

Information Note¹

Event	21 st Asian Export Control Seminar
Organiser	<i>Center 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)</i>
Date and Venue	26-28 February 2014, Tokyo, Japan
Participants	<i>UN Member States: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam</i> <i>Special Administrative Regions: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China</i> <i>Organisations / arrangements: Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, Australia Group (AG), European Union (EU), Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), World Customs Organisation (WCO), UNSCR 1540 Committee Group of Experts, UNSCR 1718 Committee Panel of Experts, UNSCR 1737 Committee Panel of Experts</i> <i>Others: Center for Information on Strategic Trade Control (CISTEC), Chinese Taipei Association of East Asian Relations, Chinese Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (CNS), King's College, Korea Strategic Trade Institute (KOSTI), State University of New York (SUNY), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)</i> <i>Private Sector: Observers from Japanese companies (CISTEC members)</i>

1. Conference Objectives

- Provide a forum for speakers from different regions to share their national or regional experiences in implementing effective export control practices.

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.

- Promote regional cooperation and expert level contacts

2. Background

The Asian Export Control Seminar has been held annually since 1993 and is organised by CISTEC (a non-profit and non-governmental organisation that supports Japanese companies in export control related matters), jointly with the Japanese Government (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Over the last 21 years, this conference series has become an important forum for discussion on WMD-proliferation trends as well as on new developments and challenges in particular with regard to implementing effective non-proliferation export controls in the region and beyond.

The conference attracts the largest number of expert-level export control officials of any event in the region.

3. Highlights

The 21st edition of this seminar series was attended by over 100 participants from more than 20 States and a wide variety of international organisations and arrangements. Thus, it provided an excellent opportunity to discuss current export control related trends and challenges, in particular in the Asian-pacific region.

The seminar featured different themes, including:

- "Current international situation", which provided an overview about current global developments in the area of export controls, with a special focus on the recent adoption and expected implementation challenges of the Arms Trade Treaty.
- "Current Topics related to strategic trade controls" with a focus on (a) "issues of national licensing", (b) "issues of outreach activities to industries, universities and research institutes", (c) "discussion on transit, trans-shipment and brokering", (d) "related issues". These topics and respective challenges were also discussed in more interactive breakout groups.
- "Enhancing non-proliferation efforts in the region" with presentations on resolution 1540 (2004), sanctions regimes, the multilateral export control arrangements and on the security programmes of the WCO.

Participants were also given the opportunity to take part in a site visit to Tokyo Customs.

Presentations on national experiences and practices in different export control related areas were useful for identifying effective implementation practices in line with operative clause 12 of resolution 1977 (2011). In particular during the smaller breakout sessions, the discussions also confirmed remaining challenges that States face and perceive with regard to the establishment of effective export control systems. The seminar also included presentations by representatives of the four major export control arrangements (Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and Nuclear Suppliers Group), introducing the respective regimes and the latest developments within these arrangements. As in previous years, representatives of international think tanks specialising on export controls contributed to the seminar with informative contributions. FATF and WCO also provided updates on their respective non-proliferation-related activities.

In his presentation and in bilateral discussions, the 1540 expert focussed on options for further engagement with the 1540 Committee and on the 10 year anniversary of the resolution.

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