

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF
THE TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND
SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI) WORKSHOP ON PEACE, CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

19 – 20 AUGUST 2015
THISTLE RESORT, PORT DICKSON

1. The NADI Workshop on Peace, Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution, organised by the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS), was held at the Thistle Resort Port Dickson from 19 – 20 August 2015.
2. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended the workshop. The list of participants that attended the Workshop appears at **Annex I**. Lieutenant General Datuk Dr. William Stevenson, the Chief Executive of MiDAS chaired the Workshop.

Chairman's Welcome Remarks

3. Lieutenant General Datuk Dr. William Stevenson welcomed NADI members to the workshop and expressed his pleasure in hosting the workshop. The Chairman congratulated Singapore on their recent 50th anniversary and Indonesia on their 70th anniversary that fell on the 9th and 17th August respectively. He formally acknowledged the presence of all Head of Delegations and entourage to this workshop. He mentioned that the philosophy of moderation which Malaysia initiated is widely accepted by the leaders now as an ASEAN value that promote peace, security and development.
4. He reiterated that threats to a nation can come in many forms, from religious extremists to cyber terrorists, and the risk of conflict between nation states in particular ASEAN member states seems remote. Nevertheless, security relationships can be tested with the pressure over contested maritime territories which have intensified in the last few years. He believed that we must embrace greater cooperation in addressing some of the security dilemmas that we are facing and it is therefore appropriate that this workshop on Peace, Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution of sharing their experiences, thoughts and knowledge among ASEAN member states to make peace and conflict resolution in any disputes in the ASEAN region can be referred to in the future. Lieutenant General Datuk Dr. William Stevenson also expressed his hope that the suitable recommendations and outcome of the workshop will be forwarded to ADSOM for ADMM consideration.

Adoption of Agenda

5. The meeting adopted the agenda for the Workshop as attached in **Annex II**. The programme for the workshop appears as **Annex III**.

Guest Speakers' Presentations

Presentation by Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar bin Tengku Mohamed – Malaysia's representative to the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Advisory Board on 'Conflict Management'

6. Tengku Ab Ghafar stated that Malaysia has been involved in numerous Peacekeeping operations since the 50's. Malaysia has played a pivotal role in the many international conflicts across the globe particularly in the prevention of further escalation of conflict as well as in support of peace operations under the UN banner. Presently, Malaysian troops and support elements are still involved in Peacekeeping operations in Lebanon and at the same instance maintaining their presence in Southern Philippines. He mentioned that presently there are many threats like radicalism and extremism such as the IS and these can turn into major problems in this region if the root causes are left unchecked.
7. As a former Head of Facilitator in the Mindanao conflict, he mentioned that the conflict in Mindanao might have a residual and spill over effects in the region and in particular to Malaysia. He cautioned that no two conflict can be similar in nature. The spill over effects of a conflict can and may create more problems than solutions to neighbouring states and that it is sometime more prudent to be involved directly in the conflict by assisting the local government as mediators in the spirit of ASEAN.

Presentation by Professor Dr. Mohd Kamarulnizam bin Abdullah – Dean Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government on 'Managing Contemporary International Conflicts'

8. Prof Dr. Mohd Kamarulnizam shared his views on conflict management by stating that conflict is unavoidable but manageable. In his view, peace building and conflict management are similar in nature and there are no permanent peace in the international 'arena', hence it will depend on what kind of conflict and the parties involved. He believed that conflict can be managed and there are three types of conflict namely conflict between states, conflict between state and non-state actors and conflict between two non-state actors.
9. He also stated that conflicts can be managed through settlement, resolution and acceptance of ideas depending on the willingness of the conflicting parties. Lastly, he stated that a new conflict management theory has been widely

accepted that can be termed as 'conflict transformation' of civil society by encouraging confidence building measures amongst all involved and the conviction that the peace process will benefit all parties thus reducing the escalation and further deterioration of the situation.

