



**REPORT OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COUNCIL FOR
SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC (CSCAP)
Prepared for the ARF-ISG Support Group on Preventive
Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention**

**9 October, 2008
Singapore**

Introduction

This is a brief report of the Co-Chairs of CSCAP prepared for the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Support Group (ARF-ISG) on Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention Meeting on 9 October 2008.

CSCAP, a Track Two process dedicated to promoting dialogue and conducting policy studies on security matters in the Asia Pacific region, will focus on two primary areas this year and the next:

1. A review of CSCAP and its activities.
2. In-depth studies on important issues of security interest in the region through its Study Groups.

This report will also briefly review some recent CSCAP findings and recommendations that may be of interest to ARF members.

Review of CSCAP

A review of CSCAP is considered timely given that the process is into its sixteenth year of existence and extensive changes have taken place in the region. CSCAP has introduced changes before, but this will be the first time a comprehensive review is being undertaken. The purpose is to enhance CSCAP's relevance and effectiveness as a non-governmental process that contributes substantively to promoting confidence and security building in the Asia Pacific region.

The CSCAP Steering Committee will consider the recommendations of the review group led by the CSCAP Co-Chairs at its meeting on 1-2 December.

Studies being conducted by CSCAP

CSCAP has established 8 Study Groups including a sub-group looking into the following areas:

1. Energy security.
2. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
3. Export controls.
4. Multilateral security governance in Northeast Asia/North Pacific.
5. Security implications of climate change.
6. Naval enhancement in the Asia Pacific.
7. Safety and security of off-shore oil and gas installations.
8. Regional transnational crime hubs.

1. The Study Group on Asia-Pacific Cooperation for Energy Security was established at the 26th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in December 2006 and is co-chaired by CSCAP Singapore and CSCAP India. The Study Group held its fourth meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 8-9 July 2008 and discussed the prospects for cooperation in ensuring the security, stability and sustainability of energy supplies. The Study Group has completed its workshops and is now in the process of compiling selected papers for the publication of a CSCAP monograph. The Study Group is also finalising a draft memorandum for approval by the Steering Committee.

2. The Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia-Pacific was established at the 21st CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in May 2004 and is co-chaired by US CSCAP and CSCAP Vietnam. The Study Group held its seventh meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 25-26 May 2008 and finalised a draft Charter for Peace and Security in Northeast Asia which has been provided to the Russian-chaired Six-Party Talks working group focused on future security architecture in Northeast Asia. It may be further developed by the CSCAP Study Group on Multilateral Security Governance in Northeast Asia/North Pacific. The seventh meeting of the Study Group also drafted two chapters of the proposed Asia-Pacific WMD Handbook and Action Plan - one on the threat posed by WMD and the other on global treaties and compliance mechanisms. A draft should be ready for submission to the ARF ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament following the December 2008 WMD Study Group meeting in Bangkok. Among the Study Group's recommendations is the suggestion that ASEAN consider establishing an ASEAN Reprocessing and Enrichment Free Zone as a complement to its Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

3. The CSCAP Export Controls Experts Group (XCXG), a subgroup of the WMD Study Group, was established at the 22nd CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in December 2004. The Study Group held its fourth meeting in Manila, the Philippines on 25-26 August 2008 and produced a XCXG Working Document which will be tabled at the ARF-ISG meeting for its information. It recommends specific measures involving legislation, licensing procedures, enforcement practices, and industry outreach that the Experts Group believes are essential to an effective strategic trade management system. It also encourages the ARF to create a pool of technical specialists and make financial resources available to help member states strengthen capacity building in strategic trade management.

4. The Study Group on Multilateral Security Governance in Northeast Asia/North Pacific was established at the 28th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in December 2007 and is co-chaired by CSCAP Japan, CSCAP Korea and CSCAP China. The Study Group will hold its first meeting shortly. The initial focus of the Study Group is to consider an institutional design that could promote peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula through the coordination of several existing institutions of varying memberships and purposes. It aims to provide track two support to the Six-Party Talks process and to any ARF effort to develop a sub-regional grouping focused on Northeast Asia security affairs.

5. The CSCAP Study Group on the Security Implications of Climate Change was established at the 28th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting in December 2007 and is co-chaired by CSCAP Malaysia, AusCSCAP and CSCAP Philippines. The Study Group plans to convene a meeting in October 2008 in Manila, the Philippines. The meeting will identify the climate-change scenarios that are projected to take place in the Asia-Pacific region and those that are likely to have serious security implications.

