

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF
THE TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND
SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI) WORKSHOP ON DEFENCE DIPLOMACY AS A WAY OF
STRENGTHENING THE RESPECT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY**

25 – 28 JULY 2017
ORANJE HOTEL, SURABAYA

1. The NADI Workshop on Defence Diplomacy as a Way of Strengthening The Respect of National Sovereignty, organized by the Indonesia Defence University (IDU), was held at the Oranje Hotel, Surabaya-Indonesia from 25-28 July 2017.
2. Representatives of NADI member institutions from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam attended the workshop. The list of participants that attended the Workshop appears at **Annex I**. Rear Admiral Dr. Supartono, M.M chaired the Workshop.

Chairman's Welcome Remarks

3. Rear Admiral Dr. Supartono M.M welcomed NADI members to the workshop and expressed his pleasure in hosting the workshop. He formally acknowledged the presence of all Heads of Delegation and entourage to this workshop. The theme of this workshop is "Defence Diplomacy as a Way of Strengthening the Respect of National Sovereignty". The focus of this workshop is on sharing perspectives and best practices in national sovereignty issues among member countries and taking into mutual respect of territorial sovereignty. He then declared that the NADI workshop officially open.
4. Toward this end, he was certain such challenges can be solved if ASEAN members work together in the spirit of ASEAN. Therefore, it becomes essential to find out the ways and means of utilizing and maintaining communication and improving cooperation among ASEAN members. He has a very high expectation that this workshop will be very beneficial to all participants. The Chairman's Report will cover a wide range of very interesting topics related to the defence diplomacy as a way of strengthening the respect of national sovereignty. Diplomacy, negotiations and international arbitration become important to solve any conflicts and territorial disputes among ASEAN countries.

Adoption of Agenda

5. The meeting adopted the agenda and the programme of the Workshop as attached in **Annexes II and III** respectively.

Expert Speaker's Presentations

Presentation by Prof. Makarim Wibisono, PhD. Lecturer of Indonesia Defence University.

6. Prof. Makarim stated that ASEAN is increasingly needed as a community to overcome contemporary issues such as maritime border or power rivalry. Institutionalization of ASEAN pillars (politico-security, economy, and social-culture) and cooperation with other regional forums and countries are part of good signs that ASEAN is coming through a right direction. Security should be seen in its broader term including economic challenges particularly about liberalization and development of ASEAN Economic Community.
7. He urged that ASEAN as a security community should create a regional order based on shared norms and ideas. While not forgetting about traditional security issues, non-traditional issues are arising which are so interlinked and need to be addressed collectively. ASEAN Politico-Security Community Plan of Action helps ASEAN to achieve the stages whereby states share dynamic and positive relationships with each other.
8. There are challenges in the future for ASEAN which include:
 - a. Domestic challenge that could be managed by determination of the national leaderships to accommodate their political oppositions;
 - b. Various uncertainties such as proliferation of nuclear weapon and overlapping territorial claims which constitute disturbances to the system. There is no fixed response to this disturbance but a change of UN security council representation might resolve these kind of problems;
 - c. The dynamics of the political environment affected by security complex. This challenge could only be analyzed through both patterns of amity and power distribution among countries.

Presentation by Brigadier General Rizerius Eko Hadisancoko, SE., SAP., MSI. Director of International Cooperation, Directorate of Defence Strategy, Ministry of Defence

9. In the case of Indonesia, it has some strategies to enhance defence cooperation. Indonesia engages in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, develops mutual understanding and confidence building measures, encourages the creation of prosperity despite a non-aligned country, increases military cooperation, and utilizes various forums in ASEAN (ADMM, ADMM Plus and ARF). Security challenges are addressed by defensive active strategy, prioritizing TNI as main component defence, and conducting defence diplomacy at international level. Defence challenges keep arising resulting from evolving, dynamic, and multidimensional threat. Those challenges could be manifested as follows: terrorism and radicalism, separatism and armed rebellion, natural disasters and the

environment, violation of border area, piracy and theft of natural resources and minerals, arms smuggling, epidemic of a disease, and drug abuse, as well as cyber and intelligence warfare.

10. Indonesia is still building a harmonious cooperation and security architecture. Disputes over maritime border should be solved through intensive dialogues and ASEAN framework. Cooperation on maritime issues, for instance Malacca Straits Patrol, and the current trilateral cooperation in Sulu Sea. Indonesia, along with other countries, is actively involved in ASEAN activity and forum. Because of the good intention from AMS, Southeast Asia could be a stable region. Eventually defence and military could potentially promote harmonious political relations.