Country's Presentation

Presentation by Dr. Norhermy Hidayat Ahmad Sah, Research Officer, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

10. Dr. Norhermy gave a presentation on Brunei's experience in conflict management and resolution. Dr. Norhermy sought to share Brunei's experience in maritime dispute with reference to Brunei/Malaysia overlapping EEZ claims. The dispute reached an amicable solution as the two countries are now under partnership to jointly develop the formerly disputed area. Dr. Norhermy also highlighted the potential risks of miscalculation, tension and conflict in Southeast Asia maritime domain due to increased military capabilities and complexities of the maritime environment. Dr. Norhermy underlined the importance of ASEAN's code and guidelines in regulating behaviours at sea. Dr. Norhermy identified two ways of minimizing and preventing conflict in the maritime domain: first, by fostering confidence and trust through cooperation in non-traditional security issues and second, by preventing conflict in the SCS through mechanisms to avoid escalation and miscalculations at sea. Dr. Norhermy shared Brunei's experiences or involvements in ASEAN maritime security cooperative measures with reference to ADMM-Plus EWG on Maritime Security and ADMM Direct Communication Link.
11. Dr. Norhermy recommended to promote better understanding of maritime security issues including the continuing sharing of information and views on the importance of maritime domain to each member states. ASEAN can also publish an equivalent of ASEAN Security Outlook with specific focus on maritime security issues. This can be done either in Track I or as NADI's own research product.

Presentation by Colonel Sam Sophea, Chief of ASEAN Regional Forum Affairs, Department of ASEAN Affairs, on 'Peace, Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution: A Cambodian Case Study'

12. Colonel Sophea portrayed following the fall of Khmer Rouge regime in January 1979, Cambodia's armed conflict had not been ended. Efforts to resolve the conflict in Cambodia range from external intervention to internal actors. The UNTAC's mission failed to secure full peace and unity in this country because the Khmer Rouge boycotted the UN-supported election in 1993 and continued military attack against the de jure government. In the late 1998, the prolonged

armed conflicts were successfully resolved by the Cambodian government's so-called 'Win-Win' policy, which dismantled the Khmer Rouge's last stronghold without bloodshed and integrated the separatists into the mainstream society.

13. Although UNTAC's mission did not indeed fully secure peace on the ground, it contributed to transformation of the conflict and formation of a democratically-elected coalition government. The 'Win-Win' policy put an end to the long-standing conflict through integration of some former Khmer Rouge leaders and soldiers into the mainstream society. Since late 1998, Cambodia has fully obtained peace, national reconciliation, and development after almost three decades of civil war. It is believed that trust and confidence-building contributed to the success of termination the conflict in Cambodia. In this sense, frequent and sustainable communication and clear messages with certainty and assurance can lead to trust and confidence-building. Today trust and confidence-building measures are constantly emphasized and used in many arenas such as ASEAN and ASEAN Regional Forum. The implication of Cambodia's peace-making experience through its unique 'Win-Win' policy could serve as a model of conflict resolution in other settings.

Presentation by Colonel Cahyono Cahya Angkasa, Director of Military Operation Other Than War, Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defence Forces (TNI), on 'Conflict in Ambon'

14. Colonel Cahyono illustrated that the Ambon people who were Christian majority and followed by Moslem, had for centuries lived together in peace and harmony, and this has made Indonesia a model state on living in peace and harmony and inter-religious tolerance in the world. Unfortunately it all ended with the outbreak of the inter-faith conflict in several areas, including in Ambon which has tarnished Indonesia's image. The conflict which can be broadly divided into four (4) stages, ended after the government approached the warring parties and offered them peace talks. After a long and rigorous debate, the warring parties agreed to bring peace and signed the Malino II Agreement in February 2002. However, this did not put an end to the conflict in Moluccas. The conflict between the two camps still continues to occur, although the intensity is not as high as before the signing of the Agreement. There are three causes to the Ambon conflict, firstly, the weakening of the traditional power structures, economic lameness, and the impact of the New Order reign; secondly, the immediate cause due to the economic crisis, the process of decentralization and democratization; thirdly, the cause that triggered the conflict, consisting of local political rivalries and gang criminal's activities as well as leaflets and dark pamphlets.
15. The prolonged Ambon conflict has caused deep trauma and economic losses among residents in Ambon. To resolve the conflict, the national government

had taken some conflict resolution measures, namely, the declaration of a State of Civil Emergency; conducting military operations other than war (MOOTW) in the form of security restoration operation; undertaking mediation efforts for reconciliation; establishing a National Independent Investigation Team for the Maluku conflict; and the implementation of strict enforcement. The Ambon conflict ended in February 2002, when the Malino II Peace Agreement was signed by the warring parties. However, the lessons learned from the Ambon conflict resolution include the simplest problems such as issues or disputes that occur in a pluralistic society, if could not resolved properly and thoroughly, will develop into communal conflict affecting national integration. The Ambonese people are easily provoked due to the demographical conditions, the relatively low level of public education, the gaps between the rich and the poor, lack of access to economic resources and limited infrastructure including information facilities. Not every conflict could be resolved by using the approach on security aspects alone, but it requires a comprehensive approach involving all national and local components. Mediation that has been used in the reconciliation to resolve the conflict in the Moluccas, could be use as a model for conflict resolution that occur in other regions.