6. The Study Group on Naval Enhancement in the Asia-Pacific will be co-chaired by CSCAP China, CSCAP India, and CSCAP Japan. The Study Group will convene two meetings that address policy issues, including regarding confidence building and preventive diplomacy, arising from the enhancement of capacities/capabilities of maritime security forces (both Navies and Coast Guards) in the Asia-Pacific region. The Study Group aims to produce a CSCAP Memorandum covering the entire ambit of naval enhancement in the region, and also an edited book of the papers presented at its meetings.

7. The Study Group on the Safety and Security of Offshore Oil and Gas Installations in the Asia-Pacific will be co-chaired by AusCSCAP, CSCAP Malaysia, and CSCAP Singapore. The Study Group will convene a one-off meeting in Kuala Lumpur, possibly at the Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) in early 2009, to address cooperative activities and common interest issues arising from the fact that most regional countries have some involvement in the offshore industry. The Study Group intends to produce a CSCAP Memorandum that provides policy guidelines for cooperation in the provision of security and safety for offshore installations. It will also highlight the benefit of promoting relations between CSCAP and the private sector.

8. The Study Group on the Establishment of Regional Transnational Organised Crime Hubs in the Asia-Pacific will be co-chaired by AusCSCAP, CSCAP New Zealand, CSCAP Philippines, and CSCAP Thailand. The Study Group will convene its first meeting in Wollongong, Australia, on November 2008 to identify criteria for predictive modeling of emerging crime hubs in the Asia-Pacific region in order to identify strategies and opportunities to counteract such threats to regional security. The Study Group will produce a publication and a CSCAP Memorandum on the topic. It will also seek to forge closer links to Track One (ARF and ASEAN) through identification of new critical issues that warrant CSCAP and Track One attention.

Recent CSCAP Studies and Finding

CSCAP Memorandum No.12 – Maritime Knowledge and Awareness: Basic Foundations of Maritime Security.

This memorandum notes that the failure to achieve a satisfactory level of maritime security cooperation in the region is partly due to a lack of recognition of the advantages of cooperation and of the benefits of relevant regimes. Key actions to overcome this situation recommended in the memo include:

- Clear arrangements for inter-agency coordination on maritime security.
- A process for dialogue and cooperation between regional navies and coast guards.
- Wider support for all relevant international maritime security regimes.
- Legal workshops under the auspices of the ARF and/or CSCAP to promote broader adherence to relevant regimes.
- Completion of a lexicon of agreed maritime security expressions to overcome some of the difficulties with language and interpretation identified in the memo.

CSCAP Memorandum No. 13 - Guidelines for Maritime Cooperation in Enclosed and Semi-Enclosed Seas and Similar Sea Areas of the Asia Pacific

This memo recommends “best practice” guidelines that might be followed by countries adjacent to key seas in the Asia-Pacific region with the objective of achieving a higher level of maritime cooperation in those seas than exists at present. Key regional seas where greater cooperation is required include the Sea of Japan (East Sea), East China Sea, South China Sea and the Andaman Sea.

Preventive Diplomacy Study Group.

Key Findings and Recommendations:

- The ARF should develop a 2020 Vision Statement to refine and further clarify ARF objectives and provide specific benchmarks for progress;
- While the current Working Definition and Statement of Principles of PD serve as a useful starting point, it should be recognized that, in practice, PD has also be applied within states, as long as it is “employed only at the request of the parties involved or with their consent”;
- Effective PD requires effective early warning, which could be accomplished through the establishment of a Risk Reduction Center (as envisioned in the ARF Concept Paper);
- The EEPG could be given an early warning mission, and a more standardized ASO which focused on emerging security challenges could serve as a vehicle for providing early identification of potential challenges;
- Other general suggestions include: clearer definition of the role of the EEPG, ASO, Friends of the Chair, and the expanded role of the Chair itself; increased willingness to examine more sensitive or controversial regional security issues; examination of the “responsibility to protect” principle and how this affects the long-standing principle of non-interference; provisions for the calling of emergency meetings to respond to impending crises or conflict; examination of a “full consensus minus x” approach for routine ARF decisions.
- Suggestions toward further institutionalization of the ARF include: creation of an ARF Secretariat (through elevation of the ARF Unit); appointment of an ARF Secretary General with clearly defined role and mission; eventual establishment of a Regional Risk Reduction Center; and the establishment of a regular ARF Summit, perhaps back-to-back or rotating with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting, East Asia Summit, or other high-level gatherings.

Many of the CSCAP PD Study Group recommendations were integrated into the recent “Joint Study on Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Preventive Diplomacy” recently undertaken for the ARF.

**CSCAP Secretariat
5 October 2008**