

The 12th Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)
Summary by the Chair
(Tokyo, September 20, 2007)

1. Introduction

The 12th Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region) was held in Tokyo from September 19th to 20th 2007, with the participation of twenty-five countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, People's Republic of China, India, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore, Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States of America and Vietnam) and the European Union. The ASEAN Secretariat, ICRC and UN OCHA were also participants in this Forum.

The Forum was chaired by Mr. Masaru Tsuji, Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan.

The agenda of the Forum was "Efforts for Peace-Building in Peacetime", which was discussed in two sessions: Session I "National Efforts for Peace-Building in Peacetime" and Session II "International Efforts for Peace-Building in Peacetime".

Mr. Masahiko Koumura, Minister of Defense, Japan, made opening remarks with the participation of Mr. Akinori Eto, Senior Vice-Minister of Defense. In his speech, Mr. Koumura pointed out that there should be further discussion on international military and civil-military cooperation in peace-building, as agreed in the 6th Sub-committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum. He expressed the belief that the Forum would identify ways to supplement the shortcoming of existing efforts which no single country or international organization can fulfill.

The Chair pointed out that the issue of peace-building has been taken up in various multilateral fora, including the ARF Defense Officials' Dialogue and the 6th Sub-Committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum, which were held this year. He explained why we should further discuss international efforts for military-military and civil-military cooperation in peace-building, based on discussions in the 6th Sub-Committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum.

Mr. Yukinari Hirose, Director, International Policy Division, Ministry of Defense, Japan, briefed a summary of the 6th Sub-Committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum. This included discussions on instances of military-military and civil-military cooperation in peace-building.

2. Presentation by participants

(1) National Efforts for Peace-Building in Peacetime

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Thailand, and Japan made presentations on this topic.

The forum shared their experiences with national efforts for smooth peace-building process, including formation of specialized units and establishment of training centers. Participants also shared the view that extending national efforts to international efforts could be significant for international cooperation in peace-building.

Some participants explained that formation of special units for international operations would be useful for effective training and improvement of readiness. From this aspect, some participants noted that exchange of personnel in such units for sharing experiences and information would contribute to regional capacity building in peace-building activities.

Some participants pointed out that establishment of facilities, including training centers, could enhance the national capacity of peace-building efforts. Participants proposed the following efforts, in such facilities, to foster military-military and civil-military cooperation in peace-building:

- Conducting courses/seminars for civil-military coordination, international

- humanitarian law and standards of UN peace keeping operations.
- Receiving military personnel from other countries and civilian personnel from international organizations, NGOs, and relevant authorities.
 - Providing assistance for training in other countries such as sending experts.
 - Inviting instructors from civil actors including international organizations and NGOs.
 - Holding joint seminars with other countries and relevant civil agencies.

(2) International Efforts for Peace-Building in Peacetime

India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, European Union, UN OCHA and ICRC made presentations on this topic.

The forum reviewed the experiences of efforts for international cooperation in peace-building including seminars/meetings within the ARF framework and multinational exercises/workshops. Participants shared the view that promotion of international efforts in peacetime is useful for effective international cooperation in peace-building.

Some participants pointed out that the recent ARF initiatives such as seminars/expert meetings taken by the ARF participants such as Australia, India, Malaysia, New Zealand and Republic of Singapore could be useful in the promotion of a common understanding of peace-building and in improvement of the regional capacity for peace-building process.

Some participants noted that multinational efforts at the operational level, including joint training, exercises and workshops such as KHAAN QUEST hosted by Mongolia and MCAP (Multinational Cooperation program in the Asia-Pacific) hosted by Japan, are beneficial for regional capacity building and improvement of interoperability among regional countries.

The forum shared the view that cooperation with various civil actors including international organizations and NGOs is essential in peace-building activities.

Some participants pointed out that training for civil personnel, as well as

military personnel, is essential in peace-building. In this aspect, some participants also suggested that training with civil actors should be promoted, including through establishment of specific institutions for this purpose.

Participants underlined the importance of civil-military coordination, the role of impartial and neutral humanitarian organization, and the rule of law, including the application of rules of international humanitarian law in the context of peace-building activities.

Some participants suggested that a good understanding of the UN guidelines and the legal framework applicable to peace-building activities should be encouraged.

3. Closing Remarks

Participants agreed that discussions on efforts to promote international cooperation and civil-military coordination in peace-building should be deepened in various international fora including the ARF.

In this respect, participants shared the view that international efforts in the area of peace-building should be further pursued in the ARF framework. Some participants proposed that international efforts, such as development of best practice reference paper on peace-building, could be examined in the ARF meetings and other relevant fora.

Some participants suggested that efforts to catalogue various peace-building training and preparations being conducted by the ARF members would help alleviate duplication and identify any gaps in such works. It was also proposed that the sharing of lessons learned by countries involved in peace-building process would assist the ARF participants to prepare for future activities.

Participants hoped that the discussion conducted in this forum would contribute to the ongoing work within the ARF. It was agreed that the outcome of the forum would be reported by the host country to the next ARF-ISG on CBM/PD, which will be held in October/November 2007 in Brunei Darussalam,

and other ARF meetings.

Participants expressed their appreciation to the chair and the secretariat for organizing this forum which helped to deepen the understanding of the significance of national and international efforts for peace-building activities.

Participants look forward to the 7th Sub-committee of Tokyo Defense Forum, which will be held in January 2008 in Tokyo.