

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT OF
TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI)
WORKSHOP ON “STRENGTHENING DEFENCE COOPERATION IN ASEAN HEALTH SECURITY”**

**17 – 19 August 2021
via Video Teleconference
Strategic Studies Center, Thailand**

1. The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) Workshop on **“Strengthening Defence Cooperation in ASEAN Health Security”** was organized by the Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters. It was held virtually at the Strategic Studies Center, Bangkok, Thailand from Tuesday, 17 August to Thursday, 19 August 2021.
2. Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Vietnam attended the Workshop. The list of participants is attached in Annex I. Air Vice Marshal Poomjai Leksuntarakorn, Director of Strategic Studies Center, The National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, chaired the Workshop.

Opening Remarks by Air Vice Marshal Poomjai Leksuntarakorn, Director of Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters.

3. Air Vice Marshal Poomjai Leksuntarakorn welcomed all participants. From the situation of COVID–19, the world has seen increasing cases, over 200 million confirmed cases and more than 4 million deaths globally and 8 million confirmed cases and 170,000 deaths in ASEAN. This crisis would continue to impact the entire world tremendously in all dimensions. However, the impact might be the factor for non-traditional security threat. This was an essential task for security agencies in ASEAN to prepare, respond, and enhance health security cooperation to cope with this challenge promptly. Therefore, the Track II NADI workshop is one of ASEAN’s mechanisms to search for beneficial approaches and create strategies to address challenges of ASEAN health security together.

Adoption of Agenda:

4. The workshop adopted the agenda and the programme, which are attached in Annex II and Annex III respectively.

SESSION I: Keynote Speakers

Keynote speech on the “Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies” by Dr. Chawetsan Namwat, Director of Disease Control in Emergency Situation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health.

5. Thailand has faced several waves of COVID-19. In the first wave, it established the emergency operation center promptly and declared the first confirmed case quickly thanks to the

network of university labs that provided on surveillance support. In the following waves, Thailand took further action, such as updating communicable disease control law, finding vaccines, and announcing the lockdown, which could control the outbreak effectively. In the latest wave, the country has faced an outbreak of Delta variant, which caused an increase in mortality rate. As of 16th August 2021, Thailand had 21,157 new cases, 928,314 cumulative cases, and 7,734 cumulative deaths. The vaccination dose was 24 million and the first dose coverage accounted for 25%.

6. Thailand's emergency response consisted of 3Ss: stuff, staff and system, and public health emergency management comprises 2Ps: prevention and preparedness, and 2Rs: response and recovery. Thailand also activated the Emergency Operation Center, with updated system and fully equipped facilities and had well-trained staff for different functions. For example, the Quarantine department worked with different hotels that served as "hospitals", the digital support department offered big data and open source to the public, risk communication addressed fake news and communicated the truth.
7. In terms of challenges, different waves had different contexts, which was linked to different challenges. The first wave was linked to domestic transmission. The total lockdown could stop the transmission effectively but the challenge was the decision to lock down. The 2nd wave occurred when the migrant workers came back and the disease was found among the young age group. Therefore, the government tried to roll out the vaccination earlier than planned. However, the current wave was caused by the latest variant, the Delta, which spread very fast. As a result, Thailand has formulated 6Cs strategy for combatting COVID-19 in Thailand: capture, case management, contact tracing, communication, community participation and law enforcement, and coordination and information center.

Keynote speech on the "Roles of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other future public health emergencies" by Colonel Thitisak Niratisai, Chief of Staff of ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM).

