

Information Note¹

Event: 12th Asian Senior Level Talks on Proliferation (ASTOP XII)
Organizers: Japan
Date and venue: 20 January 2016, Tokyo, Japan
Participants: *Governments:*
Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

International Organisations:
1540 Committee Group of Experts

1. **Background**

- a. ASTOP XII, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, is an annual event that provides a platform for senior officials at Director-General level in the Asia Pacific region to exchange views on key non-proliferation issues.
- b. Resolution 1540 has been included in the agenda of ASTOP in the last two of the 12 ASTOP meetings held so far. The invitation by the Japanese Government was an opportunity to talk to senior officials from countries in the Asia-Pacific region which will help facilitate the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- c. A specific request was made for an Expert of 1540 Committee speak on the importance of UNSCR1540 as well as the possibilities for further international cooperation based on the resolution.

2. **Highlights**

The event, hosted and chaired by Japan, was attended by representatives of 17 countries from the Asia-Pacific region. The principal points of discussion were:

- Regional non-proliferation issues: the nuclear test by North Korea on 6 January dominated this part of the discussion;
- Maintaining and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime: the discussion centred on IAEA Safeguards and promoting adherence to the Additional Protocol.
- Counter-proliferation measures and recent developments: in this session the resolution 1540 obligations were discussed along with the plans for the Comprehensive Review of the resolution. Also in this session China described its actions to strengthen the implementation of its 1540 obligations
- Strategic Trade Controls: Led by Australia there was a discussion of the importance of effectively implementing trade controls. This was followed by presentations and discussions of the Proliferation Security Initiative led by Cambodia and Singapore.
- In the final session Canada and Thailand gave their national perspectives on the development and requirements of nuclear security laws and regulations.

3. **Additional Comments**

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

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.