

Information Note¹

Event	2 nd ARF Confidence Building Measure Seminar on Implementation of UNSCR 1540
Date and Venue	May 14 -15, 2013. Bangkok, Thailand
Organizers	Government of Thailand in cooperation the United States of America through its Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program.
Participants	States: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Vietnam, Others: ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat, World Customs Organization (WCO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNRCPD) in Asia and the Pacific and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP).

1. Objectives for participation

The main purpose of participation by an expert from the 1540 Committee Group of Expert was to have an opportunity to get, first hand information about the measures taken by most of the ARF members states in the implementation of UNSCR 1540; participate in the group discussions and share view on challenges in identifying UNSCR 1540 POC and improvement in the process of addressing UNSCR-1540 related implementation challenges; seek bilateral meetings with some of the non-reporting states of the region (DPRK, Timor Leste), if available, and to discuss the prospects of submitting a first report; make presentation to highlight the importance and significance of UNSCR-1540 in achieving the objective of effective nuclear security and strategic trade control and to liaise with the possible assistance providers of the region in assisting those states of the same region how are requiring assistance in various areas of Resolution 1540 implementation.

2. Background

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has been consistently engaged in deliberating on issues of non-proliferation, disarmament, terrorism and international/regional peace and security since its inception in 1994. The ARF, which has a membership of 27 countries of Asia-Pacific region, provides an effective platform to its members to exchange views and share experiences on international/regional peace and security issues. This seminar was the second activity of its kind following the first in 2007 in San Francisco, organized by the US Government.

3. Highlights

In the opening session of the seminar the representative of Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised on the importance of resolution 1540. Mr Michael Aho, member of 1540 Committee read out the message of the Chair highlighting the major elements of resolution 1540. During the seminar number of participants made presentations on various aspects of

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.

resolution 1540 including the implementation measures taken. These presentations generated healthy discussion among the participants aimed at experience-sharing, exchange of detailed information regarding the practical experiences of various states in implementing resolution 1540 and the challenges being faced. The seminar provided an opportunity for the participating 1540 Committee member and expert to focus on the core elements of 1540 during their interaction with the participants. The seminar also provided opportunity for fruitful side meetings with a number of country representatives. The breakout sessions brought out the importance of having point(s) of contact, the need to create technical reach back resources and some of the potential topics for future activities to be conducted by the ARF. CSCAP presented a “Guideline for Managing Trade of Strategic Goods” (copy attached), which could be drawn upon for a compilation of effective practices.

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