8. As a new organization in ASEAN, ACMM was established in response to new regional security challenges. In response to COVID-19, ACMM has changed the roadmap and prioritized the rule of engagement for the organization. As human beings are fighting a war against virus now, ACMM wished the entire world to work together. However, there were barriers, such as different laws and regulations among AMS.
9. ACMM's roles in COVID-19 outbreak includes enhancing regional military medical service capability and utilizing medical information/intelligence. It co-hosted a table top exercise on COVID-19 and a follow-up workshop on quarantine camps. As a result, it published a guideline on quarantine camp management distributed to medical services in all AMS. In 2021, ACMM conducted a workshop on medical logistics management in pandemics and is now drafting a guideline on that issue. It would also conduct three more workshops this year – COVID-19 Management in Disaster Areas, Military Camp New Normal Guideline, and Epidemic Control in Military Camp.

10. The military is suitable for emergency response tasks because of its ability to adapt contingency plan and muster resources on short notice. In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Public Health should be the main body while the military could support it when the situation is no longer under control. The key success factor to control the pandemic is the strategic planning with the whole nation approach to manage all available resources. Furthermore, three types of operations should be performed to guarantee the success of outbreak control. First, the medical operations include building medical facilities, mobilizing medical teams, and performing active surveillance. Secondly, security operations involve border security as well as securing logistical lines and public facilities. Thirdly, support operations include distributing medical equipment to highly infection rate areas. Last but not least, vaccination is crucial to reduce morbidity and mortality rate, protect the country's health system, drive the economy and encourage the society.

SESSION II: Presentation on the “Roles of ACMM in response to COVID-19 pandemic: Success and Challenge”

Kingdom of Cambodia

Presentation by Brigadier General Chhun Sochet, Deputy Director, ASEAN Affairs Department, General Department of Policy and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense

11. COVID-19 has spread at an alarming rate, affecting millions of people and halting economic activity and it requires every stakeholder's attention to join hands in combating, mitigating and successfully containing the spread of the virus. As the pandemic continues to impact on AMS, governments imposed tight mobility restrictions to curb the virus' spread. Cambodia places strong emphasis on swift and affective contact tracing, early lockdown of affected areas and steadfast nationwide vaccination program which began early with military personnel and moved into areas of priorities; the most affected areas which was called the “red zone” and then thrived widely into other high-risk areas including along the borders. Strengthening cross- border collaboration is crucial part in preventing and mitigating COVID-19 impact on our countries. The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces plays key roles to provide strong support and implement vaccination programs, establishment of field emergency hospitals and provide logistics along with other agencies including the Ministry of health. To date, more than 80% of the population suitable for vaccination in Cambodia has been vaccinated to date (starting from the age of 12), however, it continues to remain vigilant for the evolving variants of COVID-19. Notably, despite the challenges, humanitarian activities among the AMS are highly commendable through countries' donations of masks, PPE and medical supplies.
12. Cambodia delegation recognise that in both regular and crisis situations, the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) has played a critical role in establishing practical, effective and long-term cooperation among military medical services; and the following recommendations are key areas in response to the present challenges regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The ACMM should perform as a venue for exchanging of data statistics, for instance, the number of infections, the rate of vaccinations, best practices from preventative measures for the spread among communities to community awareness of the new norms, and sharing of expertise in medical care. Creating an online resource portal to share critical information such as knowledge and expertise on combating the pandemic. The ACMM can also act to mobilize

and distribute resources such as medical equipment, PPEs, medicines and vaccines. In today's experience, the pandemic-affected country appears to resolve the situation on its own. However, in the context of COVID 19, containing the spread from one country to the next is crucial and military medicine cooperation and mutual support and assistance in cross border pandemic containment as well as development of collective capabilities are essential components of a coordinated effort to battle cross-border pandemics. The importance of multilateral cooperation among countries in improving the current situation cannot be overstated and the expert working group on military medicine (EWG-MM) would be great cooperation that we could bring lesson learned among ASEAN member state's military medical forces to share experiences in combating the COVID- 19 pandemic and develop an action plan to improve ASEAN's military medical forces' preparedness. Lastly, the ACMM should also look into the whole experiences and make historical records of plan, activity, process and treatment of the COVID-19 that are best practices for ASEAN so that it can be documented for lesson learned and future preparation of AMS efforts in fighting against the pandemic and other similar unforeseeable circumstances.

