



ADMM 2012

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE 5th MEETING OF TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN
DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI)**

**"ENHANCING INSTITUTIONALIZED SECURITY COOPERATION IN ASEAN FOR A
HARMONIZED AND SECURE COMMUNITY"**

2-3 APRIL 2012, SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

INTRODUCTION

The fifth meeting of the Track II Network of ASEAN Defense and Security Institutions (NADI) was co-organized by the Department of ASEAN Affairs of the General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense of Cambodia and the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) at Borei Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, from 2nd to 3rd April 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by Major General Lay Chenda, Director of ASEAN Affairs Department, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense and Dr. Chheang Vannarith, Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) and attended by 37 representatives of defense and security think tanks and defense institutions from ASEAN countries. Lieutenant General Nem Sowath, Director General of the Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, attended the meeting as the Guest of Honor and delivered the opening remarks. The list of participants appears in **Annex A**.

We strongly support the chair of ADMM in strengthening regional security institutions and cooperation. We believe that under the theme of the 6th ADMM: "Enhancing ASEAN Unity for a Harmonized and Secure Community", Cambodia can push forward practical implementation of the ASEAN Political Security Blueprint and further strengthen the unity and centrality of ASEAN in open and inclusive security and defense cooperation mechanisms.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Opening remarks by Lt. General Nem Sowath
- Regional Security Outlook I
- Regional Security Outlook II
- Factors shaping regional security architecture
- Strengthening regional security institutions
- Assessment of NADI, ADMM and ADMM Plus
- Other Matters
- Drafting chairman's report and policy recommendations
- Concluding remarks by. Dr. Chheang Vannarith

The meeting considered and adopted the agenda and program, as seen in **Annex B**.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

In his opening remarks, Lt. Gen. Nem Sowath, Director General of the General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, extended his warm welcome and high appreciation to all delegates from ASEAN member states for supporting and making the 5th NADI meeting possible. Created in 2007, NADI has played an important role in contributing inputs on emerging security issues and strengthening regional security architecture. NADI retains its core characteristic as the neutral and unbiased think tank whose objective analyses are unrivalled in effectiveness. He mentioned that the increasing of the frequency of the ADMM-Plus meeting is necessary in promoting closer cooperation between ADMM and the Plus countries. He emphasized that traditional and non-traditional security threats are no longer separated but integrated as a comprehensive security, which requires holistic approaches generated from political, economic, security, cultural, social, and environmental realms. He stated that since our regional security issues getting more sophisticated, we need stronger engagement and dialogue among defense and security researchers. Opening remark appears as **Annex C**.

KEY SECURITY ISSUES

- In his presentation, Mr. Tan Seng Chye from RSIS, Singapore, provided as overview on regional security outlook as follow. Since US President Barack Obama's assumed the United States Presidency in January 2009, there have been significant shifts in the United States' foreign and defense policies, which have affected the global strategic landscape. There is a shift of political and economic influence to East Asia due to the financial and economic crisis in the

US and in the Eurozone. The US has enhanced its engagement with East Asia with the US “back in Asia” policy. The rise of China and the US’ enhanced engagement with East Asia have created new dynamics in the East Asia regional affairs including the appearance of rivalry for influence in East Asia by the two powers.

The US is concerned about China’s growing political and economic influence and its military modernization and the close economic cooperation among East Asia countries and their move towards an East Asian community and economic cooperation and integration through the ASEAN + 3 and EAS framework. The US is not involved in these regional cooperation. The US also viewed China’s military modernization and its military exercises in the South China Sea as a possible challenge to US dominance and its military primacy in the future. The US enhanced engagement with East Asia especially the US’s involvement in the South China Sea and its expressed interest to join the EAS at the ARF in July 2010 was to engage ASEAN and to counter China’s growing influence.