Presentation by Colonel Dr. M. Adnan Madjid, Head of Peace and Conflict Resolution Study Program Indonesia Defence University (IDU), Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia on 'Experiences and Best Practices'

16. Colonel Dr. Adnan believed that in strengthening ASEAN cooperation and networking, ASEAN member states can maintain and manage their sea resources by focusing on establishing sovereignty over sea-based food products, improving the regional shipping industry, logistics and maritime tourism, as well as building our maritime defence powers together. In crafting one regional ASEAN conflict management and conflict resolution, the ASEAN Way of non-interference is the basis, as any foreign involvement can be invited as mediator. A regional standby force may be formed that can be maintained and deployed in need of crisis. In addition, we need to enhance: communication and recognise local conflict resolution model, including joint statement and joint solidarity mission; increase strategic leadership, especially for women for future capacity building; communication network; training and education especially for girls and women; research and policy making for creating social model for sustainability; women's role in maritime development, especially in facing the security dynamics in South China Sea; regional and international cooperation for the prosperity of people.
17. He offered some lessons learnt in conflict management and conflict resolution through cultural networks that have been established all these years with

modern approaches based upon local 'Southeast Asia' wisdoms and certain cultural and traditional characteristics of ASEAN countries.

Presentation by Brigadier General Visay Chanthamath, Director General of Science and Military History Department of the Lao People's Army on Xayaboury Mekong Dam

18. Brigadier General Visay Chanthamath stated that Lao is a landlocked country with large mountainous and undulating areas. Its green forests, undamaged nature and high volume of rainfall have made Mekong River the longest and most important river which stimulates the economy of Lao for generations, in terms of livelihood, fishery, agriculture, as well as transportation. In order to help boost its economic development, a hydro power station known as Xayaboury Mekong Dam, has been built to produce clean energy for both domestic use and export to neighbouring nations.
19. This project, however, has brought about a negative impact on food security, the re-location of the upstream population, loss of agricultural land and livelihood, and damaging the ecosystem and biodiversity. In response to the changing situation, he recommended that the local authority needs to work closely with the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS), so as to further strengthen cooperation with other related organisations to ensure sustainability of the environment as well as the livelihood of the local population.

Presentation by Brigadier General Win Maung, Defence Attaché, Military, Naval and Air Attaché Office, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

20. Brigadier General Win Maung expressed regret for his country's core institution absence in this workshop due to major floods in Myanmar.
21. However, he is grateful to the organisers for giving him the opportunity to participate in this workshop.

Presentation by Director Rolando G. Jungco, Executive Vice President, National Defence College of the Philippines (NDCP) on 'Human Security in the Bangsamoro Peace Process'

22. Director Rolando explained that the Bangsamoro struggle has been influenced by a number of variables including socio-economic deprivation, political marginalization, historical foreign intervention, and governance imperfections. The confrontation between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has become one of the most prominent human security issues in the

Philippines. The conflict has led to economic losses, human casualties and internal displacement, as well as prevalence of poverty and underdevelopment in Southern Philippines.

23. As it seeks to promote enduring peace and security in Southern Philippines, the Philippine Government's policies, priorities, and achievements have varied across different administrations. However, an increasing inclination towards the adoption of human security as a peace approach has been observed in the peace initiatives of different administrations. In these initiatives the Philippine Government has sought to: (1) enhance peace negotiations through the involvement of third-party peace mediators; (2) intensify socio-development projects with the cooperation of domestic and international development organizations; (3) promote personal and community security by institutionalizing mechanisms on the cessation of hostilities; and (4) embed human security in the peace process through a whole-of-nation approach that promotes the involvement of the academia, non-governmental organizations, local leaders, and the local population.