Malaysia

Presentation by Lt Kol Dr. Maimunah binti Omar, Assistant Director Contemporary Security, Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS)

13. Malaysia National Security Policy (NSP) is introduced as the principal policy in confronting the various security threats which have become increasingly dynamic and complex. Through the NSP, the implementation of the primary strategies ensure that National Core Values are safeguarded thereby keeping Malaysia safe from all forms of threat, not only physical but also non-physical, that which may influence people's minds. In accordance to that during this pandemic situation, The Malaysian Armed Forces continue to play its secondary role during this crisis. The Army Medical Corps played a central role in the coordination of mitigation, operations and awareness and also facilitate in the vaccination program and establish disaster management zone (DMZ). Prior to that, in 2017 the medical team provided Malaysian field hospital as part of humanitarian mission to assist Bangladesh in handling the Rohingyas refugees in that country and they treated more than one hundred thousand patients.

14. As several countries in ASEAN, including Malaysia, are still struggling to contain the pandemic and, at the same time to expedite the vaccination program, it is vital for ACMM to maintain its momentum and facilitate all the members. Networking among its members truly facilitates communication and coordination during pandemic crisis. The Centre's past programs on sharing experience, particularly on previous manmade and natural disasters, prove to be an essential ingredient for proper planning for any possible crisis. Discussion about improving the SOP for HADR is laudable. Moreover, the commitment towards improving the structure and mechanism of ACMM reflects the professionalism of its members. A working group on Bio-Security and Bio Threats within the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine framework would be one of the good move for ASEAN and ACMM for the future benefit.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Presentation by Brigadier General Viengxay Somvichit, Director General of Military Science and History Department, Ministry of National Defence

15. Brigadier General Viengxay Somvichit highlighted that the global and regional situation in general remains peaceful and stable. However, ASEAN and the world are still being confronted with COVID-19 pandemic which has continued to cause severe impacts national economy development, health care system and people's livelihood. Regarding the outbreak of COVID-19, ACMM plays an important role in handling the pandemic by organizing various activities including workshops, Table-Top Exercises, the ACMM BOD meeting and the ACMM LOs meeting in order to discuss and exchange of experience and information on prevention, control and response to the pandemic.
16. Additionally, he also touched on the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the Lao PDR and the Lao government's response plan. He emphasized the significance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between and among the AMS and Plus countries to enhance regional capacity and experience in responding to such infectious disease. Brigadier General Viengxay Somvichit further provided recommendations on strengthening ASEAN health security, as follows: (1) at present, there are a number of ASEAN military medicine cooperation mechanisms, thus, ASEAN should ensure that those mechanisms will be more coordinated and synchronized in order to avoid duplication. (2) ASEAN should continue to work with the Plus countries in order to share knowledge and experience on military medical tasks to strengthen ASEAN's capacity and readiness in dealing with the pandemic or other health emergencies that may occur in the future.

Kingdom of Thailand

Presentation by Group Captain Choosak Kasatewit, Director, Regional Studies Division, Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters.

17. *Due to the Corona Virus Disease: COVID -19* Pandemic, ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) has closely monitored the situation and made reports on the events which are shared among AMS (AMM), including organized urgent Video Teleconference meeting with the Board of Director to discuss and exchange ideas on the practice of each AMS. ACMM also arranged Training/Workshop activities to foster cooperation, understanding, enhancing operation efficiency, and synergy between Military Medicine Services (MMS) in ASEAN Region, such as: Tabletop Exercise on COVID-19 pandemic situation management under the framework of ADMM (ADMM - COVID-19 TTX), Lesson Learn from China workshop for COVID-19 infection (Workshop I - China Lesson Learn), Workshop in pandemic situation response (Workshop II - COVID-19 Government Response Tracker), Quarantine Camp Management workshop, Develop activities (Project-based activities) for Military Medicine Cooperation by delivering negative pressure cabinets for patients with COVID-19 infections to some of AMS. During 2019-2020, there are more than 40 different activities were organized to develop skills in all areas for knowledge exchange and to foster systematic practices. With the new status of ACMM as an ASEAN organization under the supervision of ADMM, the ACMM can further contribute to enhancing ASEAN cooperation in military medicine. ACMM is expected

