

The 20th Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)

Summary by the Chair

Tokyo, 16 and 17 March 2016

I. Introduction

1. The 20th Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region: TDF) was held in Tokyo, on 16 and 17 March 2016, with the participation of 22 countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, China, 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, Russian Federation, 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 ASEAN Secretariat, European Union (EU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also attended the Forum.
2. The Forum was chaired by Mr. Akira KONO, Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan.
3. The Forum addressed two agendas: “Enhance Capabilities in Non-traditional Security Areas in the Region: Efforts and Challenges” **and** “Defense Policies of Participating Countries and Regional Architecture.”
4. Mr. Hiromichi KUMADA, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Defense, made the opening remarks and welcomed participants. He pointed out that TDF marked 20th anniversary and has contributed to promotion of defense dialogue in the region. He also mentioned the triple disasters caused by East Japan Great Earthquake five years ago, emphasizing the importance of roles and capabilities of military for HADR operations and other areas of non-traditional security issues.

II. Session I: Enhance Capabilities in Non-traditional Security Areas in the Region: Efforts and Challenges

Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam made presentations on the recent activities in respect of capacity building cooperation as contributing party and as contributed party.

5. Participants shared the view that capacity building cooperation is an important area of defense cooperation. Participants shared information of their capacity building and discussed accomplishments, challenges and opportunities for capacity building cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues, and that goals of capacity building cooperation are not limited to development of partner military capabilities but include promoting regional security and stability, building relationships between the countries, and enabling effective contribution to international cooperation by assisted countries through capacity building cooperation, as well as improving assisting countries' capability and reputation.
6. Participants highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation among domestic and international stakeholders as well as among countries. It is needed for countries to share information related to their own assistance in order to synergize the positive effects of capacity building cooperation through learning each other and synchronizing their activities, as well as to avoid redundancy and hindrance of self-efforts of assisted countries.
7. Participants noted that not only bilateral defense cooperation but also multilateral defense cooperation is useful for effective capacity building; inter alia, the regional arrangements through ADMM Plus, and ARF, as shown in the cases of South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting (SPDMM) and EU and NATO's experiences, although there are possible conflicts of national interests among member countries.
8. Some countries noted that the assisting country should address

recipient's unique needs generated by its geographical features and social and historical factors including landmine clearance. Some participants pointed out the importance of respect to assisted country's inherent culture, local rules and norms, sovereignty and other relevant factors from political, diplomatic, social and cultural perspectives. Some participants noted that pacific island countries are vulnerable to illegal fishing, and other threats, and considering the gap between its resources and required task to control vast ocean areas, pointed out needs for further regional cooperation.

9. Some participants emphasized that comprehensive approach is required for effective capacity building including long term technical and overseeing support accompanying equipment cooperation, as well as realistic program, adequate selection of personnel, and political commitment for success.
10. Some participants shared the view that information sharing among recipient and assisting countries would be useful in terms of the effective **utilization of limited resources, such as establishment of a “knowledge pool”** through TDF.
11. Some participants expressed their willingness to further capacity building cooperation. Some participants pointed out the importance of capacity building cooperation in non-traditional security areas including HADR, UNPKO, counter-terrorism, military medicine, cyber, demining and others as well as maritime security. They also expressed the need of follow up on the outcome of the conference.

III. Session II: Defense Policies of Participating Countries and Regional Architecture

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, ROK, Russia, Sri Lanka and ASEAN Secretariat made presentations on the recent development of their respective defense policies and activities related to regional architecture.

12. Participants shared the view that it is important to explain and exchange views on their own updated defense policies at international conferences including TDF in respect of mutual trust and confidence building by maintaining transparency on their policies.
13. During this session, many diverse challenges were raised, and participants shared the view that they were facing many common challenges in this region. Those common challenges include global change of balance, maintenance of rule-based international system, regional maritime tensions, increasing threats of terrorism to the region, proliferation of WMD, transnational crime, natural disasters in relation with climate change, epidemics, as well as increasing security threats in space and cyberspace.
14. Several countries pointed out challenges at post-conflict stage, where military organization is playing an important role in transition of the country to peacetime democracy. Participants shared the view that there are precedents that some countries in the Asia-Pacific region successfully transitioned from post-conflict stage to reconstructed stage.
15. Also, participants lively exchanged their views on the situation in the South China Sea, including discussion on the importance of rule of law such as UNCLOS, military to military communication, and relevant jurisdictional process to the international tribunals, and so forth.
16. Participants discussed issues regarding threats of North Korea to the region including recent provocations such as 4th nuclear test on January 6, 2016 and the following long range missile launch and shared the view that full implementation of UNSC Resolutions is important.
17. Participants shared the importance of the regional security architectures such as ADMM, ADMM-Plus, ARF and so forth in order to enhance regional cooperation and coordination in the region. Participants also discussed the Direct Communications Link program planned by ASEAN countries. Participants shared the view that ASEAN Community

including the ASEAN Political Security Community is moving forward in accordance with APSC Blueprint 2025 and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

IV. Closing Remarks

18. The participants shared the view that TDF continues to play unique roles in promoting candid and active discussions among the Director-General level officials in the region and beyond.
19. The Chair showed his gratitude to 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 as well as their celebration to the 20th Anniversary of the Forum.