Presentation by Representatives of NADI Member Institutions

Presentation by Ms. Ampuan Yura Kasumawati DP HM Adnan, Head of Research Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

11. Ms. Ampuan Yura Kasumawati in her presentation on Defence Diplomacy and Cooperation: Contribution to Brunei and Region, shared the importance of Brunei's defence diplomacy and cooperation contribution to its national security and also in fostering security and stability in the region and beyond. Through the various bilateral, multilateral and ASEAN led security framework cooperation, dialogues and interactions, there are four main outcomes of benefit to Brunei which are increase in trust and confidence, improve capacity building, contribute to regional peace, stability and raise the RBAF profile in general.
12. She also observed the positive trends in the region's defence diplomacy that has grown and continued to evolve particularly defence diplomacy and cooperation under the ASEAN framework. The ADMM and ADMM Plus cooperation has gained momentum and encouraged informal dialogues among ASEAN defence ministers with some of its dialogue partners. She added that the increased platforms of 1.5 track also reflected a level of comfort, readiness to be open and willingness to share views on security and build a common perception of security challenges. The contribution of ASEAN defence diplomacy and cooperation is becoming increasingly important. It adds value to respective ASEAN member states in protecting and defending its sovereignty, establishment defence eco-systems builds on the ASEAN led architecture as cooperation are deepened and finally through ASEAN's defence diplomacy and cooperation, it supports the efforts in ensuring peace and stability.
13. As a way forward in strengthening regional defence diplomacy, she viewed the need for better management of ADMM's cooperation through means to measure its initiatives and efforts that would build on the overall regional response. This includes consideration for a scorecard on the implementation of the ADMM Work Programme, a supplementary information paper on cross-cutting issues from various ASEAN security related platform so ADMM could build on the existing

initiatives and greater sharing of information with an agreed standardized themes of contribution by respective ASEAN member states defence sector in the ADMM and APSC through the ASEAN Security Outlook and ARF Security Outlook publications.

Presentation by Colonel Andi Muhammad Amran Rasjid, Director of Centre for Strategic Studies, Indonesian National Defence Forces (TNI).

14. Colonel Andi Muhammad Amran Rasjid highlighted that for ASEAN member countries, defence diplomacy reflects national awareness to address the sharing of national issues within the regional sphere. Defence diplomacy must be fully and thoroughly implemented which involves the military, politicians of government officials and experts, as defence diplomacy is a tool of foreign policy. ASEAN's defence diplomacy should also prioritize the principle of centrality as an affirmation of ASEAN's position on other major powers, by strengthening the solidity of ASEAN member countries while upholding their respective sovereignty.
15. He suggested the following recommendations:
 - a. Establish a joint strategy for drafting the ratification of international legal instruments and adjusting national legislation
 - b. Advancing defence diplomacy in the field of non-traditional security issues to respect the sovereignty of each country
 - c. Optimizing Joint Task Force, Joint Patrol, Joint Operation, and Joint Investigation at the border

Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Souksan Khaiphom, Deputy Head Office of the Military Science History Department of Ministry of National Defence, Lao PDR

16. Lieutenant Colonel Souksan Khaiphom highlighted that defence policy has fundamentally based on the twin pillars of deterrence and diplomacy. The first pillar of deterrence is provided by developing and a resilient Laos, through the institutions of National Service a strong capable and Total Defence, as well as by taking a prudent and stable approach to defence spending. The second pillar of defence diplomacy is built by establishing strong and friendly ties, through extensive interactions and cooperation, with defence establishments and armed forces in the region and around the world. We also play our part as a responsible member of the international community in helping to uphold and shape a regional and international system in which all countries abide by international rules and norms. Laos keenly understands that small countries can survive and thrive only in a world where sovereignty is respected and where interactions between states are governed by the rule of law.
17. He also believed to build and open and inclusive regional security architecture that encourages countries to engage constructively in dialogue, and ensures that all the stakeholders have a voice and a seat at the table. At the same time, we would like the region to go beyond dialogue to forge practical cooperation to

address common security challenges. We have, thus, worked closely with our ASEAN neighbours within the framework of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM). We provide another platform for enhancing defence cooperation through sharing of experiences and exchanges of visits.

Presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Ir. Suthan Venkatachalam, Deputy Director Policy Research, Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS)

18. Lieutenant Colonel Ir. Suthan Venkatachalam stated that defence diplomacy can be considered as the use of soft power as well as diplomatic means in military ways through non-violent action and derives from military cooperation. One of the main purposes of defence diplomacy is to deter any possible aggressive military action and achieved by establishing a good relationship between countries. With the end of the Cold War, the geo-political environment created a dramatic upsurge where state to state war is declining, and we are currently facing a new set of asymmetric and non-traditional security challenges that have become the new-age threats in the region which cannot be solved in isolation or through old security structures of the past. Thus, greater transparency between member states is required to provide feasible solutions.
19. Bilateral and multilateral engagements through defence diplomacy between member states plays a pivotal role in addressing these challenges ahead. Engagement at different layers such as Track I (ADMM, ADMM Plus and ARF) have brought greater transparency in handling sensitive issues within AMS or countries outside ASEAN. Some initiatives that have been implemented from this engagement are Eyes in the Sky (EiS), Trilateral Maritime Patrol (TMP) and Joint Military Exercises. Besides that, Track II organizations such as NADI have inculcated defence diplomacy through successful intellectual discourses, forums, seminars as well as discussions that were vital in formulating and suggesting policies to be implemented through the ADMM to uplift peace and stability in the region.
20. Despite all the successes, there are a lot more to be done towards achieving greater defence and security cooperation. The region must continue to work together relentlessly to prosper together. In doing so, managing distrust and building trust between AMS and other partners must be ramped up. Besides that, transparency through information sharing is vital to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Presentation by Mr. Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

21. Mr. Tan Seng Chye highlighted the various mechanisms for ASEAN cooperation including defence cooperation. He said that ASEAN is a platform for cooperation in all fields, including defence cooperation, for peace and stability in the region. In order to do this, ASEAN countries are guided by certain principles like respect for

territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and respect for sovereignty of states. ASEAN has mechanisms to encourage respect for these principles as well as promote cooperation, friendship, mutual trust and confidence building. Over the last 50 years since its establishment, ASEAN countries have enjoyed peace and stability and there have been no wars or major conflicts. This has been possible because the ASEAN Member States (AMS) respected the principles mentioned earlier and they have given priority to cooperation and the practice of diplomacy in bilateral relations or multilateral relations and cooperation in ASEAN.

22. He added that the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) has been an effective and useful mechanism to promote a code of conduct of relations among the ASEAN member States (AMS) as well as with the non-ASEAN states, through adherence to the principles of ASEAN and the TAC. The establishment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in 2006 was a significant historic milestone and a platform for defence and security cooperation and discussions. Even then, national sovereignty and territorial integrity remain sensitive. Thus, the ADMM have focused on non-traditional security issues instead of traditional security issues. For the ADMM-Plus, ADMM has ensured that it plays the central role and determines the agenda and scope of cooperation with the Plus countries.

Presentation by RADM Roberto Q Estioko AFP (Ret) PhD, MNSA, President of National Defence College of The Philippines (NDCP)

23. RADM Roberto Q Estioko highlighted that the entirety of the threats to the security of ASEAN region remains to be poverty, transnational health threats and infectious diseases, environmental degradation and natural disasters, and transnational crime back in 2003. However, the analysis of the current regional security identifies that there is a trend in the issue of national sovereignty within and beyond the ASEAN. One of the main strategic initiatives wherein the ASEAN was conceived was the prevention of the escalation of conflict occurring between the newly created post-colonial nations in the archipelagic Southeast Asia. It was accepted that concerns regarding national sovereignty was one of the imperatives that ASEAN hoped to address peacefully. Therefore, this paper recommends efforts in accordance with defence diplomacy to strengthen the respect of national sovereignty through the pragmatic diplomacy approach which involves modifying already existing systems. First, the paper proposed the strengthening of defence and security cooperation through the conduct of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM). In order to prevent further dispute, this paper recommends that the ADMM should develop a policy that would transparently present the territorial borders of each state. Second, the cooperation between ASEAN and foreign states on issues regarding national sovereignty should be strengthened through the conduct of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The ARF is the perfect platform to discuss matters of national sovereignty of ASEAN and foreign states as it involves Asia-Pacific countries. Likewise, this would support the development of a comprehensive system in proposing a united stand of ASEAN on such issues.

