



**First Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Enhancing Contributions
from Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations,
Seoul, November 11-12, 2016
Co – Chair's Report**

Introduction

From 11th to 12th November, the first meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on Enhancing Contributions from Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations, took place in Seoul, South Korea. In line with the recommendations of the Hippo report, experts from the Asia-Pacific region discussed ways to strengthen UN peacekeeping operations and focused on contributions by countries from the region. A brief summary of the PKO study group's observations and recommendations is provided below. The study group considered contributions to UN peacekeeping operations from the Asia-Pacific region. Key areas of debate concerned the reform of UN peacekeeping, logistical support and co-operation between troop contributing countries and international organizations including the UN and the African Union. During the conference, different areas of contributions to peacekeeping operations have been identified, which include support to military, police and civilian components as well as political components of UN peacekeeping operations. Further forms of contributions include financial, technological and intellectual support.

In general, there was a consensus among participants regarding several issues: that there should be increased contributions from the region. Peacekeeping should not be seen as a substitute for a political process. Peacekeepers should provide the space for a political solution. The protection of civilians needs to be further improved. Joint training and analysis is essential for successfully meeting the challenges in modern peacekeeping operations. The lessons we can learn from past peacekeeping operations remain important as ever. Even though we cannot undo history, we can learn from the history of UN peacekeeping, including its failures. Cases of sexual abuse and exploitation involving UN peacekeeping personnel need to be effectively and comprehensively addressed. The safety and security of UN peacekeepers continues to be of serious concern. Relations with the local populations and local authorities are particularly important for the success of UN peacekeeping operations. Peacekeepers need to adapt to new security threats and challenges.

Session I: United Nations PKO and military contribution: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia Pacific Governments?

After the opening remarks by Professor Kim, Sung-han, CSCAP Korea President; Professor Hong, Kyudok, CSCAP Korea Chair; Mr. Martin A. Sebastian, CSCAP Malaysia Representative; and HRH Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, CSCAP Cambodia Chair, the first panel addressed military contributions and analyzed challenges and opportunities for governments from the Asia-Pacific. The panel was chaired by Professor Dr. Hong, Kyudok from Sookmyung Women's University and included CSCAP members from the European Union, China, and Australia. One of the leading peacekeeping experts in the world, Dr. Thierry Tardy, CSCAP EU, looked at the role of the EU in UN peacekeeping operations. He highlighted the political activism of the European Union in UN peacekeeping but absence in the field over the last twenty years. France and the United Kingdom are very active as permanent members of the Security Council in the area of mandate creation. EU members play an important role as financial contributors to UN peacekeeping operations and show in general a greater willingness to protect civilians. Dr. Chigumi Kawaguchi, CSCAP Japan discussed Japan's role in UN peacekeeping operations. Since 1992, Japan has dispatched more than 10,000 peacekeepers to UN missions. Japan is also the 2nd largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget. Dr. Kawaguchi also highlighted Japan's intellectual support to UN peacekeeping, by providing seminars and academic research.

Major General, Qian Lihua, CSCAP China provided an overview of China's involvement in UN peacekeeping operations stressing the importance of the traditional peacekeeping principles for the Chinese government (consent of the parties to the conflict,

neutrality and the non-use of force except in self-defense). The People's Republic of China has sent 33,000 peacekeepers over the last 26 years and is the major troop contributor among the permanent members of the Security Council. Major General, Qian Lihua suggested that all CSCAP members from the region, in particular Bangladesh, India and Pakistan as the largest troop contributors should be invited and share their field experiences. Mr. Ashley Collingburn, CSCAP Australia and visiting fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute summarized Australia's long history in UN peacekeeping operations. He raised three important questions during the first panel: a) what are future potentially threat environments in UN peacekeeping operations? b) what is the UN's capacity to respond to these potential threats? and c) how can we better protect civilians?

Session II: Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS): Is this system sufficient to address contribution for UN PKO?

The second panel looked at the question of whether the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) is sufficient to address contributions for UN peacekeeping operations. Experts from CSCAP discussed this important issue. Mohd Ikmal Hisyam Abu, CSCAP Malaysia explained Malaysia's role in UN peacekeeping operations which sent its first contingent to the United Nations Operation in Congo (ONUC). Since 1960, Malaysia has participated in over 30 peacekeeping operations with the deployment of 29,000 peacekeepers from the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Police. Mohd Ikmal Hisyam Abu stressed the need to pay more attention to maritime and riverine peacekeeping operations which could play a role among others, in enforcing UN sanctions and providing humanitarian assistance. He recognized the need for specialized legal advisors in the area of law enforcement. LTC. Park, Tae Hong, who is in charge of the Korea International Peacekeeping Training Center looked at the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and stressed the need for timely deployment. During this session, various aspects of training were discussed (standardization, joint training exercises and regional co-operation). The discussion also moved to the question of how to protect civilians. LTC. Park, Tae Hong argued that the protection of civilians could be improved but it requires strong will among UN member states, proper training and information sharing on the ground as well that no caveats be applied to the protection of civilians. In the same context, participants pointed out that mediation skills should be improved and the root causes of conflict need to be addressed.

