

The 4th Tokyo Defense Forum Subcommittee
Summary by the Chair
(Tokyo, 26 January 2005)

The 4th Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region) Subcommittee was held in Tokyo from 25 to 26 January 2005. The Subcommittee was chaired by Mr. Yoshiya Muto, Director of International Policy Planning Division, Defense Policy Bureau, Japan Defense Agency.

The following states participated in the discussion of the Subcommittee: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam and Japan. Netherlands and the European Commission took part in the discussion of the Subcommittee, representing the European Union.

At the outset, the participants expressed their deepest sympathy to all those who have suffered as a result of the earthquake and tsunami disaster.

The Chair referred to the outcome of the 9th Tokyo Defense Forum held in October last year. The Subcommittee, based on the outcome of the 9th Forum, held discussions on "The Possibility of Cooperation among the Defense Authorities in Maritime Security" for Session I and "Efforts toward Non-Proliferation of WM D" for Session II.

Session I: The Possibility of Cooperation among the Defense Authorities in Maritime Security

Executive Director for Research & International Affairs, Shigekatsu Kondo of the National Institute for Defense Studies delivered a keynote

speech on the current situation regarding maritime security and future prospects for cooperation among the defense authorities in the region.

India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and U.S.A. made presentations on this topic.

The participants noted that maritime threats such as piracy, armed robbery and terrorism cannot be dealt with by any single country and that improved international cooperation and coordination of the regional states is urgently needed to ensure maritime security, recognizing that primary responsibility rests on the littoral states, and respecting national sensitivities over sovereignty. Some participants suggested that, notwithstanding different legal frameworks for action against piracy and international terrorism, the potential for realizing synergies and efficiencies between current initiatives underway for various maritime security issues, e.g. for information exchange, could be investigated. All participants agreed that all actions should be consistent with international law. All also agreed that the deep-seated causes of insecurity needed addressing through sustained and long-term efforts, in parallel with addressing the real, current symptoms urgently.

Several participants gave details of their domestic measures to ensure maritime security, and their cooperation with other countries, including coordinated patrols and combined exercises.

The participants shared the view that improved multinational cooperation in such activities as information sharing and capacity building will significantly contribute to enhancing maritime security in the region, and welcomed recent progress in moving toward this goal such as the ReCAAP and the decision to establish an information sharing center. All agreed that a multifaceted, inclusive approach was necessary, including as appropriate civil authorities and the shipping industry. In this context, they welcomed the ASEAN Regional Forum Confidence Building Measures on Regional Cooperation in Maritime Security to be held in early March, to be hosted by

Singapore and the United States, following on from the successful ARF Workshop on Maritime Security held in Malaysia in September 2004.

Session II: Efforts toward Non-Proliferation of WMD

Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the European Union gave presentations on this topic.

The participants shared the view that preventing the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery and related materials and technology is vitally important to international peace and security. In particular, the participants were deeply concerned by the threat of terrorism and the danger that these items could fall into the hands of terrorists. Some participants also highlighted the importance of ensuring the security of radiological sources.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to prevent terrorists or those who harbor them from acquiring or developing WMD and their means of delivery as well as their related materials and technology as they unanimously viewed that the threat of terrorist activities is real in the Asia Pacific, and that continued efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.

Participants shared the view that universalization of the existing international frameworks to counter the proliferation of WMD was important. All participants agreed that the implementation of the treaty obligations is essential to the effective working of these frameworks. Participants exchanged information on available sources of technical assistance in meeting these obligations.

All participants supported the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and most participants also welcomed the new international efforts countering the proliferation of WMD, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Participants pointed out that these new efforts would contribute to strengthening the capability of international society to

counter the threat posed by the proliferation of WMD. All participants agreed that all actions taken in pursuit of nonproliferation should be consistent with the relevant international law and frameworks.

The participants discussed the need to promote further dialogues and cooperation on non-proliferation within the region so as to counter the threat posed by the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery in the region, and to avoid misunderstandings between states. The participants expressed their hope to enhance cooperation between defense authorities, particularly with respect to sharing of information, experiences and expertise.

The participants emphasized the importance of continuing the dialogue as they appreciated the fruitful outcomes of the dialogue between the participants in addressing the issue of proliferation of WMD in the region.

| | |--------| | Others | |--------|

The chair country gave an additional briefing on the readiness posture for international disaster relief operations maintained by the Self-Defense Forces and their ongoing relief activity to provide help to the victims of the recent unprecedented catastrophe. The participants noted the importance of prompt international cooperation to help rehabilitate the devastated area and people and to share information and experience in disaster relief operations.

The participants welcomed the fact that this Subcommittee provided the opportunity to enhance mutual understanding and trust between defense authorities at the working level, and commended the success of the meeting with the participation of 22 countries and the European Union.

The participants welcomed the fact that the 10th Tokyo Defense Forum will be held in October 2005 in Tokyo. The participants pledged that they will share lessons learned during the ongoing disaster relief efforts and discuss measures to enhance the effectiveness of such efforts at the 10th Tokyo Defense Forum.

It was agreed that the outcome of this Subcommittee will be reported by the chair country of the Subcommittee at the next ARF Intersessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), which will be held in Berlin in February this year.