

## **ENHANCING CSCAP'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND INTERACTION WITH THE ARF**

### **Remarks by Mr. Tran Ngoc An, Deputy Director General of ASEAN Department, MOFA of Viet Nam at the 34<sup>th</sup> CSCAP Steering Committee in Manila on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010**

Since its very inception, the ARF has recognized the importance of cooperation and coordination with other regional organisations and research institutions in carrying out its mission. The ARF Concept Paper stated that ‘Given the delicate nature of many of the subjects being considered by the ARF, there is merit in moving the ARF process along two tracks. Track One activities will be carried out by governments. Track Two activities will be carried out by strategic institutes and non-government organizations in the region, such as ASEAN-ISIS and CSCAP. To be meaningful and relevant, the Track Two activities may focus, as much as possible, on the current concerns of the ARF. Track Two activities should result in the creation of a sense of community among participants of those activities.’

In this connection, we highly appreciate that CSCAP has been very active in the ARF Track II activities and made valuable contributions to the ARF process. It was CSCAP that organised and contributed to a series of Seminars on Preventive Diplomacy in Seoul and France 1995-1996 and in Thailand in 1999. Later on, the 8<sup>th</sup> ARF in Hanoi 2001 adopted a Paper on Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy which was largely based on the result of a series of seminars above and the draft Statement on Principles of Preventive Diplomacy prepared by CSCAP.

It should be noted also that the 4 overlapping areas between CBMs and PD agreed by the ARF in its evolution from CBMs to PD namely the Enhanced role of the ARF Chair, Paper on Concept and Principles of Preventive Diplomacy, ARF EEPs, and Strengthening ARF linkages between Track I and Track II and regional security organisations was largely resulted from ideas from CSCAP.

Apart from preventive diplomacy, CSCAP has organised various Seminar, most of them with Singapore, Philippines and Vietnam on various security issues ranging from counter-terrorism, transnational crime, maritime security and so on. We are pleased to note that the Paper entitled “ARF in the 21st Century” which was adopted by Ministers at the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF was the outcome of the Workshop organized by CSCAP and the Institute of International Relations Viet Nam.

Recognizing the importance of the significant contribution from Track II to the ARF process and based on the CSCAP's List of Proposals on enhancing interactions between Track I and Track II, The Ministers, at the Thirteenth ARF, Kuala Lumpur, 28 July 2006, adopted the Thailand's concept paper on “Enhancing Ties between Track I and Track II in the ARF, and between the ARF and Other Regional and International Security Organizations”. And as the result, representatives from the ASEAN ISIS, CSCAP and OSCE attend the ISG on CBMs and PD regularly since the meeting in

Helsinki in 2007. Such interactions and linkages have not only boosted the ARF's credibility, but also provided unique and useful perspectives for ARF discussions.

The most recent ones are CSCAP Memorandum on Human Trafficking, its recommendations on export control, the development the standardised format of the ARF Annual Security Outlook as well as the ARF Vision Statement adopted by ARF Ministers in 2009.

For the last inter-sessional year, ARF continues to be an unique Forum in Asia and the Pacific region, whereas countries participants can freely and constructively discuss issues of common interests, especially those of security concerns. We, in ASEAN, are very glad to observe that the Forum continues its pace of development, which I believe that most countries participants are comfortable with.

Vietnam took the ARF Chairmanship from Thailand in July 2009. And during the inter-sessional year 2009-2010, ARF has conducted 18 activities focusing on four priority areas, namely disaster relief, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, maritime security and non-proliferation and disarmament. Those activities contributed not only to the cooperation among the regional countries to effectively address the security challenges nowadays, but also helped to build up the confidence and mutual understanding among the nations.

The 17<sup>th</sup> ARF last July in Hanoi made various important decision but most notable of all was the adoption of the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement. This Plan of Action was the first and most comprehensive Plan of Action that ARF has ever adopted and provided policy guidance for the ARF to develop and implement concrete and practical actions toward the year 2020.