Session III: Possible areas of contributions to peacekeeping reforms by Asia-Pacific countries: Where do we go from here?

The third session chaired by HRH Samdech Norodom Sirivudh included speakers from CSCAP Cambodia, New Zealand and Vietnam. Ambassador Pou Sothirak, CSCAP Cambodia pointed out that the lessons from UNTAC, the mission established in Cambodia during the early 1990s have not been learned: "Peacekeeping is likely to fail, if UN troops do not get deployed on time during the transition from war to peace. Furthermore, peacekeepers must be able to ensure the security for all parties to a conflict." According to Ambassador Pou Sothirak peacekeepers should be equipped with a political negotiation capacity. This is a task which military personnel cannot perform. Jim Rolfe, CSACP New Zealand provided an excellent summary of peacekeeping reforms including the findings of the Brahimi and the HIPPO report. As he explained, there is usually too much demand for peacekeeping and often too much focus on the military component of it. Contributions are quite uneven by country. In terms of regional contributions to peacekeeping reform, he recommended, among others: to increase commitments; to provide more trained and experienced officials to DPKO and DPA; to establish closer links between regional peacekeeping centers and the United Nations; and to play a more active role in shaping UN missions. Le This Minh Thoa, CSCAP Vietnam pointed out that "peacekeeping operations should not be considered as a panacea to the definitive settlements of conflict, which can be met only by addressing the comprehensive political, security, economic and humanitarian dimension of a given problem."

Findings of Day 1 and deliberations for the 1st meeting of the study

Participants summarized and debated the findings of the first day. The session was chaired by Ms. Pok Marina, CSCAP Cambodia and board member of the Cambodian Institute

for Co-operation and Peace. An important aspect mentioned was to develop a database which could help to predict violence against civilians. The importance of intellectual contributions was also stressed. In the future, a joint analysis center could be established. The CSCAP Study Group on Enhancing Contributions from Asia Pacific Countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations has not only provided a valuable forum for comparing national experiences and strengths in the field of UN peacekeeping, but also one for discussing challenges and opportunities for countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

Several key recommendations have been adopted:

- a) CSCAP needs to encourage all member states to pledge contributions to UN peacekeeping operations as early as possible.
- b) CSACP needs to encourage opening up dialogue among CSCAP units in the field, to exchange information on how to enhance their international capability by sharing experiences.
- c) CSCAP needs to find new ways to enhance UN peacekeeping operations through technological assistance, intelligence sharing and collection of data, in order to build an early warning system.

Appendix: List of Participants
(Alphabetical order by country name)

Ashley Collingburn, CSCAP Australia, Visiting Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute(ASPI).

HRH Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, CSCAP Cambodia Chair, Founder & Chairman, Board of Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace.

Marina Pok, CSCAP Cambodia, Board Member, Cambodian Institute for Peace & Cooperation.

Sothirak Pou, CSCAP Cambodia, Executive Director, The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace.

Qian Lihua, CSCAP China, Major General, Vice Chair of CSCAP China

Ma Li, CSCAP China, Assistant Research Fellow, CSCAP China Secretariat

Yi Xing, CSCAP China, Director, CSCAP China Secretariat

Tao He, CSCAP China, Assistant to Major General Qian Lihua.

Thierry Tardy, CSCAP EU, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies.

Chigumi Kawaguchi, CSCAP Japan, Research Fellow, JICA Research Institute, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Kim Sung-han, CSCAP Korea President, Professor of Korea University

Hong Kyudok, CSCAP Korea Chair, Professor of Sookmyung Women's University

Park Heung-Soon, CSCAP Korea, Professor of Sun Moon University.

Lee Jang-keun, CSCAP Korea, Director General for the International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

LTC. Park Tae Hong, CSCAP Korea, Korea International Peacekeeping Operations Center.

Choi Hyun-Jin, CSCAP Korea, Professor of Kyung Hee University

Martin A. Sebastian, CSCAP Malaysia Chair, Center Head/Fellow, Center for Maritime Security and Diplomacy (CMSD), Maritime Institute of Malaysia.

Mohd Ikmal Hisyam Abu, CSCAP Malaysia, Researcher, Center for Maritime Security and Diplomacy (CMSD), Maritime Institute of Malaysia

Jim Rolfe, CSCAP New Zealand, Senior Fellow, Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

Georgy Toloraya, CSCAP Russia, Coordinator, CSCAP Russia

Shawn Ho, CSCAP Singapore, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

Le Thi Minh Thoa, CSCAP Vietnam, Assistant Director General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.

Rapporteur:

Boris Kondoch, Professor of Far East University, Republic of Korea

Observer:

Choi Yunmi, Research Professor of Sookmyung Women's University