The maintenance of ASEAN centrality in ASEAN centric regional institutions is important for peace and stability in the region. ASEAN as the driver of the ASEAN centric institutions has contributed to regional peace and stability and economic growth. However, ASEAN was concerned that at the inaugural meeting of the expanded EAS, the US had not respected ASEAN as the driver of the process in the ASEAN-centric institution and instead took the initiative to set the agenda to focus on political and security issues. The expanded EAS has created new dynamics that could affect ASEAN centrality and in focusing on political and security issues, big power rivalry could emerge. US-China relations in important for regional peace and stability. It would appear that the US-China relations would be a competitive one for regional influence and this would be especially so as the US has enhanced its engagement with East Asia to maintain its dominant role and military primacy in the region.

- Following the presentation, the meeting also discussed the US engagement with the Asia Pacific region, the rise of China and India, and middle powers like Japan and Australia which are changing the regional security landscape. The increasing strategic competition and rivalry between China and US raised tension in the region that could affect peace and stability. ASEAN centrality in the emerging multilateral and multilayered regional security institutions is the key to managing the power rivalry among the big countries so that peace and stability can be assured.

- ***Water resources security and food security***

Scarcity of water and food is a non-traditional threat to ASEAN countries and is a serious issue that needs to be dealt with multilaterally. Water resources depletion threatens to reduce food supply. Factors inducing ASEAN water and food crisis include population growth, rapid urbanization and decrease agricultural productivity, climate change, depletion of aquifers, water pollution, and water mismanagement. Water and food crisis impacts ASEAN population in a variety of ways including malnutrition, depriving health, damage to biodiversity, vegetation and wildlife and the threatening of water shortages to reduce food productivity and the ASEAN development. Especially, water and food security can bring about conflicts among ASEAN countries and lead to regional instability.

Proposals made on water and food security strategies for ASEAN countries are as follows: (1) allocation of appropriate and adequate water resources to all users and sectors at the national and regional levels; (2) efficient and improved water use and consumption, and food production; (3) increase of local, national and regional water management efficiency; (4) maintenance of natural and human-induced water sources in good condition; (5) provision of water sources that meet basic requirements for agricultural and domestic consumption; (6) awareness creation of the importance of water resources and efficient utilization; (7) participation of public and private organizations in the management of water resources and food demand/supply; (8) collaboration on research for alternative fresh water sources and water supply for food production; and (9) strengthening regional institutions in managing transnational water resources.

- ***Maritime security***

The Asia-Pacific region is confronted with a number of maritime security challenges, especially non-traditional security issues such as: piracy, transnational organized crimes, natural disasters, and environmental degradation and other related issues. In order to effectively deal with maritime security issues, countries in the region should implement a variety of synchronous solutions, focusing on the following: Firstly, every country needs to strictly comply with the rules of international law, including UNCLOS 1982. Every country should have more willingness and responsibility in settling disputed issues. ASEAN member states should observe the DOC and strive to conclude the COC. Secondly, disputes at sea should be resolved through peaceful means and negotiations. Thirdly, military cooperation among ASEAN countries needs

to be strengthened. The forms of cooperation should be diversified and the effectiveness of cooperation should be improved. The armed forces of ASEAN member states should cooperate to conduct exercises in search and rescue. Lastly, cooperation in scientific research should be enhanced, especially in maritime security issues.

- ***Disaster relief and management***

ASEAN currently faces many security challenges in the form of natural disasters. ASEAN has established the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Center (AHA Center), ASEAN Agreement on Disaster and Emergency Response (AADMER), ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX); however, until now the implementation of emergency responses has not been effective.

It is proposed that every ASEAN country produces a disaster contingency plan, Response/Action Plan, Standing/Standard Operating Procedure to implement ASEAN SASOP and AHA Center Guidance base on the potential disaster in their country. ASEAN Disaster Relief Operation Initiative (ADROI) could reduce the vulnerability of disaster. ASEAN Countries have to enhance training, joint combined civil-military exercise with the real scenario focused on to the contingency plan in order to avoid formality, drill and simulation also spend a lot of money and time without any outcome.

- ***Drug trafficking, human trafficking, transnational crimes, and terrorism***

Drug trafficking continues to pose security concerns in the region. In order to respond to the rise of drug trafficking, ASEAN needs a comprehensive mechanism of cooperation and to deepen practical cooperation. Recent developments have shown a rise in drug trafficking, human trafficking and terrorism. All these threats pose formidable challenges to regional security. In response to such issues there is a need for ASEAN to establish a comprehensive mechanism to deal with such challenges.

