

Information Note¹

- Event:** 30th 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:** 20-22 February 2024, Tokyo, Japan
- Participants:** *Governments:* Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China), Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America
- International and regional Organisations and Arrangements:* European Union, Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC), 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, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and 1540 Committee Group of Experts
- NGOs and Thinktanks:* Centre for Asia Pacific Trade Compliance and Information Security (CAPTCIS), Centre for Trade Excellence (TE), State University of New York

Background

On 23 October 2023, CISTEC invited the 1540 Committee Group of Experts to participate in the 30th 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 aimed 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 letter of invitation requested for nominated expert(-s) to give a 15-minute presentation on the activities of the 1540 Committee Group of Experts.

The role of industry in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) has been referred to in operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1540 (2004) and operative paragraph 30 of resolution 2325 (2016) that, respectively, call upon all States to develop appropriate ways to cooperate,

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.

work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under the laws relating to the resolution.

This seminar was 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 and celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. It brought together approximately 150 participants from 34 countries and regions, international organizations, industries, universities, NGOs 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 session, Mr. Nobuhiro Yoshida, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan opened the seminar by emphasizing, in the context of the 30th anniversary of the Asian Export Control Seminar, the continuous importance of this event due to the growing risk that advanced technologies be diverted from legitimate use. Mr. Yoichi Fukazawa, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan subsequently stated the necessity of international efforts to promote trade while preventing risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Export controls then should support confidence in global trade growth for peaceful environment. Mr. Tsutomu Oshida, Executive Managing Director of CISTEC finally welcomed export control regimes and international cooperation to make export control effective and safe. He highlighted the necessity for more involvement among industry and academia and the important role of CISTEC as a channel for their involvement.

During the seminar, participants made presentations on the development of national and regional export control systems and international/multilateral efforts and activities. Outreach to industry and academia is considered as imperative due to increasing importance of emerging technologies.

Additional Comments

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