to facilitate regional efforts in the field, including developing joint medical response plans, assessing medical needs in crisis situations, and conducting training courses and research in emergency medical services.

18. The ACMM should facilitate the coordination and cooperation MMS of the AMS and Plus Countries to support all areas of military medical collaborations, as follows; 1) Enhancing regional military medical service capabilities in response to Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) by continuing conduct training courses to standardize and to build up military medical team for response to EID. 2) Harmonizing regional military medical capabilities in response to EID for better interoperability by developing joint military medical plans for support of EID. 3) Supporting expanded monitoring, evaluation, research, and publication on militaries' health activities among AMS, such as cross-border pandemic of infectious disease threats.

Republic of Indonesia

Presentation by Brigadier General Jhonny Djamaris, S.IP., M.IP., Head of Delegations, Center for Strategic Studies of Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI)

19. Brigadier General Jhonny Djamaris highlighted that the threat of COVID-19 pandemic can be said to be multidimensional in nature to security in Southeast Asia. Until now, the spread of COVID-19 in Southeast Asia is still very high, as can be seen from the addition of new cases every day and the discovery of new types of COVID-19 variants. AMS have held cooperation through official forums both between ASEAN countries and with plus countries. Likewise, AMS have deployed their military to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in their respective countries, and even an official military forum through the ACMM between AMS and plus countries is held in the form of sharing information. In relation to long-term efforts to handle the spread of COVID-19, the development of vaccines for each AMS has been carried out.
20. Therefore, based on the above discussion faced with opportunities and challenges there is a need for military involvement, which supported by political decisions from AMS for the deployment of military assistance, both physical and non-physical. He added the need to establish a military crisis center in AMS most severely affected by COVID-19 in order to suppress or reduce the spread of COVID-19 in that country so that it does not spread to other AMS. It is necessary to develop vaccines in AMS through the empowerment of ACMM both independently, in cooperation between AMS and with plus countries. Finally, there is a need for cooperation between AMS in anticipating the circulation of counterfeit drugs and vaccines in the region by tightening supervision and implementing strict law enforcement against all forms of fraudulent, counterfeiting and fraudulent practices that can threaten the safety of the lives of the ASEAN people.

SESSION III: Presentation on "ASEAN Defence Cooperation in respond to future emerging, re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies"

Brunei Darussalam

Presentation by Nor Azriah Binti Haji Abdul Aziz, Research Officer, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS), Ministry of Defence

21. As the main defence dialogue and cooperation, the ADMM and ADMM-Plus platforms have proven to be steadfast in its roles to support towards the realisation of the ASEAN-wide initiatives including the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and the Strategic and Holistic Initiative to Link ASEAN Responses to Emergencies and Disasters (ASEAN SHIELD). Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of the ADMM has conducted a stock-take exercise on the 15 years of cooperation in ADMM and ADMM-Plus and is working towards a Strategy Paper on the future of the ADMM. In this regard, the area of Military Medicine will be of significance and should remain a priority in years to come.
22. There needs to be in-depth consideration and discussion on ensuring practical cooperation in the midst of COVID-19 will continue and to incorporate safe measures, not only for the military, but also for the general population. Undoubtedly, cross-sector and cross-pillar cooperation are both increasingly important in ensuring the ASEAN community is future-ready and resilient in facing uncertainties and unpredictable security challenges in the course of time.

