

**ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting:
- Concept Paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network -**

I. Introduction

1. The idea to propose an establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network comes from a reality that ASEAN Member States have consistently participated in peacekeeping missions worldwide under the United Nations. Having noted that five ASEAN Member States including Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand have already established their own peacekeeping centres, it is necessary to link these centres to ensure ASEAN solidarity and allow the 10 Member States to benefit from the sharing of capacity and information in peacekeeping.
2. The proposal to establish the network is drawn upon from several ASEAN documents such as:
 - a. The ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint stated the necessity of establishing an ASEAN arrangement for the maintenance of peace and stability through such an effort including the establishment of a network among existing ASEAN Member States' peacekeeping centres, in accordance with the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Three-Year Work Programme.
 - b. The subsequent Three-Year Work Program of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) of the 2008-2010 and the 2011-2013, both stipulated the establishment of a network among ASEAN peacekeeping centres to conduct joint planning, training and sharing of experiences.
 - c. Report of Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) workshop on peacekeeping operations of 19-21 October 2010 suggested to consider the establishment of a combined peacekeeping organization within ASEAN, with the acknowledgement of the existence of five peacekeeping training centres as mentioned earlier.
 - d. At the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York in September 2010, the Ministers discussed and explored on ways to enhance ASEAN dialogues and cooperation on peacekeeping to help promote regional cooperation which will maintain peace and stability. In that meeting, Thailand provided a draft Discussion Paper on Exploring Enhanced ASEAN Dialogues and Cooperation on Peacekeeping.
 - e. The first ASEAN Peacekeeping Training Centre Commandant's Meeting held on 1 July 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh and attended by Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand strived to strengthen cooperation amongst Peacekeeping Centres and established an ASEAN Peacekeeping Centre Association.

3. Referring to the above mentioned background, this concept paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network is evolved to provide guidance for the conduct of cooperation activities in this field.

II. Purpose and Objectives

4. **Purpose.** The establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network is aimed to promote and enhance cooperation among defence and armed forces within ASEAN Member States through sharing experiences, expertise and other related capacities in peacekeeping.
5. **Objectives.**
 - a. To explore the benefits of the network in the preparation activities of peacekeeping forces among all ASEAN Member States.
 - b. To leverage Member States competencies and capabilities among ASEAN Member States in the field of peacekeeping.
 - c. To conduct joint planning and training as well as sharing of experiences with a view to establishing an ASEAN arrangement for maintaining peace and stability.
 - d. To utilize existing and planned national peacekeeping centres in ASEAN Members States to establish regional arrangements for maintaining peace and stability.
 - e. To promote regional peace and stability through greater collaboration and understanding on the basis of mutual respect.

III. Scope and Form of Activities

6. The scope and form of activities are set up at a pace that is comfortable to all with a step-by-step approach, divided into short-term, mid-term, and long-term.
7. Short-Term:
 - a. Information sharing on peacekeeping training curriculum, training materials and training methodology.
 - b. Establish a network that links peacekeeping centres among ASEAN Member States.
 - c. Identify gaps and priorities in the development of ASEAN peacekeeping capacities and capabilities.
 - d. Assist ASEAN Member States that are planning to develop their own peacekeeping centres in building capacities and capabilities in peacekeeping.

8. Medium-Term:
 - a. Establish and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the implementation of the network.
 - b. Exchange of expertise, visits among instructors, trainers and trainees of peacekeeping centres and other relevant bodies in the region.
 - c. Develop common peacekeeping training, operations and best practices manuals as reference for ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network.
 - d. Commence Joint training.
9. Long-Term:
 - a. Establish formal framework for collaboration among Member States in developing a common standby arrangement to support peacekeeping operations.
 - b. Enhance interoperability of peacekeeping forces among ASEAN Member States.
 - c. Develop existing peacekeeping centres within ASEAN Member States into centers of excellence in specialised areas of peacekeeping.

IV. Review and Report

10. The ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network shall comprise peacekeeping centres from ASEAN Member States and cooperate on the operational dimension of peacekeeping operations. The network could convene regular meetings to review the activities at locations to be commonly agreed.
11. All the outcomes and the activities of the network shall be duly reported to and assessed by the ADMM through the ADSOM and the ADSOM Working Group.

V. Conclusion

12. The Concept Paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network refers to the ways and means by which ASEAN could help promote regional cooperation to maintain peace and stability. It will also serve as mechanism for ASEAN Member States in continuing to provide vital support to the effective peacekeeping and peace building efforts of the United Nations.