

Opening Remarks
The 8th General Conference of CSCAP
Hanoi, 21-22 November 2011
Dalchoong Kim, Co-Chair of CSCAP

His Excellency Nguyen Thien Nhan, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam, Mr. Dang Dinh Quy, President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and Chairman of CSCAP Vietnam, Distinguished Members of Diplomatic Corps, Respected Senior Members of the Vietnam Government and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Distinguished Role Players and Participants of the 8th General Conference, Members of the media and press corps, and last but not least, Friends and colleagues of CSCAP, Mr. Kwa Chong Guan and I bid you a very good morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the CSCAP Steering Committee, CSCAP Vietnam and Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, it is our great pleasure to welcome you warmly to the 8th CSCAP General Conference, and to extend our deep appreciation to you all distinguished participants for attending this General Conference.

At the same time, on behalf of the CSCAP Steering Committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and CSCAP Vietnam for organizing the 8th General Conference on behalf of the CSCAP under the outstanding and dedicated leadership of Dang Dinh Quy, Chairman of CSCAP Vietnam. I would also like to thank to CSCAP Member Committees and the CSCAP Secretariat for their cooperation in organizing this important event. CSCAP Steering Committee also wishes to extend its appreciation to our sponsors and supporters for their contributions for hosting the General Conference especially, our member committees from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam.

It was almost 20 years ago, ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN ISIS), the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Pacific Forum CSIS (Honolulu), and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs (SFIA), together with representatives of other research institutes from the Asia Pacific region organized a series of conferences on security cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

The first meeting was held in Honolulu in October 1991, second in Bali in April 1992, and third in Seoul in November 1992. Participants from 17 countries, including scholars and experts as well as officials acting in their private capacities, had taken part in these meetings.

Participants at the Seoul meeting adopted the Seoul Statement at the end of the meeting agreeing that there was a need to provide a more structured process of a non-governmental nature in order to foster greater regional confidence building and security cooperation through dialogue, consultation and research. They also established a *Pro-tem* Steering Committee to implement the Seoul Statement.

About seven months later, on June 8, 1993, the Kuala Lumpur Statement was adopted at the *Pro-tem* Steering Committee, on the sideline of the 7th Asia Pacific

Roundtable, and declared the statement establishing formally the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) at the conclusion of the Roundtable on June 9. Its Charter was adopted at the *Pro-tem* Steering Committee Meeting in Lombok, Indonesia, on December 16, 1993. Since the founding of CSCAP, it has been increased its membership from the original ten to nineteen at present.

CSCAP activities are guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives of all member committees. The CSCAP Steering Committee meets twice a year in May or June in Kuala Lumpur and in November or December in one of the other member countries. It is co-chaired by a member from an ASEAN Member Committee and a member from a non-ASEAN Member Committee. The Steering Committee is served by a Secretariat, located in Kuala Lumpur at ISIS Malaysia.

With member committees from all the major countries in the Asia Pacific, CSCAP has established its identity as a regularized, inclusive, open, independent, pro-active, and forward-looking non-governmental process on region-wide security matters. CSCAP plays a leading role in enhancing regional security dialogue. It provides Track 1 institutions, such as ASEAN and ASEAN Regional Forum with policy-relevant reports from the CSCAP Study Groups and Memorandums from the CSCAP Steering Committee. The CSCAP Regional Security Outlook (CRSO) has been published annually and widely distributed to draw attention to the pressing security issues of today and tomorrow, and to provide Track 1 with informed policy-relevant recommendations.

CSCAP has been working to consolidate its links to ASEAN Regional Forum to support ARF's mission for comprehensive security cooperation in the region. Regular attendance of CSCAP Co-Chairs at ARF ISG meetings has been institutionalized. Reciprocal arrangements have also been made for attendance by the Co-Chairs of the ARF ISG at CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting for dialogue with members of CSCAP. It demonstrates the commitment of the ARF toward the deepening of Track 1 and Track 2 interaction and cooperation. CSCAP will continue to make more progress in building stronger ties with ARF.

CSCAP hosts the biennial General Conference since its 1st General Conference in Singapore in 1997. The second General Conference was held in Seoul in 1999, and followed by the 3rd in Canberra in 2001. The subsequent four general conferences were held in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the auspices of CSCAP Indonesia chaired by Yussuf Wanandi until the 7th in 2009.

The General Conference promotes CSCAP's visibility to wider range of audiences. It is a premier event of the CSCAP where scholars, experts, and policy makers in private capacity to share with and discuss on their latest findings and analysis in search of security cooperation.

Based on the successful outcomes of the CSCAP activities during the past two years since the last 7th General Conference in Jakarta, we are gathered here today again to convene the 8th General Conference on the theme "Danger and Dilemmas:

Will the New Regional Security Architecture Help?" This meeting will assess the effectiveness of the evolving regional architecture in addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the region.

This year's General Conference is of particular significance as it takes place right after the 6th East Asia Summit on November 19 in Bali, Indonesia, with the formal participation of the United States and Russia at the highest level in the EAS. And also, since the last 7th CSCAP General Conference, the Asia Pacific region has been witnessing an impressive evolution of the regional architecture, including the inauguration of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus in Hanoi last year and the formal opening of the permanent Secretariat of Trilateral Cooperation in Seoul in September this year. I am confident that CSCAP's role for regional security cooperation will continue to grow in importance as the global economic and strategic center of gravity shifts toward Asia.

Concluding my remarks, allow me to thank His Excellency Nguyen Thien Nhan, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam for his support of the CSCAP and its General Conference. It is indeed a great honor for us that His Excellency is with us this morning to grace the 8th CSCAP General Conference. We are looking forward to his keynote.

I would like to invite Deputy Prime Minister. (End)