Presentation by Ms Sarah Teo, Associate Research Fellow, Regional Security Architecture Programme, IDSS, RSIS, Singapore on 'Peace, Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution in Southeast Asia: The ASEAN Way'

24. Ms Sarah Teo highlighted that the ASEAN Way of conflict management had been born out of Southeast Asia's history and ASEAN's origins. Encapsulated in key ASEAN documents such as the 1967 Bangkok Declaration, the 1971 declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality, as well as the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), these principles and norms of conflict management are: (1) respecting national sovereignty; (2) maintaining ASEAN neutrality; (3) enhancing interstate trust and confidence building; and (4) building political will towards economic cooperation. These four principles have effectively managed disagreements among ASEAN member states thus far, ensuring that tensions do not disrupt cooperative relations. In recent times however, the ASEAN Way of conflict management is being challenged by major power rivalry for influence in the region. This would negatively affect ASEAN neutrality and unity, and potentially disrupt interstate trust and confidence building.
25. To ensure that major power dynamics do not erode the ASEAN principles and norms of conflict management, which have served the region well over the past five decades, Ms Teo made the following recommendations:
 - i. To maintain ASEAN solidarity and unity amid the evolving regional dynamics, member states should adopt a regional mind-set to achieve common goals, even as individual countries continue to pursue their

national interests through bilateral relations. The pursuit of bilateral relations by individual ASEAN member states should not disrupt ASEAN-level cooperation. Major power rivalry in the region is affecting ASEAN solidarity and unity, posing a challenge to ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture.

- ii. ASEAN should continue to adhere to the ASEAN Way of conflict management, emphasising consensus, informality, non-confrontation and peaceful resolution of disputes. Member states should comply with the guidelines in the TAC, and encourage the non-ASEAN signatories to do the same.
- iii. ASEAN should boost its credibility by effectively managing tensions from disputes, or agreeing to put aside certain disputes where the political climate is not appropriate for their resolutions. The perception that ASEAN is a credible organisation in a stable region would help to enhance regional socio-economic growth, which would translate into geopolitical stability.

Presentation by Major General Chaianan Jantakananuruk Ph.D., Director of Strategic Studies Centre, National Defence Studies Institute, Bangkok, Thailand on 'Approach on Preventive Diplomacy, One of the Key Success in Conflict Management: A Case Study by the SSC'

26. Major General Chaianan stated that the principles of Preventive Diplomacy (PD) may be effectively implemented in many scenarios, in which ASEAN member states may further explore to maximize its full potential in resolving future disputes and conflicts. He highlighted that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) mechanism with the goals to preserve peace, stability, development and prosperity within the region through these three stage process as follows:

Stage 1: The promotion of Confidence Building Measures (CBM)

Stage 2: The Development of Preventive Diplomacy (PD)

Stage 3. Elaboration of Approaches to Conflicts

27. In the ARF mechanism, PD is regarded as the consensual diplomatic and political action taken by sovereign states with the consent of all to prevent disputes and conflicts, to help prevent such disputes and conflicts from escalating into armed confrontations and to help minimised the impacts of disputes and conflicts in the region.

Presentation by Major General Associate Professor Hoang Ky Lan (PhD), Deputy Director General, Institute for Defence Strategy, Ministry of Defence Vietnam on 'Conflict Management and Resolution by Peaceful Means'

28. Major General Hoang Ky Lan stressed that in recent years, the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region has remained stable. However, there are potential threats which may lead to armed conflicts, including disputes over sovereignty, land border, sea and islands, in particular, disputes over sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction, and other national interests at sea among countries. Disputes and differences have created tremendous impacts on mutual trust and understanding among regional countries, as well as other countries in the world. Therefore, settling disputes and differences and conflict management is a necessity for regional security which is of great interest to the international community, and in particular ASEAN.
29. He also mentioned that the aim of conflict management is to reduce risks of conflict. In order to prevent conflicts, it is necessary for countries to strictly observe principles of international law, bring into full play of cooperative mechanisms, strengthen confidence-building dialogues and resolving disputes through peaceful means, and promote cooperation among ASEAN member states' armed forces.

