

Lao PDR's Exchange View

On the topic of: "Practical Cooperation for the Future of ASEAN Security"

Your Excellency Chairman, Heads of Delegations from ASEAN defense and security institutions, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Kingdom of Thailand's National Defense and Strategy Institution and all relevant parties for your excellent preparation and organization of this important meeting. I would also like to express my profound gratitude for the facilitation and hospitality extended to our delegation.

Today, I am honored to have the opportunity to share the Lao PDR's perspectives on "Practical Cooperation for the Future of ASEAN Security"

Amidst the international situation, it is to my observation that the world is in a constant state of change that is difficult to predict namely: the tensions in the South China Sea, the dispute in the Korean Peninsula, the war in Syria in which violence continues to elevate, terrorism, the conflict in the Middle-East and the trade war between China and the United States of America which have vastly impacted all aspects of the World economy. This constant state of unpredictability and issues have sent negative impacts to the state of security of the world.

In a similar light, ASEAN continues to face various forms of challenges such as: terrorism, transnational crime, illicit trade, cyber crimes and natural disasters. Furthermore, major powers are also trying to expand their influence in the Asia-Pacific region. Under these circumstances, ASEAN must be prepared to respond to these challenges in order to ensure the protection of peace, stability and unity of the ASEAN Community.

As the ASEAN faces these international and regional circumstances, it is my opinion that continuing to strengthen practical cooperation for the future of ASEAN security especially on counter terrorism, developing computer security

systems and enhancing the capacity to respond to natural disasters in the ASEAN region is of utmost importance.

Firstly, strengthening cooperation to counter terrorism efforts which all countries and organizations have attached great importance to this issue seen apparently with the signing international treaties to combat terrorism as well as implementing the ASEAN Convention on Joint Action to Counter Terrorism in 2003. Therefore, in the future we must continue to build on this momentum and enhance activities to train and strengthen capacity to counter terrorism as well as the exchange of information and valuable experiences especially at the technical level so that knowledge on this particular issue can be circulated and shared efficiently.

Secondly, on practical cooperation on enhancing computer security, we have seen that at the present computer security issues have become a large threat to all countries around the world. In the advent of the ICT era, terrorist groups have found methods in utilizing computer networks to destroy their targets or cyber attacks. According to reports published by News agencies has shown that many countries in the region are directly affected by cyber attacks. This shows the risk inherent in computer security systems. Base on the Joint Declaration by the ADMM in Singapore on the 19th of October 2018, it was expressed that cooperation on enhancing computer security systems specifically in the ASEAN region is an urgent issue that is incremental to alleviate challenges in this area. More specifically, we must strengthen cooperation on the technical and expert level as well as cooperation on modern technologies and computer security programmes. If ASEAN member countries are prepared and readily equipped on Cyber Security than we will be able to respond effectively to cyber attacks in the future. In order to accomplish these goals to strengthen cyber security capacity, we will need to rely on support from many countries around the world especially developed countries.

Thirdly, practical cooperation is needed on assistance and helping victims of natural disasters or HADR. We know full well that the world is facing problems from global warming which has resulted in emergence of various natural disasters around the world namely: droughts, floods, tsunamis,

earthquakes and forest fires. This has directly impacted the livelihoods and well-being of the population residing in the ASEAN region. The collapse of the saddle dam in the Lao PDR stems from the effect of increased water volumes from continuous rainfall. Pertaining to this national disaster, the Government of the Lao PDR has received support from many counties and international organizations to enhance relief efforts to the affected areas. However, at the present, these areas still are unable to return to its original state and still must rely on a long term solution. Therefore, the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting have agreed in consensus that the enhancement of cooperation on HADR must continue into the future specifically on developing a clear, concise and consistent plan for training cooperation as well as facilitating the exchange of information that is modern and swift by relying on experts and modern technologies.

In Conclusion, these are the points that I would like to raise in my intervention on today's thematic focus which is the "Practical Cooperation for the Future of ASEAN Security". I would like to humbly express my gratitude to everyone for sacrificing your valuable time to listen to me today. Thank You.