COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

1st Meeting of the Study Group on Preventive Diplomacy

Kuala Lumpur, Prince Hotel, 28-29 April 2015

Co-Chairs:
CSCAP EU, CSCAP Malaysia, CSCAP New Zealand, CSCAP Singapore

[Draft agenda]

"Preventive Diplomacy" (PD), broadly defined as any action taken by states or groups of states to prevent the deterioration of conflict, is a concept widely explored by international and regional multilateral organisations. Within the Asia-Pacific context, the 2011 ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan underlines the importance to establish appropriate PD mechanisms for the ARF and to increase the capacity and capabilities of its participants in the domain. The 2013 ARF "Concept Paper on moving towards Preventive Diplomacy" further re-emphasises the need for familiarisation with PD mechanisms through learning and sharing before any implementation of activities in areas such as mediation, facilitated dialogue and conciliation.

While the ARF Inter-sessional Support Group (ISG) on CBM and PD continues to develop more specific recommendations and actions for governments to adopt, the CSCAP SG on PD seeks to support this effort and bolster the ARF's knowledge through a detailed examination of the regional case studies and the lessons to be learned from them. By providing a gap analysis of successful and failed examples of PD within the ARF region, it aims to identify a set of specific tools that could be developed in consideration of the region's unique diplomatic culture, in view of their potential implementation to on-going and future sources of tension.

Albeit the ARF focuses more specifically on inter-state conflicts, a number of domestic cases have been successfully settled through the use of PD, such as Aceh, Mindanao, and gradually Myanmar. The Co-Chairs of the SG therefore deem appropriate to include the study of internal conflicts within the work of the Group for analytical purposes.

Format:

The meeting will be divided into six sessions and take place over a day-and-a-half. Each session will consist in a presentation by a "Presenter" (a PD expert covering a set of cases addressed by the session), followed by comments a "Commentator" (an expert or a high-profile policy practitioner with personal/ first-hand experience of the different cases studied), providing more specific insights. In order to allow for a productive discussion, each CSCAP member committee should put an effort on the selection of suitable representatives familiar with PD concept or conflicts studied.

Day One: Identifying Lessons

First day's sessions aim to provide an analysis of past uses of PD mechanisms within the ARF region, addressing the same set of questions, namely: What was the nature of the conflict / tension (territorial, ethnic, religious, resources)? At what stage was the conflict in? What were the parties involved? Who initiated the PD activity and what form did the PD activity take how? Did all conflicting parties agree on the process? Assuming mediation - who was accepted as a mediator (regional or external country; international or regional organisation; individual politician(s) or eminent person)? Did geostrategic factors play a role for the genesis or solution of the conflict?

Session 1: PD successes in addressing internal conflicts
> Chair: (CSCAP EU) Eva Pejsova
> Presenter: Guy Banim, Mediation Consultant/ Associate Analyst, EUISS
> Commentator: Pieter Feith, Senior diplomat and crisis management expert

Session 2: PD failures in addressing internal conflicts
> Chair: (CSCAP Singapore?)
> Presenter: Ralf Emmers or Tan See Seng (tbc)
> Commentator:

Session 3: PD successes in addressing interstate conflicts
> Chair: (CSCAP Malaysia?)
> Presenter:
> Commentator:

Session 4: PD failures in addressing interstate conflicts
> Chair: (CSCAP New Zealand?)
> Presenter: Jim Rolfe
> Commentator:

Day Two: Identifying Gaps

Based on the discussion from the first day of the meeting, the second day will consist in a general discussion among the participants, with the session Chair taking the lead in presenting initial thoughts.

Session 5: Summary of findings from day one: lessons learned
> Chair: Jim Rolfe

Session 6: Identifying gaps / looking for an "ideal model"?