

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF  
THE TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS  
(NADI) 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE WORKSHOP**

**2-5 May 2017  
Singapore**

1. The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Workshop was organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore, at the Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium, from 2 to 5 May 2017.
2. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Workshop. The list of participants is attached in Annex I. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, chaired the Workshop.

**OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ONG KENG YONG, EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, RSIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE NADI WORKSHOP**

3. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong warmly welcomed all delegates and guests to the NADI 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Workshop. He appreciated the participation of all NADI delegates to this Workshop.
4. He indicated that NADI should recognise the fruits of its labour, and that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book does exactly that. He thanked all NADI members for their contributions and 10 years of hard work. As the region faces many challenges, including traditional and non-traditional security issues, collaboration within the defence and security research community is needed more than ever before. Ambassador Ong highlighted how NADI has made relevant recommendations to the ASEAN Defence Ministers in many areas. Ambassador Ong stressed that NADI must be able to look into emerging and future issues facing the region and provide recommendations to the ASEAN Defence Ministers on the appropriate policy responses, and that NADI must retain its leeway and flexibility.
5. Ambassador Ong commended the NADI Secretariat for its splendid work and its tireless efforts in helping to shape NADI to what it is today. He declared the NADI 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Workshop open.

**Adoption of Agenda**

6. The Workshop adopted the agenda and the programme, which are appended in Annex II and Annex III respectively.

## LAUNCH OF THE NADI 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

### Keynote Speaker: Mr Eddie Teo, Chairman of the Board of Governors, RSIS

7. Mr Eddie Teo thanked the NADI delegates for accepting the invitation to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Workshop. Declaring NADI's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a major milestone, Mr Teo recalled the evolution of NADI and the significant strides it has made since its inauguration in 2007. Today, NADI is a recognised and well-established think tank group, holding regular annual meetings, workshops and retreats. It has also conducted collaborative projects to discuss fresh ideas and offer timely proposals to Track I. The sense of camaraderie fostered among NADI members has moreover been valuable in terms of confidence building and promoting defence diplomacy among the Track II ASEAN defence and security establishments. In 2013, NADI institutionalised its processes by adopting the NADI Concept Paper and the Terms of Reference at the 6th NADI Annual Meeting. These initiatives have enhanced the organisational effectiveness of NADI.
8. Mr Teo noted the ADMM's expression of appreciation for NADI's work in their 2015 and 2016 Joint Declarations, signalling NADI's growing relevance and usefulness to Track I. In particular, NADI has focused on non-traditional security issues such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, cyber security and counter-terrorism as areas in which the ADMM and ADMM-Plus could consider enhancing human resource capabilities and technical expertise to deal with these growing non-traditional security challenges. Given the increasingly uncertainty and tense geopolitical situation in the Asia Pacific, and the growing non-traditional security challenges facing the region, NADI has an indispensable role to play in looking ahead of the curve, anticipating emerging issues, conducting analysis on these issues and proposing relevant recommendations to the ADMM.
9. Mr Teo thanked all NADI members for their contributions in making NADI a relevant and effective think tank group. He also thanked Ambassador Barry Desker for initiating the idea of NADI, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong for his continuing support, and Mr Tan Seng Chye and the NADI Secretariat for their contributions in supporting NADI.
10. After concluding his keynote speech, Mr Teo officially launched the NADI 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book, *Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI): Commemorating 10 Years of NADI*. Ambassador Ong presented copies of the commemorative books to Mr Eddie Teo and all NADI delegations.

