

**The 14th Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)
Summary by the Chair
(Tokyo, October 8, 2009)**

I. Introduction

1. The 14th Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region) was held in Tokyo, on October 7 and 8, 2009, with the participation of twenty-three countries (Australia, People's Republic of 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, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam). The European Union (EU) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also participated in this Forum.
2. The Forum was chaired by Mr. Hiroshi OE, Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan.
3. The focus of the Forum was twofold: "Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief" for Session I and "National Defense Policies" for Session II.
4. Mr. Toshimi KITAZAWA, Minister of Defense of Japan, made opening remarks. In his statement, Minister KITAZAWA expressed condolences to the victims of natural disasters that recently occurred in the region. He pointed out that every country needs to be prepared for prompt and appropriate relief operations for victims of natural disasters, and that it is essential for the international community to work together for disaster relief operations and to promote coordination among countries. He highly valued the efforts made by ASEAN countries through the ASEAN Defense Ministerial Meeting, and that the Ministry of Defense of Japan will cooperate and contribute positively to the establishment of a peaceful and stable security environment in the region on its own, as well as at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). He hoped that discussion during the 14th Tokyo Defense Forum served to develop deeper mutual trust among countries of this region and to promote regional

cooperation on areas such as disaster relief.

II. Session I: Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief

5. Participants expressed their sympathy to the victims of the recent major natural disasters in the region, and their hope for a swift recovery of those who suffered from damages as well as a speedy reconstruction process. The Chair touched upon the international cooperation on disaster relief in the region which has recently been conducted by some participating countries.
6. In response to the development of disaster relief cooperation in multilateral fora such as the ARF, the Chair proposed two main objectives for this Session: to identify lessons learnt from experience in international cooperation on disaster relief; and to contemplate on areas of further civil-military coordination in disaster relief.
7. Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam and the ICRC made presentations on this topic.
8. Participants raised the observation that disaster relief needs effective and efficient Civil-Military cooperation and coordination. Some participants pointed out the necessity to enhance translation of strategic objectives into both operational requirements and tactical implementation.
9. Some participants pointed out that public awareness, coordination of various actors down to the grass roots level, and integration of relevant agencies including local governments and NGOs have enabled them to take prompt, appropriate measures, during and post disaster periods.
10. Some participants mentioned the need to raise awareness among the local populace to reduce concerns about foreign armed forces. Vice versa foreign armed forces should be sensitive to the local populace affected by natural disasters when conducting disaster relief operations .
11. Some participants referred to the reservations of the people of the receiving countries to accept assistance from foreign armed forces. On the other hand, some noted that such feelings have lessened as economic and cultural exchanges increase, and such a problem may be lessened for some countries if

foreign military forces operate under a neutral flag such as that of the United Nations.

12. Some participants noted that foreign military forces often have a wealth of human resources and logistical capabilities, but they should not be considered as the first choice for engaging in humanitarian activities when other humanitarian actors are able to respond to disasters.
13. Some participants mentioned that it is necessary to consider measures to share know-how on disaster relief through training for capacity-building of the armed forces of each country. It was also pointed out by some participants that it was important to share lessons learnt in disasters expeditiously among various countries to save lives in future disasters. Modalities of these could be worked through in future discussions.
14. Some participants presented that the ARF-Voluntary Demonstration of Response on Disaster Relief has contributed to formal collaboration among countries to test the implementation of guidelines and procedures that would provide greater synergy in operation, and complementarity of existing national, regional, and international protocols.
15. Some participants observed that notwithstanding positive developments, there is a risk that creating additional structures and processes, procedures and other protocols could lead to unnecessary duplication and confusion. In this regard, some participants called for active measures to reduce duplication of processes and procedures, and supported adherence to the ARF Strategic Guidance and the Asia-Pacific Conference on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC MADRO).
16. Some participants noted the importance of military forces having Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for HA/DR, recalling that the Multinational Forces (MNF) SOPs are a useful model which ARF countries might follow.
17. Some participants welcomed the participation of other international organizations and UN agencies such as the World Food Program, as well as the ICRC in order to facilitate discussions in this Forum.

III. Session II: National Defense Policies

18. Australia, China, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste made comprehensive presentations on some recent major developments in each country's defense policies, including strategies against regional and global common security challenges, as well as on the latest defense white papers.
19. Participants recognized that to enhance transparency of each country's defense policies and capabilities is a significant confidence-building measure, which could lead to the prevention of conflicts caused by mistrust and misunderstanding. Participants also agreed that proper understanding of each country's defense intentions and capabilities, and frequent exchanges of this kind in sharing information will provide a basis for greater trust among countries.
20. Participants referred to their recognition of recent challenges for defense authorities, including emerging threats and diverse contingencies such as international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, failed states, transnational crime, maritime security, shifting distribution of economic, political and military power, economic crisis, global demographic change, climate change, natural disasters, epidemics, and environmental and resource pressures.
21. Some participants commented that in preparing White Papers they made use of a series of intelligence assessments and considered a range of views from ordinary citizens as well as associations, lobby groups, think tanks and the private sector.

IV. Closing Remarks

22. During the sessions, participants shared their respective national disaster management and coordination mechanisms, as well as experience and lessons learnt from recent disasters. They noted that such exchanges would provide useful reference to national efforts to build their own capacities.
23. The Chair believed that the discussion conducted in this Forum could contribute to the work within the ARF and to national efforts. He expressed his intention, as supported by participants, that the outcome of this Forum will be

reported by the host country to the next appropriate ARF meeting.

24. The Chair thanked all participants for their support and valuable contributions to the Forum. Participants expressed their appreciation to the host country for organizing this Forum to promote international cooperation on disaster relief and understanding on defense policies of participating countries.
25. Participants look forward to the 15th Tokyo Defense Forum, which will be held in autumn 2010 in Tokyo.