- ***Cyber Security***

There is a need for a collective action to look at the problem of jurisdiction and lack of harmonization of laws related to cyber security in ASEAN countries. The presence of such harmonization would enable effective prosecution of cyber criminals. ASEAN needs to build cooperation and networks for intelligence reports, on a voluntary basis, among member-

countries, including governments and private sector cooperation. This is to increase intensive research on the security of the region's cyber infrastructures to minimize duplication of efforts.

FACTORS SHAPING REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

- Globalization and economic-interdependence determine international relations and state behavior. Economic competition and cooperation remain the fundamental thread of economic diplomacy. The recent global financial and economic crises have created security risks and instability.
- Nation states recognize and emphasize the core value of regional and global institutions in addressing security issues and challenges.
- Rivalry among major powers in the region is influencing the regional security environment.
- The influence of major powers and concerns over nuclear security in the Korean peninsula.
- The emerging non-traditional security threats may influence and shape the regional security environment.
- Non-state actors are increasingly playing significant role in changing security environment.
- Internal security issues in some countries can be complicated and unpredictable. In addition, leadership and regime changes in some countries can impact on the direction of the current regional security institutions.
- Military modernization and capabilities build up in the region.
- The concept of ASEAN centrality and ASEAN connectivity.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

- In the emerging multi-polar environment in East Asia, maintaining the central role of ASEAN with one voice and one vision is the key for regional peace and stability. ASEAN has to strengthen its central role in the process of shaping and managing the ASEAN centered multilateral security mechanisms such as ARF, ASEAN Plus, ADMM Plus, and EAS.
- There are complex and transnational security challenges which are beyond the capability of ASEAN countries to handle alone. Therefore, ASEAN need to strengthen regional defense and security cooperation and also enhance existing practical cooperation and development possible cooperation in defense and security.
- ASEAN should enhance closer cooperation and solidarity.

- Translating the APSC into the national defense and security policy of the member states of ASEAN with clear guidelines and action plans.
- Identify overlapping security cooperation areas within the existing regional security mechanisms in order to tailor them into a more effective, coordinated, and integrated mechanism.
- The expanded EAS has provided the neutral platform for the major and middle powers to meet and cooperate. However, if the expanded EAS were to focus on political and security issues, it would affect ongoing economic cooperation and integration in East Asia. ASEAN centrality needs to be maintained.
- In order to enhance the role of ASEAN, it needs legitimacy and involvement. ASEAN has engaged with major powers and gives them legitimacy to participate. The participation of the major powers strengthens security relevance of ASEAN.
- Enhance security cooperation within the ADMM Plus framework while maintaining the central role of ASEAN. ADMM Plus should remain open and inclusive.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Tan Seng Chye, on behalf of the NADI Secretariat, gave an update on the work of NADI since the 4th NADI meeting in Jakarta. He mentioned that the NADI website has been updated regularly. The NADI workshop on HADR was held in June 2011 by Thailand and the NADI Workshop on Aviation Security was held in February 2012 by RSIS in Singapore.

The NADI Workshop on Maritime Security will be hosted by Indonesia from 8-10 May 2012 in Bali, Indonesia. Brunei will host the NADI Workshop on the future trajectory of ASEAN cooperation with the dialogue partners in EAS and ADMM Plus in October 2012. The NADI Workshop on Security and Development will be hosted by Malaysia in the first quarter of 2013.

The NADI Secretariat also pointed out that at the last NADI meeting in Jakarta, it was agreed that NADI membership will remain as it is with no non-NADI participants. NADI also agreed to host a NADI retreat so as to allow more time for representatives of the core NADI institutions to discuss and work out longer term plans to provide fresh ideas and recommendations to ADMM.

Brunei will host the 6th NADI meeting in March 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Chheang Vannarith appreciated the delegates for their active participation and contribution in a frank, open and constructive manner.

All delegates extended their sincerest appreciation for the arrangement and hospitality of Cambodia in chairing the 5th NADI meeting.