and start-ups, ASEAN can move toward standardised regulations, greater interoperability, technological advancement, and increased self-reliance, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth.

Republic of Singapore

Presentation by Mr. Muhammad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

34. In his presentation, Mr. Muhammad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman said that besides addressing the risks of emerging technologies, it should be explored how harnessing such technologies could support ASEAN multilateralism including in the areas of regional security and defence cooperation. Strengthening ASEAN unity and cohesion on initiatives involving new technologies is also crucial to better prepare AMS to weather the fallout from President Trump's reciprocal tariffs and the looming trade war between the US and China. He elaborated those collective efforts to harness technologies would shape confidence in the relevance of multilateral institutions such as ASEAN, which would impact unity among their member states.

35. He recommended that the ASEAN defence sector could articulate a conceptual framework that illustrates how existing efforts and new initiatives on emerging technologies serve strategic areas that are crucial to ASEAN unity:

     a.   First, the ADMM could explore how emerging technologies such as digital platforms may support defence diplomacy such

as cultural and personal exchanges among military officers.

b.   Second, the ADMM could explore how emerging technologies could enhance ASEAN institutional processes and capacity. This could include using commercially available generative AI and chatbots to enhance ASEAN military tabletop exercises and the browsing experience on the ADMM website pages.

c.   Third, the ADMM could explore how emerging technologies could enhance the preparedness and resilience of AMS. This could include using commercially available drones and 3D printers to manage a complex HADR environment; and using emerging technologies to enable regional efforts to monitor the Critical Underwater Infrastructure (CUI) environment in Southeast Asia and help ASEAN militaries support response efforts to disruptions affecting CUI.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Presentation by Senior Colonel Vu Cao Dinh, Vietnamese Institute for Defense Strategy and History (VIDSH)

36.   Senior Colonel Vu Cao Dinh, presented that over the past few decades, while ASEAN unity has been actively promoted and significant milestones have been achieved, the region continues to face challenges that could affect its cohesion. These challenges include economic development disparities and differing national interests among member states, great power competition in the region, as well as traditional and non-traditional security threats. He noted that, given its capacity and widespread application, AI holds the potential to influence ASEAN unity. AI may generate unreliable results concerning ASEAN, create difficulties in reaching regional consensus on AI standards and a code of conduct, present challenges to counterterrorism cooperation, and lead to risks such as an AI-driven arms race and strategic miscalculations.

37.   To leverage the advantages of AI while mitigating its potential adverse impacts on ASEAN unity, he proposed that the ADMM introduce cooperation initiatives aimed at promoting awareness, research, development, and application of AI in military and defence sectors. He also recommended the development of an AI governance framework to establish a legal foundation for responsible and trustworthy AI development in the defence sector. Additionally, he emphasised the importance of promoting collaboration with external partners in researching, developing, and applying advanced AI technologies to better prevent and respond to non-traditional security threats.

Exchange of views

38.   NADI delegates reaffirmed that emerging technologies are pivotal for

ASEAN security landscape. They fortify the regional security environment by addressing both traditional and non-traditional concerns such as HADR, climate change, transnational crime, terrorism, CUI monitoring, food security, cyber security and others. Overall, AI is key to boosting the region's preparedness, resilience, and security.

Recommendations

39. ADMM should respond to the rapidly changing global and regional security challenges by enhancing regional resilience with enhancement of soft and hard defences and security infrastructure. In addition to that ADMM should also continue maintaining active dialogue and leverage its access to regional and global security networks.

40. ADMM should establish a collective position regarding regional threats in accordance to the principles of Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) to maintain regional peace and security.

41. The ADMM should reaffirm military cooperation by leveraging emerging technologies in conducting joint patrols, border control initiatives, regional exercises, tabletop exercises, cyber security and other AI-supported defence activities. Platforms like the ASEAN Cyber Defence Network (ACDN) and the ADMM Cyber Security and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE) need to promote joint research, best practice sharing, and capacity-building among militaries in ASEAN.

42. ADMM should strengthen civil-military collaboration by promoting collaboration among military institutions, researchers, and the defence industry to drive AI innovation and enhance defence capabilities will boost the ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration (ADIC) and encourage Public Private Partnership (PPP).

43. ADMM should encourage youth engagement in AI and emerging technology spectrum such as ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme (ADIP) or ASEAN Youth Organisation (AYO) to address non-traditional security challenges like radicalisation and disinformation.

44. ADMM should conduct a comprehensive review of its existing policies on emerging technologies to ensure that they conform to the existing laws and ethical considerations, norms, regulations and best practices.

Other Matters

Forthcoming NADI Activities.

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

Date	Theme	Country	Via
17 - 20 June 2025	Meeting (Concretising Defence Industrial Cooperation in the Height of Geoeconomic Confrontations)	Philippines	Physical
26 – 29 Aug 25	Meeting (AI in defence: Potential and Challenges for ADMM Cooperation)	Thailand	Physical
Early Nov 25	Meeting (The Evolving Character of Warfare: Readiness and Adaptation)	Brunei Darussalam	Physical

Concluding Remarks

46. Lieutenant General Dato' Seri Muhammad Huzaimi, The Chairman of the NADI Annual General Meeting expressed his sincere gratitude to all delegates for their active participation over the two-day meeting. He highlighted Malaysia's honor in hosting NADI leaders and distinguished delegates from all AMS. He also took the opportunity to congratulate Vietnam on their 50th Reunification Day or Liberation Day, extending well wishes for peace and prosperity, and acknowledged the upcoming Labor Day celebrations. Lastly, he expressed that he is looking forward in meeting all delegates scheduled later in the year in Philippines, Thailand, and Brunei, expressing confidence that these gatherings would be equally insightful and engaging.

47. The NADI delegates expressed their appreciation to MIDAS for their hospitality and arrangements made for the NADI Meeting.