

SESSION IV

Philippines

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Southeast Asian countries continue to face both traditional and non-traditional security challenges, which undermine peace, stability and economic prosperity within the region, hence, the necessity for practical security cooperation within ASEAN. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Groups (EWG) forge practical security cooperation in seven key (7) areas: maritime security; terrorism; cyber security; humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR); peacekeeping operations; military medicine; and humanitarian mine action. The underlying theme in addressing these security challenges is cooperation, coordination and collaboration.

The Philippines actively participates in various initiatives and mechanisms aimed at concretizing practical cooperation to address the abovementioned key areas. In maritime security, the Philippines encourages continuing respect by all parties of the ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the expeditious conclusion of the Code of Conduct (COC). On terrorism, the Trilateral Cooperative Agreement (TCA) could be used as a template by other AMS and international partners to develop context-specific counter-terrorism and border security measures. Cybersecurity initiatives include crafting point-of-contact directories, compiling terminology glossaries, devising communication plans, and organizing seminars for subject matter experts. On HADR, the Philippines contributes to the development of a unified disaster response mechanism. The Philippines contributes to the sharing of best practices at peacekeeping centers throughout ASEAN.