Concept Paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Military Medicine Conference

Background

1. The Experts’ Working Group on Military Medicine (EWG on MM) is one of the seven cooperation and collaboration mechanisms under ASEAN-Plus Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM-Plus) Platform.

2. The 1st Three-Year-Work cycle of EWG on MM activity (2011-2013) was co-chaired by Singapore and Japan while the 2nd cycle (2014-2016) was co-chaired by Thailand and Russian Federation.

3. Currently, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India has been acting as co-chairs for the 3rd cycle activities starting from 2017.

4. The 3rd cycle co-chairs, among other activities, formulated to conduct one Military Medicine Conference each year to enhance cooperation in military medicine research and innovations among ADMM-Plus countries and to promote health care capacity of military medical services personnel in their respective forces.

5. Conducting ASEAN Military Medicine Conference (AMMC) is also in accord with the 3rd cycle EWG-MM objectives which include sharing knowledge of military medicine and lessons learned thus paving way to more efficient implementation, reflecting the theme of the 3rd cycle activities which is “Interoperability among military medical services”.

6. Given its experiences in conducting research conferences, Myanmar military initiated its best efforts to transform concept into reality by conducting the 1st ASEAN Military Medicine Conference (1st AMMC) on 18-21 February 2018 successfully in Yangon followed by the 25th Myanmar Military Medical Conference (25th MMMC) at separate venues.
7. Delegates from all ADMM-Plus countries were invited and participated at the 1st AMMC along with representatives from ASEAN Secretariat Office and ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM), where all the delegates and co-chairs witnessed the benefits and importance of this entity, being first of its kind in the ASEAN region.

8. A total of 21 scientific papers and 31 academic posters were presented at the 1st AMMC, highlighting the commitment and cooperation among ADMM-Plus countries and paving way to wider and more effective cooperation in the military medicine based on the research areas of common interests in the future. Myanmar Armed Forces Medical Services has been convening annual Military Medical Conferences since 1990 in accordance with international experience and best practices with the guidance of Defence Services Medical Research and Development Committee and has commemorated its 25th Myanmar Military Medical Conference (Silver Jubilee) in February, 2018. These events acknowledged the capacity of military medical services personnel discharging their noble duty in each and every remote area.

9. Similarly, the 2nd AMMC was successfully conducted in February, 2019 in connection with the 26th Myanmar Military Medical Conference (26th MMC). The experiences gained in the 1st AMMC had been reviewed and improved for better preparation of the 2nd AMMC and wider spectrum of scientific presentations was included with full participation from ADMM-Plus countries.

**Objectives**

10. This concept paper is intended to establish AMMC to promote and enhance the cooperation in the area of military medicine research and innovations through sharing experiences with best practices, exchange expertise and scholars and other capacities in related entities. Based on the fact that medical diseases prevalent in the
ASEAN region are best known on behalf of the people living there, the objectives are laid down as follows:

10.1. To hold AMMC annually as an initiative under ADMM framework;

10.2. To accelerate the effective cooperation of the ASEAN Member States through AMMC in research and innovations widely;

10.3 To extend professional network and promote relations among the Military Medical Scholars through AMMC;

Scope

11. AMMC shall cover all aspects of military medicine, but not limited to clinical practice and research activities either single entity or in cooperation between or among ADMM member states or ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM) or in conjunction with all related meetings and conferences.

Conduct of the Conferences

12. All ASEAN Member States (AMS) will be invited for academic papers and posters, scientific talks, symposia in military medicine as well as to enhance exchange of expertise and scholars.

13. During the scientific paper reading sessions, senior and distinguished members among delegates from AMS will be invited to preside over the sessions.

14. Conducting AMMC will be voluntary basis, and if there is no any other country to host AMMC, it may be suspended during those interim years.

15. Invitation and participation of the Plus countries may also be considered for AMMC’s future activities.
Forms of Activities

16. AMMC activities will include a variety of academic forms, but not restricted to the followings:

   16.1. Academic paper presentations (papers will be grouped into sessions based on related topics)
   16.2. Academic poster presentations
   16.3. Academic talks
   16.4. Symposia
   16.5. Sharing experiences and lessons learned

Review and Report

17. The outcomes of AMMC will be annually updated and duly reported to ADSOM through ADSOM WG.

Conclusion

18. ASEAN Military Medicine Conference (AMMC) will serve as an important platform to share knowledge with best practices and lessons learned in the field of military medicine research and innovations within ASEAN Region. Continuation of AMMC will benefit all military medicine communities in the region, in terms of, not only academic, research and clinical practices but also of better acquaintance and understanding among AMS for collective cooperation and coordination, for now and ever.