

ESTABLISHING ASEAN DEFENCE INTERACTION PROGRAMMES

- CONCEPT PAPER -

Introduction

1. The idea to establish the ASEAN Defence Interaction Programmes (ADIP) derived from the recognition that ASEAN Member States have their own interaction programmes. While recognizing these initiatives, ADIP encourages the adoption of more region-wide interaction programmes of people to people contacts in working together towards community building and integration to promote a sense of belonging and ownership as the citizens of ASEAN.
2. The proposal to establish ADIP is drawn from the aspirations of several ASEAN documents such as:
 - 2.1 The ASEAN Vision 2020 adopted at the Second ASEAN Informal Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15 December 1997 envisions the entire Southeast Asia to be, by 2020, an ASEAN Community conscious of its ties of history, aware of its cultural heritage and bound by common regional identity.
 - 2.2 The Cebu Declaration on Towards One Caring and Sharing Community adopted at the Twelfth ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines on 13 January 2007 promotes ASEAN identity building in support of an ASEAN Community by undertaking initiatives and activities to increase the level of ASEAN awareness and “we feeling” among the peoples of ASEAN.
 - 2.3 The ASEAN Charter adopted at the Thirteenth ASEAN Summit in Singapore on 20 November 2007 calls for respect for different cultures, languages and religions of the peoples of ASEAN, while emphasizing their common values in the spirit of unity in diversity.
 - 2.4 The ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint adopted at the Fourteenth ASEAN Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand on 1 March 2009 encourages a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society, regardless of gender, race, religion, language or social and cultural background, are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building.

Purpose and Objective

3. **Purpose.** The establishment of ADIP is aimed at strengthening regional unity and identity among ASEAN defence establishments through respect for diversity, equality and mutual understanding.

4. **Objectives.** ADIP will have the following objectives:
- 4.1 To inculcate the sense of belonging in ASEAN through community building and integration among ASEAN defence and military establishments;
 - 4.2 To promote values of unity and habit of dialogue and consultation through enhanced people-to-people contact;
 - 4.3 To encourage transparency and openness among member states in all encounters;
 - 4.4 To nurture a sense of respect for diversity, equality and mutual understanding;
 - 4.5 To deepen bonds and create lasting friendships;
 - 4.6 To promote awareness and understanding of each other's defence and military establishments; and
 - 4.7 To promote awareness of ASEAN defence and military cooperative process to the wider community.

Scope and Form of Activities

5. The milestones below can be pursued at a comfortable pace in a step-by-step approach:
- 5.1 Compile and update information on existing multilateral interaction programmes.
 - 5.2 Information sharing among member states with the view to identify gaps and opportunities in regional interaction programmes.
 - 5.3 Plan and implement interaction programmes, involving but not limited to, the following:
 - 5.3.1 Exchanges on defence and security matters, for example, through seminars;
 - 5.3.2 Exchange of experts and personnel to share knowledge and skills;
 - 5.3.3 Visits to defence and military facilities and institutions;
 - 5.3.4 Sports events;
 - 5.3.5 Cultural exchange programmes;

5.3.6 Visits to places of historical or cultural interest; and

5.3.7 A special programme to commemorate the ASEAN Day or held in conjunction with a national event.

Other Arrangements

6. The arrangements for hosting may depend on the individual initiatives under this programme.
7. The host country may provide local hospitality such as transportation and accommodation for a maximum of two delegations per member state.
8. For the purpose of better management of ADIP, ASEAN Member States may express their interest in hosting a future interaction programme.

Review and Report

9. The outcome of ADIP shall be duly reported to the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) through the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) and ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Working Group (ADSOM WG).

Conclusion

10. The Concept Paper on Establishing ASEAN Defence Interaction Programmes (ADIP) provides ASEAN Member States with the opportunity to engage with one another on the basis of respect for diversity, equality and mutual understanding. It represents an effective mechanism for ASEAN to realize its aspirations towards One Vision, One Identity, One Community.