

**The 7th Sub-committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum (TDF)**  
**Summary by the Chair**  
**(Tokyo, 28 February 2008)**

**Introduction**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> Sub-committee of the Tokyo Defense Forum (Forum for Defense Authorities in the Asia-Pacific Region) was held in Tokyo from February 27<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> 2008, with the participation of twenty-five countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, People's Republic of China, India, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United States of America, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) and the European Union. Three organizations (ASEAN Secretariat, International Committee of Red Cross, UN Office for Coordination and Humanitarian Affairs) also participated in the meeting.
2. The Sub-committee was chaired by Mr. Hideki TSUCHIMOTO, Director of International Policy Division, Bureau of Defense Policy, Ministry of Defense, Japan.
3. The agenda of the Sub-committee was two-fold: "Best Practice Reference Paper for Peace-building" for Session I and "Regional Cooperation and its Impact on Surrounding States" for Session II.
4. Mr. Masaru TSUJI, Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Japan, made the opening remarks. In his speech, Mr. TSUJI pointed out that following the previous TDF meeting, tackling a best practice reference paper together would be a valuable process of mutual understanding, given that peace-building is a common challenge in the region and often becomes a more complex operation requiring a wider spectrum of expertise and resources.
5. He also recalled the increase of multilateral dialogues and inception of practical cooperation in such areas as disaster relief and peace-building. He invited participants to review and reflect on the evolution of defense exchanges during the last ten years, and exchange views on the measures to enhance openness and transparency.

## **Presentations by participants**

### **(1) Best Practice Reference Paper for Peace-building**

6. Australia, Kingdom of Cambodia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Kingdom of Thailand, the United States of America and the European Union made presentations on this topic.

7. Participants shared their experiences and lessons learned from past peace-building activities, with a particular emphasis on efforts for capacity building and international cooperation in peace-building. This included establishing training centers and the ARF seminars and meetings. In this regard, some participants suggested that it could be helpful for future cooperation to share these lessons and efforts while avoiding duplication.

8. Some participants pointed out that the establishment of good governance and the rule of law, including administrative reform and SSR (Security Sector Reform), is essential to peace-building, preconditioned on economic and social development. The importance of national reconciliation and social integration in countries which suffer from conflicts was also noted.

9. Participants shared the view that concerted long-term international efforts in peace-building are necessary to realize reconstruction and stabilization of a failed state.

10. Some participants pointed out that given the increasing complexity of peace-building, military operations alone are no longer effective. In this respect, some participants underlined the importance of a whole-of-government approach to integrate both military and civil measures in a wide range of areas for peace-building. The Importance to establish communication plans was also noted.

11. The Sub-committee examined a draft of 'Best Practice Reference Paper for Peace-Building' (attached) for regional capacity building and international cooperation.

### **(2) Regional Cooperation and its Impact on Surrounding States**

12. Bangladesh, People's Republic of China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore and the ASEAN Secretariat gave presentations in this session.

13. The Sub-committee shared the view that responses to new threats and

diverse contingencies (including international terrorism, natural disasters, piracy, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and regional conflicts) have been more significant in the recent Asia-Pacific regional security environment.

14. Some participants explained that recent defense exchanges in the region have emphasized practical cooperation in regional security (including disaster relief, maritime security and peace-building) in addition to the traditional confidence-building dialogues. Some participants also pointed out that defense exchanges have been diversifying from high-level visits, exchanges between units and education/research facilities to joint exercises/training and practical cooperation, including logistics.

15. The Sub-committee acknowledged the recent progress of regional cooperation for common security challenges and of defense cooperation (such as Defense Officials Dialogue (DOD)) in the ARF process. Some participants also explained efforts for regional cooperation such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

16. Participants shared the view that the ability to promote mutual understanding, peace and stability in the region relied heavily on defense exchanges (including dialogues and exercises). Some participants also noted that exchanges of observers to military exercises could be helpful to enhance transparency and mutual understanding.

17. Some participants suggested that the publication of white papers and websites could be helpful to ensure transparency of regional cooperation.

18. Some participants pointed out that undertakings in the ARF, including openness of participants and access to information via the internet, is a useful reference to emerging multilateral cooperation in the region.

### **Closing Remarks**

19. Participants shared the view that efforts for regional capacity building and international cooperation in peace-building should be further pursued in various international fora including the ARF. Noting this, some participants suggested that the draft of 'Best Practice Reference Paper for Peace-Building' should be further considered in ARF meetings and other relevant fora.

20. The Sub-committee also noted that recent defense exchanges play an essential role not only in confidence-building but also in promoting practical cooperation for common security challenges in the region, such as

peace-building.

21. It was agreed that the outcomes of the Sub-committee would be reported by the host country to the next ARF-ISG on CBM/PD, which will be held in April 2008 in Ottawa, Canada and to other subsequent relevant ARF meetings.

22. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat for organizing this Sub-committee on deepening the common understanding of best practices in peace-building and the significance of regional cooperation with means of transparency.

23. Participants look forward to the 13<sup>th</sup> the Tokyo Defense Forum, which will be held in October 2008 in Tokyo.