Republic of Indonesia

Presentation by Colonel Navy (K) dr R.M. Tjahja Nurrobi, M.Kes, Sp.OT (K), Republic of Indonesia Defense University (RIDU)

23. As the world continues to face future emerging, re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies, any nation-states including ASEAN members should always be ready to be able to cope with these non-traditional security threats to protect their own people. The inability to address with these threats will not only put the states in jeopardy but these will also create more serious impacts to peace and security in the national, regional and global level. Therefore, it is more than necessary for any states and more particular in Southeast Asian region to further bolster their collaborative efforts in dealing with any infectious diseases in the future.
24. In order to intensify the existing mechanisms and efforts in managing the health security issues in ASEAN, all members should put more attentions to engage any relevant stakeholders both at the state and non-state level to comprehensively find more measures to deal with the issues. All parties particularly in the framework of ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) need to review their existing programs to re-adapt and re-focus with the new emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. Only with this collaboration among all parties, we will be able to successfully deal with these common problems for the sake of our regional stability and development.

Malaysia

Presentation by Lieutenant General Datuk Haji Abdul Halim bin Haji Jalal (Retired), Senior Fellow, Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM)

25. The COVID-19 or the SARS-Cov-2 virus is the most rapidly evolving outbreak that the world has ever witnessed due to its unprecedented number of casualties since the Second World War. Within less than 3 months it evolved from a Public Health Emergency of International

Concern to be later classified as the most infectious disease that the world ever encountered. The COVID-19 outbreak has infected and spread all over the AMS(AMS) affecting millions of its populations.

26. Within ASEAN, most AMSs are relying on their respective health authorities to mitigate the outbreak. Concerned about the unprecedented and severe impact and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to health, well-being, livelihood and safety of all people, on 19 Feb 2020, the ASEAN Defence Ministers during the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Retreat in Vietnam, agreed and pledged to cooperate against the outbreak. This cooperation will also encompass cooperation with other relevant sectoral bodies/mechanisms.
27. While the task of a regional response to COVID-19 lies with the ASEAN health sector, the defence establishments of AMS can also play their roles via the existing AHA Centre to mount a comprehensive and coordinated regional response. Working together with other sectoral bodies and mechanisms, it will create a united multi-sectoral whole-of-ASEAN approach to diseases and public health emergencies. The command structure, resources, assets, medical staff and the specialist equipment that the defence organisation can contribute, will substantially increase the preparedness and response capacities of ASEAN in regards to infectious diseases and public health emergencies. This will path the way for ASEAN to build a Cohesive and Responsive Community in times of crisis and maintain its centrality in leading an effective and sustainable response to infectious diseases and other health emergencies.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Presentation by Major General Myint Kyaw Tun, Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training (Department of Strategic Studies), Office of the Chief of the Armed Forces Training, Ministry of Defence

28. MG Myint Kyaw Tun in his presentation mentioned that over the past decades many new organisms have been identified world-wide and infectious diseases such as diarrhea diseases, HIV/AIDS, malaria, measles, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and COVID-19 were major challenges and threats to human security. He suggested strengthening efforts to meet the challenges of emerging, re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. He also mentioned that prevention and control of such diseases requires strong political commitment and sustained financial support along with the application of various epidemiological, molecular biological, behavioral as well as statistical approaches and technologies.
29. In addition, he also mentioned that developing joint medical response plans and assessing medical needs in crisis situations are specific objectives of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM). The ACMM should play a key role in ASEAN defence cooperation in respond to future emerging, re-emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. He suggested that ASEAN should pay attention to the cooperation in combating infectious diseases and seek ways to strengthen the role of the ACMM.