24. He further explained that beyond the issues on the respect for national sovereignty, building and strengthening the foundation of ASEAN through the reinforcement of common interest within the region through defence diplomacy should still be the first line of defence. Therefore, this paper presents three recommendations that would promote defence diplomacy. The first recommendation is the convening of the ASEAN forums such as the ARF, ADMM, ADMM plus, ASEAN Defence Senior Officials Meeting, and the Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) as a track II defence forum. Second, the establishment of bilateral and multilateral defence agreements between ASEAN member states as it would further enhance cooperation already established through the multilateral platform of ASEAN. Third, the dissemination of Joint Declarations/Chairman's Reports on Defence Forums as it would serve as relevant documents in the decision and policy-making process of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (ASC) in the conduct of defence diplomacy. Therefore, this paper argues that there are already existing mechanisms of defence diplomacy within ASEAN such as the different defence forums and through pragmatic approach, this mechanisms need only be enhanced in order to achieve the objective of strengthening the respect for national sovereignty.

Presentation by Lieutenant General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Duc Hai, Director General, the Institute for Defence Strategy, MND of Viet Nam

25. Lt. Gen. Nguyen Duc Hai stressed that national sovereignty is a country's right to master independently and comprehensively in terms of legislation, executive and justice in its own territory. National sovereignty is always the most important matter, showing the existence of a country; however to protect national sovereignty in a globalized world is not an easy task; and one of the most effective tools to protect national sovereignty is the international integration and defence diplomacy. For the past years, Viet Nam's defence diplomacy has brought into full play in enhancing the relations with its neighboring countries, as well as other countries in the region, making an important contribution to the protection of national sovereignty. Viet Nam has done the completion of the international legal framework on border; promoting friendship exchange programs with the border guards of neighboring countries and cooperation in building peaceful, friendly, stable and co-development borders; enhancing the international cooperation on border control and training the border guards.
26. In the coming time, defence diplomacy for national sovereignty protection will be changed with new developments and requirements. In order to protect the integrity of national sovereignty, defence diplomacy must ensure its goals that are to promote the internal strength, enhance the great national unity, combine the national strength with the strength of the times; promote the strength of the forces and posture of diplomacy, defence and security; take opportunities to increase international integration to create an advantageous strategic position to prevent wars, maintain peace and protect territorial sovereignty; closely combine the

defence diplomacy with the state and people-to-people diplomacy to promote strength in protecting the integrated national territorial sovereignty.

Presentation by Colonel Nirut Duangpanya, Director of Strategic and Security Research Studies Division, Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces, Thailand

27. Colonel Nirut Duangpanya stated although ASEAN member countries have mechanisms to resolve conflict, the links in ASEAN may provide more opportunities for transnational crime and other cross-border issues including non-traditional threats - such as natural disasters: extreme weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, etc. To match up with such a larger extent or degree of difficulties, it is therefore vital that ASEAN should join forces and promote defence diplomacy, including strengthening of security cooperation mechanisms and strengthening cooperation for better preparation and readiness to face unavoidable problematic issues that will damage the region at a wider scale.
28. He suggested the following recommendations:
 - a. Define the strategy, including budget allocation, for supporting the national defence diplomacy activities and initiatives, particularly for creating mutual trust, enhancing existing cooperation, and initiating new areas of cooperation.
 - b. Develop concepts and look for opportunities of security cooperation in compliance with working plans of the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) pillar.
 - c. Establish mechanisms to solve conflict in the Southeast Asia region which could create non-traditional threats.
 - d. Promote peace by strengthening the trust, cooperation and good relationship among ASEAN Member Countries, as well as partners and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
 - e. Promote more transparency between ASEAN Defence Forces by exchanging information on arms modernization and sending or exchanging observers to monitor such activities regarding military exercises.
 - f. Enhance the role of the ASEAN Defence Ministers in Disaster Management and civil society cooperation to solve non-traditional threats.
 - g. Promote Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) in Southeast Asia to play a greater role in the international arena and build stability in ASEAN.
 - h. Encourage Council of ASEAN Political Security Community to work in concrete ways, such as promoting peacekeeping cooperation in region.

Presentation by Major General Soe Naing Oo, Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training, Myanmar Armed Forces, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

29. Major General Soe Naing Oo pointed out that accepting differences and respecting sovereignty of others are key causes why it is extremely rare to see wars and conflicts among AMSs. He also mentioned that there may be a big disparity

between the reality of some internal affairs of AMSs and what others see them. He said that the defence diplomacy of AMSs is matured and strong. That is why neither confrontations nor fights were occurred although some border disputes among some AMSs are still unsolved.

