

Information Note¹

Event:	The 9th Asian Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP IX)
Organizer:	The Government of Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Venue and Date:	Tokyo, Japan, 14 March 2013
Participants:	States: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan (the host), Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam. Organization: 1540 Committee expert

1. Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share views about non-proliferation issues and counter-proliferation efforts in the region, highlighting positive progress made in recent years and challenges to be addressed through exchange of opinions.
- Raise awareness in Asia on current major non-proliferation issues such as safeguards, nuclear security, proliferation-related transfer and strategic trade and export controls, and encourage further non-proliferation efforts in each participating country.

The objectives of the participation of the 1540 Committee expert were to:

- Make a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004) and its subsequent resolutions, focusing on the assistance framework of the resolution and the role played by the 1540 Committee in match-making assistance.
- Interact with participating delegates to raise the awareness and facilitate the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the region, and explore possibility of cooperation among/between participating states.
- Conduct bilateral discussions with officials in charge in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to discuss continued support of Japanese Government to resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

- The ASTOP is an annual event that provides a platform for senior officials in the Asia Pacific to converge and exchange information and views on non-proliferation issues. This forum was the ninth of its kind and in the past eight meetings of ASTOP, director-general level officials in charge of non-proliferation issues from countries in the region participated.
- ASTOP is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The Japanese Government has invited the 1540 committee members and/or the experts to participate in several non-

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.

proliferation-related or 1540-focused events it organized or co organized, such as the Turtle Bay Security Roundtable: Proliferation Challenges in a Flat World, the 20th Asian Export Control Seminar this year.

- This is the first time that resolution 1540 was included into the agenda of ASTOP and held intensive discussions. The invitation by Japanese Government represented an opportunity to talk to senior officials in the Asia and Pacific region which will facilitate the full implementing of resolution 1540 (2004).

3. **Highlights of discussions**

Intensive discussions focused on the non-proliferation issues and counter-proliferation efforts in the region occupied the agenda of this one-day event. During the sessions, current major non-proliferation issues such as safeguards, nuclear security, proliferation-related transfer and strategic trade and export controls were highlighted which are featuring two sides of the coin - positive progress made and challenges to be addressed.

Resolution 1540 (2004) was part of the focus of the discussion. The discussion reflected matters of concrete nature for participating States moving toward the full implementation of the resolution. By introducing in detail how the 1540 Committee works and the assistance mechanism, it was conducive to helping the match-making role of the 1540 Committee in providing assistance and facilitating the capacity building at national level.

4. **Additional comments**

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