Presentation by Captain Yeow Ho Siong RMN, Director Traditional Military Affairs, CDSRC – MiDAS, Malaysia on 'The Conflict in Mindanao - International Monitoring Team (IMT)'

30. Captain Yeow's presentation was on Malaysia's participation in the peace process in Mindanao which was facilitated by Malaysia. The IMT was officially deployed on 10 October 2004 and the mandate was later extended until 14 July 2016. The IMT was instrumental in the successful negotiation process leading to the signing of the framework of agreement and cessation of hostilities between Government of the Philippines and the MILF. Armed hostilities have significantly reduced and the conflict areas are effectively contained allowing the peace negotiations to continue.
31. He also stated that assisting the peace process involving a Third Party can be an option. For the success of continuous peace he suggested the promotion of good governance through the participation of the conflict affected population and keeping at bay the saboteurs/detractors of the peace process, and lastly the political will of wanting peace in the region.

Discussions

32. The NADI delegates had an active exchange of views following the presentations. They noted that since its establishment, ASEAN has made significant economic and social progress and achieved prosperity because of the unity and close cooperation among the ASEAN member states. ASEAN is the most successful regional grouping. ASEAN has engaged the major powers in economic, social, cultural and functional cooperation and promoted peace and stability in the region. ASEAN was able to maintain its centrality in the multi-layered regional institutions architecture. ASEAN is considered an important platform in the regional architecture that has promoted peace and stability in the region.
33. ASEAN member states should look to the future and revive their political will to cooperate in order to achieve further progress and prosperity in the future. ASEAN has to maintain its unity and solidarity to face the challenges from the major power rivalry which has emerged in the region in recent times and not take sides. The US alliance of treaty allies and strategic partners to counter China's influence in the region, has affected ASEAN unity and solidarity. ASEAN must manage the South China Sea territorial disputes and not let them dominate the ASEAN agenda as portrayed by the media. ASEAN member states must not let their pursuit of bilateral issues affect ASEAN level cooperation. The South China Sea disputes would take time to resolve as history is a factor in the land and maritime boundary disputes. Perhaps ASEAN should adopt the approach of putting aside problems which cannot be resolved for the time being and not let them affect ASEAN level cooperation, as has been done in the past.
34. ASEAN member states should make greater effort to learn more about each other through greater contact to promote better understanding of each other's culture and language to foster closer relations and cooperation among the peoples of the ASEAN region.

Recommendations

35. The meeting proposed the following recommendations:
 - i. ASEAN member states are encouraged to continue to promote trust and confidence building measures such as the six areas of cooperation already identified – HADR, military medicine, counter-terrorism, maritime security, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian mines action.

- ii. Efforts should be made to promote trust and confidence among the peoples of ASEAN at all levels. The establishment of the ASEAN community with human centred or people centred development is one of the important methods of building confidence. ASEAN should further strengthen its effort to enhance greater economic progress and regional integration.
- iii. ASEAN should find an amicable way to resolve conflict peacefully through negotiation among member states and not let certain conflicts undermine the broader ASEAN interest.
- iv. In view of the complexities of regional maritime disputes, it is crucial to promote better understanding of maritime security issues including the sharing of information and views on the importance of the maritime domain to member states.
- v. The philosophy of moderation as an accepted ASEAN value should be translated into specific actions. This philosophy must be multi-faceted in addressing potential conflicts and security challenges.

Other Matters

- 36. When proposing future NADI workshops, the organising institutions should brief on the purpose, objective and expected outcomes of the workshop to enable other member institutions to plan their budget.
- 37. The NADI secretariat should be informed of changes in the NADI members institution for the purpose of updating the NADI members list.
- 38. The Meeting noted that the 'Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Maintaining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People' issued on 16 March 2015 acknowledged the role of Track II defence diplomacy as played by the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) in providing relevant inputs and recommendations in addressing emerging defence and security challenges.

Upcoming NADI Activities

- 39. The meeting was updated on future NADI activities as follows:
 - i. NADI Workshop 25 - 28 October 2015, Bali Indonesia (Topic: TBC)
 - ii. NADI Workshop March 2016, Kanchanaburi Province Thailand (Topic and dates: TBC)
 - iii. 9th NADI Annual Meeting, 8 – 11 April 2016, Lao PDR

- iv. NADI Workshop, August 2016, Lao PDR (Dates and Topic: TBC)

Consideration of the Chairman's Report

40. The meeting considered and endorsed the Chairman's report.

Concluding Remarks by Chairman

41. The Chairman expressed appreciation for the support and active contributions during the deliberations of the workshop.
42. The NADI Workshop participants expressed their sincere appreciation to Malaysia for excellent arrangement and generous hospitality in hosting the NADI Workshop on Peace, Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution.