



Turning Vision into Reality
For a Dynamic ASEAN Community
LAOS 2016

'Promoting Defence Cooperation for a Dynamic ASEAN Community'

**Remarks by BG. Thongvan Chanthavong, Director-General of
Military Intelligence Department, Ministry of National Defence,
Lao People's Army at the 13th ASEAN Military Intelligence
Informal Meeting (AMIIM) Vientiane, 12th March 2016**

**Chiefs of ASEAN Military Intelligence,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

Basically, I agree with your viewpoints that you have just shared. I've observed that the regional and global situations have been various and more complex since last year. This brings about both opportunities and challenges. However, Southeast Asia is a place that still continues to have peace, stability, security and better development comparing to other regions of the world.

The establishment of the ASEAN Community, on 31 December 2015, which comprises three pillars: ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The establishment indicates strong progress and unity of ASEAN Community and this turns ASEAN to be an interesting place for other regions.

This year is the first year that ASEAN has started implementing the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Community Blueprints, particularly the Blueprint of ASEAN Political and Security Community which is directly related to ASEAN defence sector, especially the military intelligence. Therefore, our today's meeting as well as the previous ones are crucially important for setting up directions and ASEAN military intelligence cooperation plans for the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces in the years to come.

Since the establishment of ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting, this meeting has played a vital role in building mutual understanding and trust among

ASEAN military intelligence agencies. Hence, we think that this practice should be continued and enhanced.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Apart from the abovementioned advantages, we still confront a number of challenges, particularly transnational crimes, terrorism, natural and manmade disasters, so on and so forth. In order to address the challenges, we have established several cooperation mechanisms such as ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting, Asia Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference, ASEAN Militaries Analyst-to-Analyst Intelligence Exchange Conference and others. These frameworks allow us to share and exchange information, lessons and experiences on intelligence.

In order to enable us to address the abovementioned security challenges more effectively and efficiently, I'd like to propose our ASEAN intelligence agencies to increase cooperation. Thus, as the chair, I'd like to share with you as follows:

1. ASEAN intelligence agencies should explore and take appropriate measures to deal with the challenges we are currently facing in a more effective and timely manner.
2. We should continue implementing the existing mechanisms on a regular basis.
3. We should continue sharing and exchanging accurate and timely information based on the conditions and actual capability of each country.
4. We should ensure the implement of the Joint Declarations of ASEAN Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and the Joint Statements of ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting.
5. Domestic and international laws must be strictly enforced because law is a vital tool to prevent and suppress any wrongdoings. To effectively and efficiently prevent transnational crimes, it depends upon several factors. Issuing laws and strictly enforcing them is one of the effective measures to control and manage such security issues.
6. Capacity building and education development especially the development of human resource concerned with intelligence to maximize their capacity to ensure they can respond to contemporary work demands effectively.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

For Lao PDR, we still face security threats and challenges in various forms, especially human trafficking, drug smuggling, illegal immigration etcetera.

In response to the aforementioned challenges, the Lao PDR has made utmost efforts by issuing various legal documents on transnational crimes, for example, Law on anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, laws on women and child protection, laws on plantation, production and drug smuggling and others.

Moreover, Lao PDR has ratified and become a member of various regional and international treaties against transnational crimes for instance, United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and Human Trafficking, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children or Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

Laos has also cooperated with its neighboring countries through various cooperative mechanisms called Bilateral and Multilateral Border Security Committees by focusing on information sharing and joint patrolling critical areas along the northern part of the Mekong River on a regular basis. As a result, we could prevent many drug and human trafficking activities and bring about peace and security to such areas.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I've noted the establishment of ASEAN Community has not only created favourable conditions for market economy and unity of ASEAN, but it has also brought about challenges to ASEAN security. Therefore, it is essential for us to practically apply what we have proposed and shared in order to maintain peace, stability, security and prosperity of ASEAN Community.

Thank you.