CONCEPT PAPER ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASEAN DEFENCE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS’ COLLABORATION (ADEIC)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Concept Paper seeks the agreement of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) to develop stronger linkages among ASEAN defence educational institutions to strengthen both the capability and capacity of military education across ASEAN.

2. For the purpose of this Concept Paper, defence educational institutions include universities, colleges and institutions or related bodies. Moreover, collaboration may be undertaken at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels.

3. The collaboration among AMS in relation to defence and security has been considerably enhanced in the past few years. However, collaboration on military education has not been widely practiced among defence educational institutions across AMS. Although there are some initiatives for educational collaboration among AMS, they are mostly in relation to social aspects; for example, the ASEAN Defence Interaction Programme in which the focus is on the basic respect for diversity, equality and mutual understanding. While the field of education in defence is of importance to all AMS, it has not been highly prioritised.

4. The annual ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defence Universities/Colleges/Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM) allows heads of defence educational institutions to meet, share and adapt their work plans for further building and development of capacity, trust and mutual understanding. However, the proposed ADEIC initiates the concept of educational collaboration primarily among the AMS. This would allow the AMS to expand opportunities within itself for required educational enhancement, such as in building and maintaining the quality of education and training as well as promoting professional development through cooperative activities across military institutions.

II. RATIONALE

5. The COVID-19 pandemic is a major issue which has caused disruptions and challenges to education and training programmes. Most of the academic programmes, overseas training and educational exchange programmes have been delayed or interrupted; hence, maintaining a good quality of education is significantly difficult for the defence educational sector, particularly in countries that are more vulnerable to such disruption.

6. Increased educational collaboration provides a vehicle for capability building across all participating countries. This initiative would build resilience across participating countries so that they can draw support from other countries in terms of knowledge, and information through digital technologies. The pandemic has shown that individual countries with less capacity than others are more vulnerable to the disruption. Vulnerability can be reduced in the future by leveraging on the capability across defence educational institutions in ASEAN. One obvious example is the use of digital technologies. The ADEIC would increase the resilience of individual countries to disruptors like COVID-19 by strengthening the network of cooperative arrangements in education across the community as a whole.
III. OBJECTIVES

7. The ADEIC aims to achieve the following goals:

a. Develop and enhance the AMS defence educational institutions’ network, capability, and capacity for the purpose of assisting one another to fulfill their tasks and respond to challenges in a timely manner.

b. Strengthen military education and training among AMS defence educational institutions through sharing and/or exchanging educational programs, knowledge, experiences, and resources.

c. Promote mutual assistance among AMS in order to enhance respective military institutions to raise their quality and to reach their full potential.

IV. SCOPE

8. Proposed collaboration under the ADEIC may involve the following:

a. Promoting the exchange of best practices in educational technologies and resources through seminars and workshops in order to enhance the capabilities of ASEAN defence educational institutions in necessarily dealing with and responding to emerging challenges.

b. Contributing to the development of e-learning programmes/facilities/human resources.

c. Conducting workshops to inform new research findings, or share best practices in education and training among defence educational institutions of ASEAN.

d. Providing training and performance support for trainers and teachers.

9. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be developed to guide the implementation of this Concept Paper. A coordination and planning team is to be established for this purpose.

V. REVIEWS AND REPORTS

10. This Concept Paper serves as an initial framework for the conduct of the ADEIC and can be subject to further review. The progress of ADEIC will be annually updated and reported to the ADMM through the ADSOM and the ADSOM Working Group.