30. He mentioned that the defence diplomacy refers to the pursuit of foreign policy objectives through the peaceful employment of defence resources and capabilities. And he presented the basic principles of Myanmar Foreign Policy and the National Defence Policies of Myanmar as well.

Presentation by Prof. Ahmad Ghazali Abu Hasan, Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM)

31. Prof. Ahmad Ghazali Abu Hasan highlighted that ASEAN defence diplomacy is an important component of ASEAN defence and security structure and has served the region well in the past. ASEAN's principles of defence diplomacy has always been in line with the broader ASEAN principles of peaceful co-existence; incorporating the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other member nations and the principle of respect of each other's sovereignty. In general, the nature of ASEAN defence diplomacy has always been characterized by informal and personal interaction; and involves the participation of officials of various levels of seniority and command. The aim is to foster confidence building, achieve operational compatibility and promote an environment that facilitates crisis avoidance; thus positively contribute to the region's overall peace and stability. ASEAN defence diplomacy works on a long term basis. The idea is to continually strengthen the level of confidence and defence cooperation among the member nations.
32. He stated that on hindsight, ASEAN defence diplomacy has played an important role in ensuring the peace and stability of the region. In the past 50 years the activities that constitute ASEAN defence diplomacy include exchange of students in military courses conducted by member countries, joint training and exercises, and sports and social exchange that involve the participation of officers and personnel at the various levels of command. These efforts should continue but other activities and initiatives should also be explored to further strengthen the institution of ASEAN defence diplomacy. Cooperation in the tackling of non-traditional security issues could perhaps be one of them. As demonstrated over the last 50 years, the issue of respect of each other's sovereignty among ASEAN member countries is no longer an issue. It is the respect of ASEAN sovereignty both collectively and individually – by the external powers in the pursuance of their national interests within this region that should concern ASEAN member states. Along with continuing with its current effort in defence diplomacy, ASEAN defence diplomacy should also be directed towards addressing this issue.

Presentation by Major General (Dr.) Heng Iem, Senior Researcher for the General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia

33. Major General (Dr.) Heng Iem highlighted that the 50 anniversary of ASEAN's establishment next month will remind us the challenges and achievements since 1967. During the Cold War ASEAN faced the challenges of bipolar powers competition. ASEAN strengthened its foundation by advocating security cooperation in the region with key frameworks such as ZOPFAN, ASEAN Concord and TAC. These frameworks became a set of norms known as ASEAN Way to guide ASEAN-interstate relations and cooperation for peace in the region. ASEAN Way united ASEAN out of diversity and the principle of sovereignty was reinforced in Southeast Asia's regionalism.
34. He stated that post-Cold War ASEAN faced new challenges both traditional and non-traditional threats. The major powers dynamic relations and transnational threats increased in the region. ASEAN realized that the challenges required multilateral frameworks to tackle. Several mechanisms were adopted such as ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (APMC), ARF, EAS, and ADMM-Plus to accommodate ASEAN's centrality and proactive roles in international relations and maintained ASEAN Way as the core framework. ASEAN also established its own conflict management mechanisms, namely the ASEAN Politico-Security Community and ADMM that formally introduced "Defense Diplomacy".
35. He further stated that ASEAN defence diplomacy is an integral part of ASEAN community for tackling the issue of security. Any attempt of helping to resolve a non-traditional crisis in the region would inevitably affect the norm of ASEAN Way in one way or another in the case of requirement for military deployment.
36. He pointed out that ASEAN has plenty of mechanisms for dealing with security and we must make sure that they are reliable, effective and applicable to both traditional and non-traditional security threats. Defense diplomacy is an integral part of ASEAN for enhancing defence cooperation to prevent and resolve security problems in Southeast Asia region. For the sake of ASEAN Politico-Security Community, defence diplomacy could help ASEAN to promote defence cooperation through strengthening the existing ASEAN mechanisms by debating on certain principles making them more efficient, relevant and also enhance trust within ASEAN for security management.

Presentation by Colonel (Army) Budi Pramono, S.IP., M.M., M.A., Chief of Collaboration Centre of Indonesia Defence University (IDU)

37. Colonel (Army) Budi Pramono, highlighted that Trilateral patrol in the Sulu Sea has significance to the effort to reduce the damage caused by the rampant kidnapping and piracy in the Sulu Sea. The patrol also serves as well as the defence diplomacy tools, due to the practice of joint/coordinated military contact to achieve

common objectives. The trilateral cooperation conducted in the mutual respect and understanding and also common perception of threats that could be the basis of the cooperation. The trilateral patrol implied several opportunities and challenges.

