

Information Note¹

- Event:** 29th 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:** 14-16 February 2023, Tokyo, Japan
- Participants:** *Governments:* Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam, Hong Kong (China), Chinese Taipei and Japan.
- International and regional Organisations and Arrangements:* European Union, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Australia Group (AG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), United Nations 1874 Panel of Experts, 1540 Committee Group of Experts, UN Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs and UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.
- NGOs and Thinktanks:* James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Centre for Asia Pacific Trade Compliance and Information Security (CAPTCIS), State University of New York

Background

On 9 November 2022, CISTEC invited the 1540 Committee Group of Experts to participate in the 29th 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 Seminar aims 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.

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 paragraph 12 of resolution 1977 (2011) and operative paragraph 30 of resolution 2325 (2016) 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.

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.

This seminar is also of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding the following operative paragraphs (OP) of resolution 2663 (2022):

OP9 Encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of relevant expertise, to continue to actively engage in dialogue with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation;

OP25 Requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional, and, as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Highlights

The seminar was held in-person after three years and brought together approximately 150 participants from 29 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, Ms Fusae Ota, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, opened the seminar by emphasizing that the illegal export of advanced technologies has a significant impact on the international security environment, and pointing out that the military diversion of advanced technologies is expanding in the current global situation, increasing the importance of strategic export control. Mr. Shunsuke Takei, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan then also pointed out the importance of export control by each country in line with the multilateral export control regime to ensure international security.

During the seminar, representatives from 19 countries and one regional organization made presentations on the development of their national and regional export control systems, and eight international/multilateral efforts and activities on export control were introduced. In addition to the above, one panel discussion and two keynote speeches were made focused on outreach to industry and academia in consideration of increasing importance of advanced technology and emerging technologies and its impact on military modernization.

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

Additional Comments

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