Republic of the Philippines

Presentation by BGen Edgardo C. Palma (MNSA) PA, Chief, Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management (OSSSM), Armed Forces of the Philippines

30. Foresight is the process of anticipating the future and attempting to project probabilities and generate options for actions. It is an inclusive process that necessitates the active participation of various actors in anticipation of different futures. Foresight is geared towards producing and conveying early warning products based on signals that have been detected and analyzed by a group of subject matter experts. The earliness of warning product distribution and the comprehensiveness of scenarios considered are the principal benefits of foresight.
31. In ASEAN, there are enabling policy instruments, existing mechanisms, and cooperative initiatives, which regional foresight efforts can start building on. These are the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint (APSC) 2025, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) 3-Year Work Programme, and other cooperative mechanisms within the ADMM Framework, including the ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Response (ADMER), ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center), ASEAN Center of Military Medicine Conference, ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference, and Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Defence Experts.
32. It is recommended for the ADMM and/or ASEAN Defense Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) to include, as part of the implementation of the 3-Year Work Programme, the exploratory works and consultation in bringing together ASEAN defense think tanks, research institutions, military experts, and HADR operators. It is also recommended for the ADMM and/or ADSOM, as a collegial body, to officially communicate to other ASEAN sectoral bodies, especially the health, labor, trade, and economic sectors, the need to operationalize the inter-sectoral collaboration for a regional foresight mechanism. Lastly, it is important for defense ministries to organize national foresight mechanisms with the same intent as the regional one but operating at the domestic level in order to make it easier for defense ministries to share inputs and cooperate with each other.

Republic of Singapore

Presentation by Mr. Christopher Chen, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore

33. In his presentation, Mr. Christopher Chen highlighted the contributions made by the Singapore Armed Forces to Singapore's national effort against COVID-19. He emphasised how militaries in the Southeast Asia region have been active in COVID-19 responses, which have also led to increases in linkages between military and health actors. ASEAN defence cooperation needs to address rapidly emerging non-traditional security threats such as deteriorating planetary health and emerging infectious diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of sharing experiences and exchanging best practices in the region. There are numerous examples of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder collaboration, including the establishment of the Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) Defence Experts, and the Regional HADR Coordination Centre's support for COVID-19 assistance in the region.
34. Mr. Chen put forward the following recommendations to promote defence cooperation in health security in ASEAN: (i) Embed two Liaison Officers – one each from the two co-chairs of

the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group (EWG) on Military Medicine – within proposed ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) to facilitate information sharing on best practices; (ii) Develop and strengthen partnerships with academia and scientific communities, including through the ASEAN CBR network, to improve knowledge and scientific information on future threats; (iii) Foster more interlinkages between Emergency Medical Teams, public healthcare providers, and military medical corps to improve modes of collaboration; (iv) Enhance HADR and military medicine EWG linkages in addressing diseases/pandemics to facilitate ease of coordination and to maximise limited funding.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Presentation by Major Le Huu Hai, Researcher, Institute for Defense Strategy (IDS), Ministry of National Defence

35. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases will remain to be a major challenge in the Southeast Asia in the foreseeable future. Governance of infectious disease control is challenging, with overlapping institutional roles and responsibilities. The defence forces of each AMS has played a crucial role in dealing with emerging infectious disease: ranging from border control and quarantine control to limit the spread of the virus; maintaining public security during lockdown; transportation of patients, medical experts and equipment to research and development of new vaccine and treatment methods; safety preservation and distribution of approved vaccine for vaccination, as well as provide the necessary support to other government agencies.
36. In order to effectively respond to any future emerging and re-emerging diseases, a well-developed strategy and cooperation program should be implemented through a coordinated and pragmatic plan of action. ASEAN defence cooperation in dealing with emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases should be enhanced through a 3 phases action plan with key activities including: *Information sharing and networking, Risk communication, Building medical capacity of the region, Enhancing public health infrastructure before the pandemic; Strengthen border control, Exchanging information about outbreaks, Providing support to other countries, Cooperation in research and development of vaccines, Promote fair access to vaccines during the pandemic; and Continue the vaccination program, Identify and review lessons learned, Rebuilding essential services of the public health system, Providing mental health support and treatment, Protecting the environment after the pandemic.* These joint efforts will help to better prepare the region for responding to any future emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, maintaining social security, and promoting economic development of the region.

