

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI) 3RD RETREAT

“Trends in the Region and the Role of NADI”

23 November 2017

Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City, Philippines

Introduction

1. The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) 3rd Retreat was co-organized by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management (AFP-OSSSM) at Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay City, Philippines.
2. The representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam attended the Retreat. The list of the participants is at **Annex I**. The Retreat was co-chaired by Rear Admiral Roberto Q Estioko, AFP (Ret), PhD, MNSA, President, NDCP; and Colonel Adriano S Perez Jr GSC (INF) PA, Chief, AFP-OSSSM.

Discussion

3. NADI members discussed and exchanged views on the regional security environment and challenges for ASEAN and ADMM Cooperation. The highlights of the discussions are as follows:
 - a. The change in the political and security environment coupled with major power rivalry, has resulted in uncertainty in the East Asia region. This has implications for ASEAN's unity and centrality in the evolving regional architecture.
 - b. While the disputes have yet to be resolved, the situation in the South China Sea (SCS) has improved and is relatively stable in recent times. The adoption of the Framework of the Code of Conduct (COC) in the SCS is a positive development towards the easing of tensions.
 - c. The changes in demography with the new advances in technologies and innovations in the economic and other sectors have implications for the economy, social stability, and the security of the region.
 - d. New and emerging technologies, such as cryptocurrencies, artificial intelligence for robotics, and 3D printing of weapons, have implications for the region's security as these could be exploited and utilized by terrorists and extremist elements to further their causes. Social media is also being used as part of this process.

- e. Issues relating to the influx of refugees in the region would have some impact on the spread of violent extremism and diseases that can cause pandemics.
- f. The return of fighters from Southeast Asian countries who have joined ISIS and other extremist groups in the Middle East may pose serious threat to the security of the region.
- g. The nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula must be resolved through peaceful and diplomatic means.

Priority Areas for NADI

- 4. The participants agreed that NADI should not have a Two-Year Work Programme. This is to ensure that NADI remains flexible as a think tank group which stays ahead-of-the-curve vis-à-vis defence and security issues. The participants noted that there should be priority issue areas of NADI activities.
- 5. The participants proposed the following priority areas for NADI: 1) capacity-building and transfer of expertise in the area of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) from Plus countries; 2) cybersecurity and transnational organized crimes; 3) terrorism; and 4) illegal drugs.

Concluding Remarks

- 6. The Co-Chairs extended their congratulations to the delegates for the comprehensive and insightful discussions during the Retreat.
- 7. The delegates conveyed their appreciation for the hospitality of and excellent arrangements by the Philippines in chairing the Track II NADI 3rd Retreat.

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