

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)**  
**Summary by the Chair**  
**Tokyo, 31 October and 1 November 2012**

**I. Introduction**

1. The 17<sup>th</sup> Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region: TDF) was held in Tokyo, on 31 October and 1 November 2012, with the participation of 21 countries (Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, India, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 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, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, the United States of America, and Socialist Republic of Vietnam). Representatives from the European Union (EU) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also attended the Forum.
2. The Forum was chaired by Mr. Kazuo SUNAGA, Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan.
3. The Forum founded on two agendas: "Security in the Asia Pacific: The Growing Focus and the Progress in Shaping Regional Architecture" and "Peacekeeping Operations: Future Challenges and Cooperation".
4. Mr. Satoshi Morimoto, Minister of Defense of Japan, made the opening remarks. Minister Morimoto welcomed the participants to the Forum that now serves as a good venue for defense officials from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond to assemble for frank discussions on security and defense. He stated that the region was currently faced with a range of security issues such as natural disasters and maritime security, and welcomed the progress made in the development of regional architecture, particularly the establishment of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in which five Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) are doing their work as scheduled. The significance of the roles

of the United States and Japan's alliance with the United States was also stressed by the Minister for the security and stability of the region. Referring to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces' (JSDF) participation in peacekeeping operations (PKO), he stated that Japan would continue its SDF contribution to peacekeeping operations. The Minister expressed his hope that the 17th Tokyo Defense Forum would help strengthen regional security cooperation as much as possible through focused discussions.

## **II. Session I: Security in the Asia Pacific: The Growing Focus and the Progress in Shaping Regional Architecture**

5. Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Republic of Korea, the United States and Vietnam made presentations on regional frameworks, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security and the role of the United States in the region.
6. The session first focused on the development of regional frameworks, notably the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ADMM-Plus. All the speakers appreciated the recent development of those regional frameworks and stressed the need to promote synergy between the two. The Forum noted with satisfaction that the frequency of the ADMM-Plus will be increased from once in every three years to two years, demonstrating strong commitment by ADMM-Plus members to further dialogue and cooperation in the region.
7. The Forum also highlighted the crucial role played by the ASEAN chairman and expressed support for the work of the current and the forthcoming chairmanships in advancing the development of regional security and defense cooperation.
8. Several countries mentioned the planned ADMM-Plus HADR and Military Medicine exercise, to be held in Brunei in June 2013, which will be the first-ever field exercise in the framework of the ADMM-Plus as a clear demonstration of the strengthening of practical cooperation. Some other countries expressed their strong support for the exercise. While the

exercise will be held in the framework of the ADMM-Plus, some non-ADMM-Plus countries also expressed their interest in and willingness to support the exercise by sharing expertise and experience.

9. The discussions then turned to the issues of HADR. Some countries detailed their national legal and force structures and preparedness for international operations in HADR. They emphasized the need for coordination among different actors, information sharing, and joint exercises. It was also mentioned that in terms of conducting international (military) HADR operations, national sovereignty of recipient country needs to be fully respected.
10. Another country that made a presentation on HADR introduced to the Forum various institutional arrangements and recent regional arrangements for HADR cooperation including the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the SOPs for Regional Standby Arrangements and coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Operations, or SASOP. The Forum appreciated the value of such frameworks as an important contribution to a more effective and efficient regional cooperation in HADR.
11. Regarding HADR, the Forum also discussed the need to promote synergy and complementarity between the ARF and the ADMM-Plus. Some countries raised the issue of how to address root causes of disasters, most notably climate change.
12. Maritime security is also an area which various regional frameworks—the ADMM-Plus, the ARF and the East Asia Summit (EAS)—should address and their respective roles were discussed in the Forum. The participants explored how the countries in the region could develop practical defense cooperation in maritime security and some countries emphasized the role that port visits and joint exercises and exchanges could play in this regard.
13. The Forum discussed “good seamanship.” Some countries highlighted the value of the Code for Unalerted Encounters at Sea (CUES), which was

drafted in the framework of the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), and regretted the fact that the WPNS meeting in Malaysia in September 2012 had failed to adopt the document. Some participants reiterated the importance to adopt the CUES as early as possible, as it represents important elements of good seamanship. A participant stressed that the CUES could work complementarily to the exiting international maritime laws, most notably the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and underscored the potential of soft law or manner approach, as there are a number of different views and interpretations in the international maritime laws.

14. Some countries provided the Forum with their comprehensive assessment on the regional maritime security threats, including the issues of piracy and the situation in the South China Sea. Regarding piracy, some countries argued that the experience in addressing the piracy problems in the Malacca strait could be used in other areas, noting the responsibility and role not only of coastal states, but of other countries as well. Some participants briefed the Forum on their counter-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden and underscored the importance of a whole-of-government approach and the need to reach out to other actors in addressing maritime issues.
15. As the final sub-topic for Session One, the Forum examined the role played by the United States in the region. It was pointed out that the US rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region could be seen as a turning-point in the post-9.11 security and as a combination of strategic thinking and fiscal reality in the US. It was also stressed that the role of the US would be realized through close bilateral cooperation with its traditional allies and new partners and also through multilateral cooperation.

### **III. Session II: Peacekeeping Operations: Future Challenges and Cooperation**

16. Bangladesh, Canada, Mongolia, the Philippines, the European Union and the ICRC made presentations on this topic, focusing on preparation

for peacekeeping missions, lessons learned and peace-building.

17. Some countries briefed the Forum on their basic approach to international peace support operations (PSOs), record of participation in UN operations and PSO training courses being conducted as preparation for forces to be deployed to PSOs. Some countries emphasized the importance of the whole-of-government approach in addressing ever more multi-dimensional nature of contemporary peacekeeping. National training courses that are also opened to other countries' participants were also introduced and some countries highlighted their role in capacity-building assistance in this field to other countries in the region. The Forum appreciated such sharing of information.
18. The Forum discussed PSO training and capacity-building assistance, particularly on how to conduct training and how to involve non-military elements in PSO training. The issues of how to conceive an exit strategy at the outset of international operations were also discussed and some participants pointed out that it was related to how to measure success as well.
19. Regarding lessons learned, some countries offered a practical set of lessons learned on peacekeeping operations; particularly they highlighted willingness of all the warring factions; simultaneous and harmonious military, economic and diplomatic actions; popular support; extra caution on the choice and deployment of equipment; and trust and confidence. In this context as well, some participants stressed the crucial role of training and reiterated the need for standardization of training and multinational exercises. The Forum also agreed that it is necessary to incorporate perspectives of recipient countries.
20. Some participants further emphasized the significance of taking a comprehensive approach in tackling the issues of peace and security, for example by addressing the problems on land when conducting counter-piracy operations. The Forum also discussed humanitarian aspects of peacekeeping where the critical importance of the "protection

of civilians (POC)” was highlighted by a participant. It was stressed that POC is first and foremost the responsibility of host nations, but other international, military, police, civilian organizations and humanitarian agencies have also their own role. The Forum also discussed the issue of how to separate peace operations and humanitarian activities and how to coordinate between different actors.

21. The Forum shared the view that peacekeeping is an area where countries in the region could cooperate more and sharing of experience and expertise including training exchange is more important today than ever.

#### **IV. Closing Remarks**

22. During the sessions, participants shared the view that regional security environment and future direction of defense cooperation should be discussed continuously in the Forum.
23. 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 would be reported by Japan 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 Japan as the host to organize this Forum for the promotion of regional defense dialogue and cooperation.