

PRINCIPLES FOR ADMM-WIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING EXCHANGES

Introduction

1. Cooperation among ASEAN Member States in the area of defence and security has been growing steadily since the inception of the ADMM in Kuala Lumpur on 09 May 2006. However, there is general consensus that capability building to address shared security challenges requires ADMM members to foster greater trust and understanding between ASEAN Member States, and enhance personal and institutional linkages between ASEAN Member States' defence establishments.
2. To further bolster capability building within ASEAN Member States, it would be useful to create more opportunities for ADMM members to engage in ADMM-wide Education and Training Exchanges (AETE). AETE allow ADMM members to remain cognizant of their defence and security capacities, and identify ways to develop these through cooperation. It provides a catalyst for encouraging mutual trust, confidence, and collaboration in areas of shared interest and concern.
3. Given the afore-stated background, this Concept Paper on the Principles for ADMM-wide Education and Training Exchanges aims to provide guidance for the conduct of cooperative exercises and training endeavors in the field of defence and security.

Principles

4. AETE shall be guided by the following principles:
 - 4.1. The AETE Program shall be anchored on the principles stipulated in the ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC) Blueprint and determined by the ADMM based on mutual interest and common operational needs of ADMM members.
 - 4.2. Participation in AETE shall be flexible, non-binding, and voluntary; and shall be consistent with the rights and obligations of ASEAN Member States under any existing agreements to which they are parties.

- 4.3. Participation in AETE shall work on the basis of cooperation, transparency, and mutual trust; and shall be in accordance with relevant national laws, rules, and regulations.
- 4.4. AETE shall be conducted in the territory of the Host State with full respect for sovereignty, and in accordance with international law.
- 4.5. Personnel and assets involved in AETE shall be subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the Host State.
- 4.6. Personnel and assets involved in AETE shall remain under their respective national command and control.
- 4.7. It is understood that international law and international legal standards will also be taken into consideration.
- 4.8. A Terms of Reference (TOR) shall be crafted and adopted at the level of defence forces for each specific AETE. The TOR shall reflect the principles stated in this Concept Paper and contain the following minimum parameters:
 - 4.8.1. Location and period of the AETE;
 - 4.8.2. Deployment of personnel and assets;
 - 4.8.3. Security of personnel and assets;
 - 4.8.4. Identification of personnel and assets including wearing of uniform, issuance of identification cards, and requirements for appropriate orders, licenses and permits;
 - 4.8.5. Logistical arrangements including food, accommodation, transportation, means of communication, and consignee and retrieval of assets;
 - 4.8.6. Budget and funding.

- 4.9. The Host State shall facilitate necessary administrative arrangements, legal and regulatory exemptions for AETE including, but not limited to, entry and exit formalities, access to areas and facilities, permits, fees and duties.
- 4.10. The Host State shall exercise overall direction, coordination, and supervision to avoid, if not eliminate, unnecessary interference in navigation, aviation, and communication within its territory throughout the course of AETE.

Objectives

5. AETE endeavors to fulfill the following objectives:
 - 5.1. To build mutual trust and confidence, and promote multilateral cooperation and coordination among ADMM members.
 - 5.2. To develop a deeper understanding of the operational challenges faced by ADMM members and develop integrated capacities for responding to common security issues.
 - 5.3. To facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices among ADMM members by leveraging exchanges, education and training opportunities.

Scope

6. AETE shall involve active-duty members of the armed forces and civilian components of the defence establishments of ASEAN Member States.
7. AETE shall be designed and developed to address the diverse strategic and operational issues of multinational defence and security involving ADMM members including, but not limited to: maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), peacekeeping operations, military medicine, and cyber security.

8. AETE shall involve joint education and training activities in areas of practical cooperation in the defence sector including, but not limited to: conferences and meetings, tabletop discussions, and field exercises.

Form of Activities

9. Cooperation within the ambit of AETA shall include:
 - 9.1. Planning Conferences/Meetings in the Host State shall be held prior to the actual AETE to define the scope, personnel and assets to be deployed by each country, and the TOR to be adopted for the specific AETE.
 - 9.2. Professional Exchanges involving tabletop discussions on current security issues, and sharing of national experiences and best practices at the operational level.

Review and Report

10. This Concept Paper serves as an initial framework for the conduct of ADMM-wide Education and Training Exchanges and can be subject to further review.
11. All the activities and outcomes of AETE shall be duly reported to and assessed by the ADMM through the ADSOM and the ADSOM Working Group.

Conclusion

12. ASEAN is constantly faced with common global defence and security challenges that no ASEAN Member States can single-handedly address. AETE serves as a platform to foster habits of cooperation in building capabilities to address these challenges. Along this line, this Concept Paper provides guidance for the conduct of cooperative exercises and training endeavors in the field of defence and security.