## **SEMINAR ON FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF NADI**

### **Briefing by Mr Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, RSIS, and Head of NADI Secretariat**

11. Mr Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, RSIS, and Head of NADI Secretariat, said that the Commemorative Book launched earlier in the morning represented the substantial work and achievements of NADI delegations over the last decade. Since the Inaugural Meeting in August 2007, NADI had hosted nine Annual Meetings, 21 Workshops and two Retreats. NADI has provided the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) with fresh ideas and forward looking policy recommendations. The ADMM has expressed appreciation for NADI's inputs and recommendations in their Joint Declarations in 2015 and 2016. In fact, NADI is the only ASEAN think tank group supporting an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.
12. Over the last decade, NADI has promoted closer cooperation among the NADI core and partner institutions, enhanced networking and promoted better understanding and confidence building as well as enhancing cooperation among the militaries of the ASEAN Member States in responding to non-traditional security and transnational issues. NADI has promoted defence diplomacy in ASEAN. NADI has been a successful ASEAN think tank group because it has good practices and mechanisms in place and has established a NADI concept paper and guidelines for meetings and workshops, as well as the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the organisation of these meetings. NADI members exchange views on their countries' national policies and organisational structures in responding to non-traditional security issues. The practice for the second part of their discussions, has been for delegates to exchange views freely in their personal capacities so that they can go beyond their countries' national positions, to arrive at agreed recommendations without attribution to anyone. NADI has also been able to suggest new areas beyond what the ADMM has been focussing on.
13. Given the evolving regional and global environment, NADI could only consider issues in the next few years. Looking to the future, NADI should continue to improve on the good practices and mechanisms it has established, to enable it to stay ahead of the curve on defence and security issues. NADI's main focus would remain in the areas of non-traditional security and transnational issues. However, on sensitive traditional security issues, NADI will have to take the cue from the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and not go beyond their positions. In the coming years, NADI should urge ADMM to conduct training courses at Track I level to enhance the human resource capacities of ASEAN Member States and transfer expertise to them from the Plus countries, especially in HADR. In future meetings, NADI should give more detailed recommendations to ADMM on specific issues. NADI should also consider holding only 3 to 4 workshops a year.

## Summary of Discussions

14. Following Mr Tan's briefing, the NADI delegates had an active exchange of views. The delegates agreed that NADI has done well over the past 10 years, with good mechanisms and practices in place to take NADI forward. NADI has achieved much in the last 10 years in terms of providing relevant recommendations to the ADMM, and should continue to do so. The participants acknowledged the importance of NADI remaining flexible so as to be able to respond to rapidly-changing regional dynamics and emerging issues.
15. The delegates agreed that to move NADI forward and be more effective in the future, it should consider the following approaches in the coming years:
- a) As a Track II institution, NADI should maintain its independence from Track I so that it has the freedom and flexibility to voice out and explore new ideas, think ahead of the curve and give timely recommendations. NADI should continue to utilise informal dialogues with Track I so as to understand better each other's concerns and interests in facilitating NADI's work.
  - b) NADI could consider joint research and collaboration to provide relevant inputs to ADMM. NADI should also anticipate emerging trends and think out of the box so as to provide timely policy recommendations.
  - c) NADI should continue to encourage the enhancement of capacity building in human resources and transfer of expertise from the Plus countries to the AMS through training courses at the Track I level.
  - d) NADI should further enhance cooperation among the core and partner institutions, foster confidence building, and promote closer relations.
  - e) It was agreed that a network of Heads of NADI core and partner institutions could be established to exchange views on certain issues of their common interest, including utilising relevant digital platforms.
  - f) It was agreed that there would be a maximum of 3 to 4 NADI workshops per year, to address the issue of budgetary constraints and to allow adequate preparation for more in-depth analysis. During the Annual Meeting, NADI members should propose workshop topics, objectives, proposed outcomes and dates for consideration, to allow time for NADI members to prepare for the workshops.
  - g) It was suggested that a study could be conducted on the extent to which NADI recommendations have been taken up by ADMM.

## ANY OTHER MATTERS

### Forthcoming NADI Activities

16. The meeting noted the updates on upcoming NADI activities:
- a) Indonesia (IDU) will organise a NADI Workshop in Surabaya, Indonesia, in the last week of July 2017. Further details on the topic will be confirmed in mid-May 2017.

- b) Malaysia (MiDAS / NDUM) will organise a NADI Workshop on “Evaluating ASEAN Relations with Dialogue Partners” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14-17 August 2017.
- c) The Philippines (NDCP / AFP-OSSSM) will organise the NADI Retreat and Workshop on 21-25 November 2017.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

- 17. The Chairman of the NADI Workshop extended his sincere appreciation and thanks to all the delegates for their participation in and constructive contribution to the Workshop.
- 18. The NADI delegates expressed their appreciation to the RSIS for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements for the NADI Workshop.