For the future direction of the ARF, the Ministers at the 17<sup>th</sup> ARF Meeting agreed to task the senior officials to develop an ARF Work Plan on Preventive diplomacy as a mean to move towards Stage 2 of the ARF. They also tasked the ASEAN Secretariate to work on possible ways to strengthen ARF Unit as part of the ASEAN Secretariate. The Ministers reiterated the importance of enhancing linkages between Track I and Track II and stressed the need to evolve Track II in every ISM and ISG meeting in an appropriate way. They also shared the views that efforts should be enhanced to make the ARF more action-oriented.

As Asia Pacific region will continue to face with numerous security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional we think that CSCAP and Track II should keep a close look on that so that it could further contribute to the ARF process.

*First*, apart from long-standing issues such as nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula, disaster relief efforts, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, peace, stability and confidence building in the South China Sea and the issue of maritime security and safety will gain its prominence in the ARF agenda. In this regard, the ARF established the ISM on Maritime Security in 2008. The ISM met two times, one in Surabaya 2009 and New Zealand 2010 with active participation from CSCAP. It is

expected that ARF will soon table a Work Plan on Maritime next year. We believe that CSCAP had its working group on Maritime Security and submitted its Memorandum on Maritime Cooperation to ARF for discussion back in 1998-1999. For ASEAN, we also launched the first ASEAN Maritime Forum in 2010. We believe that maritime security will become a common issue in ASEAN and ARF in the next inter-sessional year and we look forward to CSCAP contribution to the discussion and development of an ASEAN/ARF Maritime Security Blueprint in the near future.

*Second*, ARF will focus its discussion on a Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy. We believe that this is the area ARF could benefit most from the expertise from CSCAP. However, it is worth to note that while progressing toward the preventive diplomacy, as agreed, ARF should continue to expand and consolidate its confidence building measures. Early warning mechanism as envisaged in the ARF Vision Statement could also be the area where CSCAP could look into and provide foods for thought.

*Third*, ARF believe that further integration of the defence track to the ARF process should be further promoted. The topics was intensively discussed during the last inter-sessional years and it is expected to continue during the Indonesia Chairmanship. Various ideas to utilised the civil-defence assets in the disaster relief efforts have been noted and we believe that a study by CSCAP how to utilise defense forces in ARF efforts in addressing non-traditional security issues will be highly appreciated.

*Fourth*, in a broader perspective, we are witnessing the emergence of new political and security architecture in the Asia Pacific region with the recent introduction of an expanded EAS to include US and Russia as well as the launching of the ADMM Plus mechanism. We believe the CSCAP could come up with inovative and practical ideas on how to ensure ASEAN as the driving force the of the regional cooperation mechanisms and how to ensure the comlimentarity and avoid duplication and overlapping of various regional mechanisms and submit to ASEAN and the ARF for futher consideration.

Last but not least, we believe that there's still much room for further strengthening the linkages between Track I and Track II. While we could continue to explore the Concept Paper in 2006, CSCAP should further look at the Hanoi Plan of Action which contains a Section suggesting areas that Track 2, in general, and CSCAP, in particular, could contribute to the ARF, namely:

- Encourage joint research projects on defense issues by regional government-affiliated policy and strategic research institutes.
- Encourage the development of modality/guidelines for regular consultation with Track II organizations.
- Encourage the development of an appropriate procedure that allows Track II participants to meaningfully contribute to ARF, through the implementation of the existing procedure to consider recommendations from ASEAN-ISIS, and CSCAP.

- Encourage Track II organizations to enhance ARF's public profile and visibility.

On how to enhance interaction between the CSCAP and the ARF, apart from actively participating in the ISM and ISG meetings as requested by the Ministers at the 17<sup>th</sup> ARF Meeting, we think CSCAP could interact more often with the ARF Chair and the ARF Unit in the ASEAN Secretariat to be updated on ARF's activities and priorities and to provide inputs.

Now I would like to hear your comments and inputs from your perspective on how to enhance interaction between CSCAP and ARF for ASEAN's and ARF's consideration.

Thank you for your attention!

*22 November 2010*