38. He asserted that those opportunities include the confidence building between the countries, conducting the architecture of cooperation network among Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines could be exercised as the result of the many levels of cooperation; and also long term planning could help the area to be secured and act as growing area to suppress the future terrorism possibilities. Constraints that should be worked on together include the vast area needs to be covered and intensive screening toward areas while in the progress, the SOP needs to be standardized by the engaging countries, lastly the sovereignty issues need to be addressed to avoid ineffectiveness of the trilateral patrol.
39. He stated that patrol should be exercised in prolonged time and using standardized approach, there is no need to reinvent a new wheel, since multilateral approach in Malacca Strait can be designed as a patrol approach in Sulu Sea. Respecting sovereignty could be done through dialogues. While keeping effort in multipronged and holistic approach, not only using military and intelligence gathering approach, but social and economy while observing the local wisdom to prevent further anarchic actions by terrorism.

Presentation by Mr. Henrick Z. Tsjeng, Associate Research Fellow, RSIS

40. Mr. Henrick Tsjeng highlighted that defence diplomacy in ASEAN has historically not been well-developed, precisely due to its link with sensitive national sovereignty issues. However, this has been shifting gradually, and there is an increasing acceptance that defence diplomacy can work in ASEAN, especially through the mutual respect for Member States' national sovereignty, and by focusing on non-traditional security (NTS) issues. This is embodied in the formation of the ADMM. Nonetheless, many issues remain sensitive. Bilateral, trilateral and ASEAN-level cooperation require the development of good cooperation, understanding of one another's interests and respect for sovereignty. Examples include "Eyes-in-the-Sky" in the Malacca Straits and coordinated patrols in Malacca Straits and more recently in the Sulu Sea. Even NTS issues, whether in HADR, trans-migration issues and maritime security cooperation, all require cooperation and respect for sovereignty and defence diplomacy.
41. He stated that as such, the ADMM's initiatives fully respect the sovereignty of individual AMS, and this should persist especially at a time when great power rivalry continues to rise. In this regard, he proposed the following recommendations for the ADMM to maintain its respect for the national sovereignty of the AMS:
 - a. The ADMM should continue its focus on cooperation in NTS issues which pose the greatest challenge to the welfare and security of Southeast Asian

nations. Traditional security issues should be best pursued by the ASEAN political forums, such as the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

- b. The ADMM-Plus should continue to focus on enhancing the AMS' capabilities to deal more effectively with NTS challenges through the transfer of expertise and capacities from the Plus countries to the AMS. With better capabilities, the AMS would be less vulnerable to external intervention.
- c. ADMM should continue to adhere to the ASEAN Way when engaging in defence diplomacy, emphasising consensus, inclusiveness, informality and peaceful resolution of disputes. When tackling transnational threats through multilateral actions, AMS should always bear in mind the importance of mutually respecting national sovereignty and equality.
- d. Any dispute resolution between ASEAN countries should be attempted through peaceful diplomatic means, using the existing ASEAN mechanisms, or by mutual agreement settling the dispute through international arbitration.

Discussion and Recommendations

42. The representatives from the various NADI members institutions in their presentations highlighted the various defence diplomacy activities under-taken by their respective countries in promoting defence diplomacy in the ASEAN region.

The meeting also affirmed that defence diplomacy has served the region well given the fact that ASEAN has been in an environment of relative peace and stability for the past 50 years.

Apart from continuing the present endeavor in defence diplomacy, ASEAN should also explore ways and means of enhancing this initiative.

Toward this end it is recommended that:

- a. ADMM should focus on dealing with the serious non-traditional security threats facing the region such as terrorism, natural disasters, and cybercrime.
- b. Enhancing human resources capabilities in facing the real threats by facilitating the transferring of expertise and the training of human resources from the Plus countries to AMS as well as facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences among AMS.
- c. ASEAN should be more proactive in identifying future non-traditional security threats and work out the plan to address them.

Upcoming NADI Activities

43. The meeting was updated on future NADI activities as follows:
 - a. NADI Workshop on “Evaluating ASEAN Defence and Security Initiatives with Dialogue Partners”, organized by MiDAS in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 14 to 17 August 2017.
 - b. NADI Workshop and Retreat organized by NDCP and OSSSM in Tagaytay City, Philippines, from 20 to 25 November 2017.