

## **The 9th Tokyo Defense Forum**

### **Summary by the Chair**

### **(Tokyo, 20 October 2004)**

The 9th Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region (The 9th Tokyo Defense Forum) was held in Tokyo on 19-20 October 2004 as one of the events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Japan Defense Agency and Japan Self Defense Forces, with participation from twenty-two countries (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States of America and Vietnam) and EU which are members of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

The Forum was chaired by Mr Kenjiro Monji, Director General for International Affairs, Japan Defense Agency.

The agenda of the 9th Forum was three-fold: "Roles of Armed Forces in Peace-building" for Session I, "National Defense Policies" for Session II, and "Possibility of International Military Cooperation in Peace-building" for Session III.

#### **1. Session I: Roles of Armed Forces in Peace-building**

At the beginning of the session, Administrative Vice-Minister for Defense Mr Takemasa Moriya made a keynote speech on the efforts made by Japan Defense Agency and Japan Self Defense Forces for the stabilization of the international security environment. The speech touched upon the efforts made by Japan to ensure its security and to become a country which can respond more effectively to crises, and Japan's commitment to continue such efforts in the future. The speech also touched upon Japan's efforts to strengthen mutual trust and develop mutual cooperation.

The participants shared their view that the role of the military today is not limited to national defense, but also includes making continuous effort to stabilize the security environment and to promote peace and stability in a proactive manner.

Several participants noted that there are opportunities for the military to play its role not only during conflict and in post-conflict situation, but also in pre-conflict situations.

The participants, in particular, noted that there are increasing number of cases where military role is called for in various activities including peacekeeping operations and reconstruction activities. One participant spoke about his country's experience of having pursued reconstruction from the devastation by war.

Several participants underlined that peace-building is a concept which involves various sectors and has a long-term effect compared to peacekeeping or peacemaking. Several participants also noted that although the military can play an effective role, peace-building relates to various areas not only limited to the military and that civil-military cooperation is important. In this connection, the participants noted that the balance between civilian and military roles could change as the process of peace-building moves on.

Several participants also noted that UN peacekeeping operations can be carried out more effectively by including in the UN mandate both peacekeeping and peace-building.

## **2. Session II: National Defense Policies**

Several participants briefed on their respective defense policies including their effort by their respective forces in peacekeeping and post-conflict situations in light of recent regional and international

developments. Many participants pointed out that in light of the new security environment such as the emergence of new threats including terrorist attacks, proliferation of mass destruction, etc. defense capabilities and defense policies are being reviewed.

In this connection, the participants shared the view that in the changing security environment each countries' defense policies relate with each other more than before and that there are increasing area of cooperation in each country's defense policies.

Interest was expressed in the recent development in security and defense area in Europe. Several participants also stated that the progress is being made on the issue regarding Spratly islands under the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Several participants noted that recent rapid development of military technology has been promoting changes in international security environment and affecting security strategy of each country.

Several participants also stated that efforts are being made to ensure transparency in each country's defense policy through such means as publishing of white papers, and that such effort will contribute to creating stable security environment.

### **3. Session III: Possibility of International Military Cooperation in Peace-building**

The participants shared the view that there are many situations where countries need to cooperate in peace-building, and such situations will further increase in the future.

Several participants pointed out that because peace-building involves many actors other than the military, domestic coordination between relevant

government agencies and other bodies as well as international cooperation among various actors are important for successful peace-building operations. Several participants also pointed out the importance of multilateral as well as bilateral cooperation.

Several participants touched upon the significance of holding talks regularly and having joint exercises in order to facilitate mutual cooperation among military of each country which will contribute to the smooth operation in peace-building activities.

Several participants emphasized the significance of gathering and sharing best practices concerning the cooperation among different actors including NGOs in peace-building operations.

The importance of the role of the NGO was pointed out and the need for better cooperation between the military and the NGO was emphasized.

#### **4. Other**

The Chair referred to the outcomes of the 3rd Sub-committee held in January 26-27 this year, at which the participants discussed the "Fight against Terrorism" and "Maintenance of Maritime Security." The outcome of this Sub-committee was reported at the ARF-Inter-Sessional Group(ISG) on Confidence Building Measures(CBMs) in April 2004, in Myanmar.

It was agreed that the outcome of this Forum will be reported by the chair country at the next ARF-ISG on CBMs, which will be held on 26-28 October in Cambodia.

The participants welcomed that the fourth Sub-committee of the Forum will be held late next January in Tokyo.

The participants congratulated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Defense Agency and Self-Defense Forces, and expressed their satisfaction on the excellent and smooth organization of the Forum launched in 1996 as the important opportunity for direct dialogue on regional security among defense authorities.