



JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE 13th ASEAN CHIEFS OF DEFENCE FORCES INFORMAL MEETING
“Promoting Defence Cooperation for a Dynamic ASEAN Community”

Vientiane, LAO PDR

14 March 2016

WE, the Chiefs of Defence Forces of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, took part in the 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) convened in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 14 March 2016;

COMMENDING the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31st December 2015;

ACKNOWLEDGING the complexity of non-traditional security challenges such as natural and man-made disasters, climate change, transnational challenges, drug and human trafficking, cyber security, maritime security, terrorism that continue to pose threats to regional peace, stability, security and prosperity;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN militaries’ roles, commitment and collective responsibilities in responding to these security challenges;

RECOGNISING the significance and values of capacity, trust and confidence building at a pace comfortable to all through dialogues, military-to-military interaction activities to deepen defence cooperative ties between and amongst ASEAN defence establishments in order to enhance capabilities in responding to security threats in an effective and timely manner;

COMMENDING the progress in military-to-military cooperation and its contribution to maintaining regional peace, security and stability since the establishment of ACDFIM in 2001;

NOTING the Joint Declaration of the 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) on Maintaining Regional Security and Stability for and by the People, while welcoming Vientiane Joint Declaration of the 10th ADMM on Promoting Defence Cooperation for a Dynamic ASEAN Community;

REAFFIRMING the need for a peaceful, friendly and harmonious environment in the South China Sea (SCS) for the enhancement of peace, stability, economic growth and prosperity in the region;

REAFFIRMING the implementation of the 2002 Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea including the early adoption of the Code of Conduct;

WELCOMING the combined exercises to be conducted in 2016 under the framework of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus on:

- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Military Medicine co-organised by the Lao PDR, Japan, Thailand and Russia;
- Counter Terrorism and Maritime Security co-organised by Singapore, Australia, Brunei and New Zealand;
- Peacekeeping Operations and Humanitarian Mine Action co-organised by Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam and India;

REAFFIRMING that these activities indicate positive and practical cooperation and strong commitment amongst defence forces of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the Plus countries in strengthening military capabilities to address security issues in relation to the six above-mentioned areas.

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

CONTINUE to strengthen defence cooperation amongst the AMS, based on the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, consensus-decision making, participation on the basis of a flexible, voluntary and non-binding nature, assets remaining under national command and control and at a pace comfortable to all, in order to promote mutual trust, confidence and capacities in addressing regional non-traditional security challenges in an effective and timely manner;

ADOPT the recommendations of the Chiefs of Military Intelligence at the 13th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) and the Chiefs of Military Operations at the 6th ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting (AMOIM) held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 12 March 2016:

1. To continue to pursue the voluntary ASEAN Militaries Two-Year Work Plan of 2016-2018 as a guideline for multilateral activities of ASEAN militaries;
2. To assign military intelligence analysis under the platform of the ASEAN Militaries Analyst-to-Analyst Intelligence Exchange (AMAAIE) to further explore the feasibility of a multilateral information-sharing portal among ASEAN military intelligence organisations;
3. To render the chairmanship of 14thACDFIM, 14thAMIIM, 7thAMOIM to the Republic of the Philippines for 2017.

ADOPT the 9th ASEAN Militaries Two-Year Activity Work Plan (2016-2018) of the 13th ACDFIM;

Done in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on the Fourteenth Day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Sixteen in a single original copy of the English Language.

JOINTLY SIGNED BY:

YANG DIMULIAKAN PEHIN DATU PEKERMA JAYA
MAJOR GENERAL DATO PADUKA SERI MOHD TAWIH
BIN ABDULLAH
Commander, Royal Brunei Armed Forces

GENERAL ETH SARATH
Deputy Commander-in-Chief
Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

GENERAL GATOT NURMANTYO
Commander-in-Chief
Indonesian National Defence Forces

MAJOR GENERAL SOUVONE LUANGBOUNMY
Chief of General Staff
Lao People's Army

GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SRI (Dr.) HAJI ZUKIFELI BIN
MOHD ZIN
Chief of Defence Force, Malaysian Armed Forces

SENIOR GENERAL MIN AUNG HLAING
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
Myanmar Defence Services

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROMEO T TANALGO
Commander Northern Luzon
Armed Forces of the Philippines

MAJ GENERAL PERRY LIM
Chief of Defence Force
Singapore Armed Forces

GENERAL SOMMAI KAOTIRA
Chief of Defence Forces
Royal Thai Armed Forces

GENERAL DO BA TY
Chief of the General Staff
Vietnam People's Army
