

**The 15th Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)
Summary by the Chair
(Tokyo, September 15, 2010)**

I. Introduction

1. The 15th Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region) was held in Tokyo, on September 15, 2010, with the participation of 19 countries (Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Singapore, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, the United States of America, 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: "The Role of Major Countries in Security Cooperation in the Region" for Session I, and "The Role of Defense Authorities in the Region" for Session II.
4. Mr. Toshimi KITAZAWA, Minister of Defense of Japan, made the opening remarks. In his statement, Minister KITAZAWA expressed condolences to the victims of the deluge which recently occurred in Pakistan. He highly valued the importance of the Asia-Pacific region, and stated 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. He expressed his hope that the discussions during the 15th Tokyo Defense Forum would serve to deepen mutual understanding among countries of the region.

II. Session I: The Role of Major Countries in Security Cooperation in

the Region

5. Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, the United States of America, and the European Union (EU) made presentations on this topic.
6. Some participants observed that to tackle common security challenges such as disaster relief, counter-terrorism, and maritime security, regional and international cooperation through information sharing and capacity building of developing countries is needed.
7. Some participants pointed out that non-traditional security issues have intensified and that the number of people who are impacted by non-traditional security problems is more than that of traditional ones. Developing countries expect support for capacity building in non-traditional security areas from major countries in the region. Also, expectation was expressed that harmonious and good relations among major countries are desirable in order for each country to be able to spare more effort for dealing with serious non-traditional threat.
8. Some participants pointed out that although there are some residual disputes and conflicts in the region, defense cooperation and exchanges particularly in non-traditional security areas should be promoted through enhancing principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, and a policy of peace, development and cooperation.
9. Some participants emphasized that defense has both military and non-military dimensions. In order to implement the regional cooperation, frameworks responding to possible security threats of all aspects in the region should be established.
10. Some participants noted that non-ASEAN states should improve relations and promote a sense of shared interest among them. Most importantly, avoid returning to cold war politics and cooperate rather than practice the use of confront each other.
11. Some participants noted that social economic issues such as smuggling,

illegal immigration, poverty and environment, should be carefully considered in order to maintain regional security, stability and prosperity.

12. Some participants presented that practical and concrete cooperation through workshops, training and exercises consolidate regional cooperation on non-traditional security issues. Such cooperation should be organized not only by defense authorities but also by cooperating with civil society.
13. Some participants stressed that Asia-Pacific countries should share responsibility to prevent and deter conflict, to promote open, transparent and equal access to global commons.
14. Some participants observed that anti piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden are successful, but there are still some issues to be solved through international cooperation: logistical challenges of fuel, vastness of the Somali Basin.
15. Some participants noted the importance of defense cooperation and exchanges among countries through bilateral, trilateral and multilateral frameworks in the region.

III. Session II: The Role of Defense Authorities in the ARF

16. Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Republic of Singapore, the United States of America, and Viet Nam made comprehensive presentations on this topic.
17. Some participants mentioned that the ARF enables defense authorities to share information on a broad range of security challenges and that the ADMM-Plus will be providing opportunities to focus on the core defense issues in the region.
18. Some participants emphasized that ASEAN defense establishments have an important role to support ARF defense cooperation as ASEAN is the

driving force in the ARF process.

19. Some participants suggested that supplementary roles between traditional security areas and non-traditional security areas should be established. The cooperation on non-traditional security areas including the enhancement of civil-government-military cooperation will become a foundation for trust in traditional security areas.
20. Some participants commented that the ARF will remain primarily a diplomatic process and has the potential to provide opportunities for cross-agency international cooperation, and that the ARF should make efforts to build regional interoperability across countries and agencies such as making Standard Operational Procedures concerning our common threats.
21. Some participants commented that defense authorities and militaries have a niche role in addressing many of the transnational security challenges. The ADMM-Plus has the potential to address specific agendas, and to translate the ideas discussed into practical action-oriented cooperation by defense authorities and militaries, which could in turn contribute to efforts driven in the ARF.
22. Some participants commented that the defense track needs a clear link to the overall ARF agenda along with the growing ARF per se; that the ADMM-Plus should drive the defense and security agenda within the region and provide the opportunity for defense authorities to realize the full potential of their role.
23. Some participants argued that ARF should be given priority on important security issues in the region that may cause instability. Disagreement and disputes must be solved on the basis of international laws and peaceful negotiation.
24. Some participants mentioned that the role of defense authorities is now playing a wider range, therefore the Defense Officials Dialogue (DOD) at the ARF should be able to make proposals and recommendations to the

ARF decision making process, and should have a role to discuss newly emerging security challenges such as climate change and cyber defense.

25. Some participants emphasized that traditional security issues should also be discussed at the ADMM-Plus, but some participants expressed an opinion of caution regarding the treatment of traditional security issues in ADMM-Plus. Some participants mentioned considering the fact that the ADMM-Plus is a defense ministerial meeting actual effect on non-traditional security issues should be promoted. However, some participants noted that the ADMM-Plus provided a platform for strategic conversation on security issues of interest, both traditional and non-traditional, and this would contribute towards a better understanding of the security issues we faced.
26. Non-member states of the ADMM-Plus expressed strong interests in the role of the ADMM-Plus.
27. Some member states of the ADMM-Plus pointed out that the first step of the ADMM-Plus should be to define its tasks as the only defense ministers' meeting in the region. It was also noted that as the ADMM-Plus was a new security forum, it must be given the space to grow so that the ADMM-Plus can identify its niche role in the regional security architecture.

IV. Closing Remarks

28. During the sessions, participants shared the view that regional security environment and future direction of defense cooperation should be discussed continuously in the Forum. They noted that such a Forum would provide food for thought for the further commitment of defense authorities to the ARF and for the division of roles between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus.
29. The Chair believed that the discussions conducted in this Forum would also contribute to the work within the ARF. He expressed his intention, as supported by the participants, that the outcome of this Forum will be

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

30. The Chair thanked all participants for their support and valuable contributions to the Forum. Participants expressed their appreciation to Japan as the host to organize this Forum for the promotion of regional defense cooperation and exchanges, and for the future direction of the role of defense authorities in the ARF.
31. Participants look forward to the 16th Tokyo Defense Forum, which will be held in Autumn 2011 in Tokyo.