

Information Note¹

- Event:** 28th Asian Export Control Seminar
- Organizer(s):** Centre for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) under the auspices of the Government of Japan (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- Date and Venue:** 15-17 February 2022, virtually via WebEx
- Participants:** *Governments:* Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Pakistan, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, UAE, UK, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam, Hong Kong (China) and Chinese Taipei.
- International and regional Organisations and Arrangements:* European Union, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Australia Group (AG), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), HCOC, United Nations 1874 Panel of Experts, 1540 Committee Group of Experts and UN Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs.

Background

On 10 November 2021, CISTEC invited the 1540 Committee Group of Experts to participate in the 28th Asian Export Control Seminar. The Asian Export Control Seminar has been held annually since 1993 and is organized by CISTEC under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan.

The Seminars aim to deepen the understanding of participants from Asian countries and regions on export control systems and to promote discussions on related issues including implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. They attract the largest number of expert-level export control officials from government, industry and academia in the Asian region.

Resolution 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to continue to participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional and national level.

In resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council decided that “the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), ... particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures;

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls” (OP12).

In resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council also recalled its decision “that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate control over related materials, and calls upon States that have not done so to start developing effective national control lists at the earliest opportunity for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)” (OP14).

The role of industry in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) has been referred to in operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1540 (2004), operative paragraphs 12 and 30 of resolution 1977 (2011) which, respectively, call upon all States to develop appropriate ways to cooperate, work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under the laws relating to the resolution.

Highlights

The seminar brought together approximately 400 participants from 31 countries and regions, international organizations, industries, universities and other organizations. The seminar provided an excellent opportunity to get an update on current export control-related developments, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the opening remarks, Mr. Masahiro Ishii, State Minister of Economy, Trade and industry of Japan addressed the importance that countries and regions work together for the implementation of export control system for the non-proliferation of WMDs, which is based on the multilateral export control regimes and the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). He also reiterated that with the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), pursuing economic development in tandem with implementing export control has become a fundamental rule of the international community, and having an appropriate export control system in place would lead to improving the credibility of the country or region within the international community. Mr. Kiyoshi Odawara, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan also called for enhanced efforts to build robust export controls for the goods and technologies not to be used for malign purposes, and to this end, the importance of the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent proliferation to non-state actors.

During the seminar, representatives from 12 regional countries and six other countries made presentations on the development of their national export control systems, and nine international/multilateral efforts and activities on export control were introduced. In addition to the above, two panel discussions were held focused on effective control of intangible technology transfer and on cooperation with industries.

The seminar offered a valuable opportunity for the Group of Experts to brief a wide and relevant audience on resolution 1540 obligations and to interact directly with national representatives, and to be informed of the latest export control trends in the Asia region. In addition, the seminar is a useful opportunity to introduce the assistance mechanisms of the 1540 Committee.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org