



## **Report of the First Study Group Meeting on Security Implications of Climate Change**

**15 – 16 February 2009**

**Discovery Suites, Manila**

### **Background**

The two study group meetings are to be co-chaired by CSCAP Philippines, CSCAP Australia and CSCAP Malaysia. The first meeting was held in Manila from 15 – 16 February 2009 and the second study group meeting is scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur from 28 -29 May 2009.

The purpose of the study group is to examine and develop consensus on the nature and magnitude of risks climate change poses to security in the Asia-Pacific region. The study group also aims to arrive at recommendations that are tailored for governments in the region to avoid security crises arising from climate change (CC).

The expected outcome of the study group will be a Memorandum that will briefly highlight the implications of climate change for security in the Asia-Pacific region, and adaptive responses that can be taken by governments in the region and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

### **Saturday, 14 February 2009**

Dr Jon Barnett on behalf of CSCAP Australia, Ms Wan Portia on behalf of CSCAP Malaysia, Dr Herman J Kraft of CSCAP Philippines and Prof Rowena Layador from the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) met to discuss the revised programme for the study group meeting 15 – 16 February.

### **Sunday, 15 February 2009**

#### *Introductory Session*

Prof Rowena Layador on behalf of CSCAP Philippines welcomed everybody present.

Prof Raymund Jose Quilop provided a background to the CSCAP Study Groups.

Ms Wan Portia highlighted that the proposal of the study group on climate change and security implications was actually mooted by CSCAP Malaysia. The proposal was supported by CSCAP Australia and CSCAP Philippines.

Dr Jon Barnett indicated the aims and expectations of the study group.

### *Session 1*

Dr Jon Barnett presented a paper on “Climate Change and Climate Impacts in Asia-Pacific: Findings from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)”. He highlighted that in the more recent research findings the impacts are more serious than those projected in the AR4. The session was chaired by Prof Rowena Layador.

### *Session 2*

Dr Jim Rolfe from New Zealand (who stressed that he was not representing the Ministry of Defence, New Zealand) presented a paper on “Security and Climate Change, What the Literature Says”. Dr Rolfe stressed the importance of looking at ‘security’ in a wider context. He highlighted the published article “Climate Change and Security” by Alan Dupont and Graeme Pearman, two authors, who Dr Rolfe regarded were ahead of their time. The session was chaired by Ms Wan Portia.

### *Session 3*

By lunch, the number of participants (14) remained was too small to enable breakout sessions as originally planned. Instead a brainstorming session on ‘Security Risks Posed by Climate Change’ co-chaired by Prof Raymond J Quilop and Ms Wan Portia took place. Ms Wan Portia, who prepared the concept paper on “Climate Change and Security Risks”, provided a background on the potential impact of climate change on security for the region. Subsequently, discussions on risks perceived to be driven by climate change were listed. Varying time frame on when the risks are to occur were also proposed. The study group decided to take a break to reorganize the framework consisting of potential risks posed by climate change and the time frame.

### *Session 4*

Dr Yu Hongyuan from the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS) gave a presentation on the climate change scenario in China particularly on China’s climate change diplomacy and China’s role in fighting global warming. The session was chaired by Prof Raymond J Quilop.

The session was adjourned at 5.30pm.

## **Monday, 16 February 2009**

### *Session 5*

The session was co-chaired by Dr Herman J Kraft and Ms Wan Portia. Presentations from Member Committees were made starting with Brunei, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia. The presentations in general highlighted the concepts of “climate security” and “comprehensive security”. Some of the potential security problems listed were mass migration, food security, energy security, transboundary disputes relating to other

resources e.g. water, maritime boundaries, and spread of vector- and/or water-borne diseases.

The meeting subsequently continued to discuss the reorganized framework consisting of potential risks posed by climate change and the time frame. Some of the participants went into the details of “adaptations and mitigations of climate change” as well as “emission caps” and there was a voice disputing that the discussion was not in line with the Climate Change Convention. The discussions almost collapsed.

Participants, the majority of whom were from the scientific community, had to be reminded that the purpose of the study group is to examine the security consequences of climate change. Climate scientists need to make climate science understandable to others. The predicted effects of climate change must be understood even though concrete scientific evidence may not be possible.

The meeting agreed to accept the framework which will be forwarded to all participants when CSCAP Philippines has made the necessary amendments. Participants are recommended to brainstorm on the amended framework and make the necessary amendments with their respective country representatives.

The closing remarks were delivered by CSCAP Philippines at 1300 hours.

## **Follow-up Actions for the Study Group Meeting on Security Implications of Climate Change**

### **Proposal:**

To organise a half-day brainstorming session in ISIS, if possible last week of March or 1<sup>st</sup> week of April, to discuss the issues raised by the study group. (Refer to the draft framework as in Appendix I- framework has yet to be amended by CSCAP Philippines).

### **Specific questions to be raised:**

1. Are the issues raised in the framework driven by climate change? If not,
2. What conditions are climate changes likely to produce that would represent security risks to the Asia Pacific region?
3. What actions should the region take to address the security consequences of climatic change?

### **The brainstorming session also aims to:**

- Enhance awareness and knowledge of latest thinking on issues and solutions to the causes and consequences of climate change especially those facing the Asia and the Pacific.
- Share information and best practices on policies that will spur actions and responses that can be taken to avoid or manage the risks climate change poses.
- Promote national cooperation and understanding on risks climate change poses to security.
- Foster partnerships between policymakers, experts, practitioners and other stakeholders to advance climate change solutions

### **Target Participants:**

Members of ISIS (Would like to propose two Co-chairs ie Dr Stephen Leong, who is also the Director of the recently established Centre for International Studies, UTAR, and Norhayati Mustapha. Wan Portia to provide the background and status report. Elina Nor from the Bureau of Foreign Policy & Security Studies and Woo H. W from the Bureau of Economic Policy)

Representative from the Task Group on Climate Change, Science Academy of Malaysia

Representatives from NGOs [Third World Network (TWN), Worldwide Fund (WWF), Center for Environment, Technology & Development (CETDEM), Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Global Environment Centre (GEC), Mercy Malaysia] – as recommended by the study group

Mr Chow Kok Kee, former DG of Meteorological Department – ex National negotiator for CC and current Director of STREC Sdn Bhd

Dr Leong Yueh Kwong of Socio-Economic & Environment Research Institute (SERI) – socio-economic as well as environmental impacts of CC

Dato Kok Wee Kiat of Environmental Quality Council (EQC) & Business Council Sustainable Development (BCSD) – business perspective for CC

Dr Joy Pereira of LESTARI, UKM - involved in the preparation of CC policy

Dr Teddy Lian, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) – one of the key institutions for CC

Representative from Meteorological Department, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI) – responsible for monitoring climate changes

Dr Rahim Nik of Forestry Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) – one of the key institutions for CC

Ir Dr Salmah Zakaria National Institute for Hydrolic Research (NAHRIM) – one of the key institutions for CC

Mr Azman Zainal Abidin of Pusat Tenaga Malaysia – one of the key institutions for CC

Ms Layanya Rama Iyer, - involved in preparing the Second National Communication for the UNFCCC Secretariat

Representative from EPU (Environment/ Energy Division)

Representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Representative from National Security Council

Representative from Ministry of Defence

Representative from Maritime Institute of Malaysia

Representative from Institute of Medical Research (IMR)

Representative from the Natural Disaster Team

Representative from Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia