

Information Note¹

- Event:** *ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop: Countering Illicit Trafficking of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Materials – Interagency Awareness Building*
- Organizers:** Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines and Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (through the Global Partnership Programme) with technical support through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) / World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Program
- Date and venue:** 20-21 November, 2013, Manila, Philippines
- Participants:** *States:* Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Indonesia, LAO PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, U.S.A., Vietnam
- International organizations:* ASEAN Secretariat, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNODC, WCO, 1540 Committee Group of Experts (by video).

1. **Objectives of the conference**

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Improve connectivity and intelligence-sharing on illicit transfers affecting ARF members with a focus on concrete efforts at capacity building, technical support and information exchange;
- Introduce the Container Control Program (CCP) initiative and the direct support of its technical assistance programme for the detection of illicit CBRN materials in sea shipping containers that otherwise could be used for terrorist activities.

2. **Background**

Pursuant to the decision of the 20th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held in Brunei in July 2013 it was decided to hold an ARF Workshop on Countering Illicit Trafficking of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Materials through technical support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) / World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme. This event was designed to launch the Canadian funded CCP roll out in five new countries in South East Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

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.

The main goal of the regional CCP is to improve the security in the international containerized supply chain by effectively countering the use of sea containers for illicit trafficking of proliferation-related strategic goods. The CCP aims to assist Governments to establish effective container controls that will serve not only to prevent trafficking of illicit materials, but also to facilitate legitimate trade and raise state revenues with the establishment of dedicated inter-agency container profiling joint port control units in Southeast Asia.

3. **Highlights**

The format was a mix of formal presentations by subject matter experts (including on customs and border protection strategies and dual use and catch all controls) to set the context of a round table discussion which focused upon the readiness of ASEAN members to address CBRN challenges. Representatives from WCO and UNODC and the OPCW informed about existing information resources. The second day was dedicated to case studies on the Malaysian strategic trade control system and breakout group discussions on interagency cooperation.

The 1540 expert delivered a pre-recorded video presentation. Upon request by the organizers, he provided a general overview of resolution 1540 (2004) obligations. The video presentation is available online at:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5y3f4J7qPB1QVdjM0g2OTl6TWc/edit?usp=sharing&pli=1>

4. **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org