

SESSION II

Philippines

Presentation by BGEN ADRIANO S PEREZ JR AFP, Chief, Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management

Brigadier General Perez shared the Philippines' perspectives on the future of ASEAN defense and security, based on a scenario-building exercise conducted in 2018. Based on different driving forces, trends and projections from the current strategic environment, four plausible scenarios were derived:

- 1) The Best-Case – which projects the flourishing of international cooperation and successful management of disputes according to international law;
- 2) Status Quo – which foresees the persistence of a tense relationship among major powers especially in maritime areas, with increased risk of miscalculation and misinterpretation;
- 3) The Worst-Case – which envisions probable violent confrontations among major and middle powers, low-intensity clashes in maritime zones, and extreme divergence on sensitive geopolitical issues between AMS leading to weakened regional order; and
- 4) A Cloudy Future – beyond the next decade, the rise of artificial intelligence will bring new uncertainties in economics, politics and military operations.

At the end of his presentation, he posed the following questions for consideration:

- 1) How can ASEAN confront these plausible scenarios while keeping its relevance and effectiveness?
- 2) How can ASEAN and ADMM promote thoughtful conversation between and among Track I and Track II personalities and institutions regarding major-power contestation in the region?
- 3) How can ASEAN/AMS harness functional cooperation measures towards solving sensitive issues?
- 4) How can ASEAN promote deeper engagements among AMS' agencies and forces in the region in such a way that ASEAN strengthens a rules-based regional order?