Recommendations

37. The delegates provided the following recommendations:
 - 1) We agreed that combating COVID-19 requires a multi-sectoral response from various sectors of ASEAN. Hence we need a strong operational mechanism to coordinate the preparedness and the response of all relevant sectors.

- 2) There is a need for strengthened cooperation in all three pillars of the ASEAN Community, in responding to the emerging or re-emerging challenges emanating from the current pandemic situation and other public health emergencies. ADMM and other relevant platforms will have to consider further cooperation to support cross sector/cross pillar efforts. Examples of existing efforts include the ASEAN COVID-19 Recovery Framework (ACRF) and ASEAN SHIELD.
- 3) ACMM should consider contributing to the research and development of vaccines for infectious diseases especially for COVID-19 as part of ASEAN effort in maintaining constant and sufficient supplies of vaccines when the need arises. ACMM can also act to mobilize and distribute resources such as medical equipment, PPEs, medicines and vaccines.
- 4) AMS Military could consider doing Table Top exercises on pandemic scenario under the Defence Cooperation so that we can continue to develop our Term of Reference TOR and common SOP. This will also help to develop our response capacity as part of our capacity building initiatives.
- 5) To ensure the pandemic and public health crisis prevention, the military in AMS may consider having some information sharing and warning mechanisms or systems because dealing with the pandemic in big, densely populated cities is a big challenge.
- 6) For pandemic response, military can play the supporting role. Therefore, it should leverage the existing platform to see how it can better synergize, including cross-border collaboration to deal with the pandemic.

Any Other matters

38. Forthcoming NADI activities

Date	Activities	Country	Via
29 - 30 September 2021	NADI Workshop: Emerging Technologies and its Impacts to Defence and Security	Brunei Darussalam	VTC
October 2021	NADI Workshop: Value and Role of Military History in Enhancing and Maintaining Peace, Security and Practical Cooperation in the Region	Cambodia	VTC
02 - 04 November 2021	NADI Workshop: Strengthening ASEAN Defence and Security Cooperation in Anticipating the Development of Artificial Intelligence	Indonesia	VTC
22 - 24 November 2021	NADI Workshop: ASEAN Centrality in the Era of Great Power Competition	Philippines	VTC

Date	Activities	Country	Via
April 2022	NADI Workshop: TBC	Brunei Darussalam	VTC
June 2022	NADI Workshop: TBC	Thailand	VTC
19 – 21 July 2022	NADI Workshop: Cyber Threat and Its Impacts to National and Regional Security in Southeast Asia	Indonesia	VTC

Consideration of NADI Workshop Chairman's Report

39. The meeting considered the draft Chairman's Report of the NADI Workshop on Strengthening Defence Cooperation in ASEAN Health Security. After examining the Chairman's Report carefully, the meeting endorsed the report.
40. The current NADI Chair will facilitate the forwarding of the Chairman's Report of the NADI Workshop to ADSOM through the ADSOM WG, after endorsement by all the NADI members. The NADI Workshop Chair will formally write to the current NADI Chair for this purpose.

Concluding Remarks by Air Vice Marshal Poomjai Leksuntarakorn, Director of Strategic Studies Center, The National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters.

41. Air Vice Marshal Poomjai Leksuntarakorn thanked all delegates for their dedication and helpful information for coping with security threats and challenges. He emphasized the importance of ASEAN centrality and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), especially health security in time of COVID-19. This also included ASEAN Defence cooperation. The preparedness and response capacities of ASEAN regarding infectious diseases and public health emergencies can help to maintain ASEAN centrality in leading an effective and sustainable response to the issue.
42. The NADI delegates expressed their appreciation to the SSC for the excellent arrangements of the NADI Workshop.

19 August 2021