

## Chairman's Summary

The 5<sup>th</sup> ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities,  
Colleges, and Institutions  
August 30, 2001

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges, and Institutions was held in Tokyo from August 28 to 30, 2001, with the participation of 44 delegates from 20 member countries of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

NAKATANI Gen, minister of state for defense (director general of the Defense Agency) delivered a welcoming address at the opening ceremony of the meeting on August 28. The minister of state for defense expressed his appreciation to the delegates for coming to Tokyo to attend the meeting, and stressed the profound impact that this meeting would have on building confidence and trust, and deepening relations among the ARF member countries. He pointed out that it is hard for the armed forces to discharge the variety of missions that called upon them today without cooperation among the armed forces of different countries, and that educating and training military personnel are major challenges facing the defense universities in coming years. He then expressed the hope that a new framework of cooperation among the defense universities in the field of education and training will emerge in the course of active discussion at the Tokyo meeting.

2. The meeting was chaired by SHINKAI Masakatsu, president of the National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan. Session I and Session II were held on August 28 and Session III on August 30 as scheduled. On August 29, delegates of the participating countries observed the annual comprehensive firepower exercise of the Ground Self-Defense Force held at the Higashi-Fuji exercise site. And in the afternoon of August

30, they visited an exhibition hall where information technology-related product exhibits were displayed.

3. At Session I, delegates from the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, and China presented their papers under the theme of “New Roles of the Armed Forces.” Furthermore, delegates from Indonesia, Belgium (the European Union) and Vietnam distributed papers on this topic to the participants. In addition to the traditional role of defending their countries, the participants discussed new roles the armed forces of their countries have taken on, i.e., participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations and international humanitarian relief operations, and controlling armed pirates and international organized crime engaged in drug trafficking and smuggling. On the other hand, some delegates from countries that are in the stage of nation-building argued that their armed forces have been involved in maintaining domestic order from the outset and the role of their armed forces has not expanded even in the post-Cold War era. This was followed by a discussion on the impact that the expansion of the roles and missions of armed forces has on military officers. Military officers arguably have two-pronged roles, a traditional role on the one hand and a non-traditional role, such as defense diplomacy, law-enforcement, and scholastic mission, on the other. And there was a discussion whether armed forces can perform the two missions effectively. One delegate cautioned that armed forces should consider carefully the scope of expanded missions that they are supposed to fulfill, lest it should evolve into mere law-enforcement bodies. A view was expressed that this new situation makes it necessary for institutions for military education to change their mind-set and thinking.
4. At Session II, delegates from Australia, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, South Korea, the United States, and Japan presented their papers under the theme of “Changes in the Focus of Education at the

National Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions, and Problems Facing Them.” Through those presentations, it became clear that there are member countries that have not only implemented curricular reform, but also implemented drastic reforms of educational organization, responding to the change in the strategic environment after the Cold War, development of globalization, and revolution in information technology. On the other hand, it is obvious that there are countries that have not undertaken major changes in officer education even after the end of the Cold War, because the role of the armed forces in maintaining domestic order remain unchanged. Practical issues, such as the decision-making mechanism on curricula and the significance and present situation of recruiting civilian students to defense universities and colleges, were discussed after the presentations. It is acknowledged that the significance and situation of recruiting civilian students vary from country to country. We discussed the difference in implication of the use of the words “defense” and “security” for our institution and programs as well. We shared the view, through this session, that development of the thinking power of officers and stimulation of joint education of services are the vital issues of defense education in member countries.

5. At Session III, participants discussed the possibility of international cooperation among defense universities of member countries, and how such cooperation should be carried out. For the purpose of promoting interactions among the defense universities of member states, issues relating to educational exchanges, cooperation in publications, and means of institutionalizing the meetings of the heads of defense universities were discussed.

Concerning the promotion of educational exchanges and the issue of granting credits and/or degrees in particular, a shared understanding emerged that different defense universities follow different methods in offering credits/degrees and that it is necessary first to have a clear grasp of the current situation in ARF defense universities. As regards

the sharing of curricula of defense universities, participants agreed that countries would try to make the curricula of their defense universities available to others where possible. As a vehicle for sharing such curricula, it is advisable to carry the curricula on the Web site of each defense university. Some delegates introduced their cases of short-term course offerings to foreign students. Many supported the idea of exchanging students of defense universities for short-term study.

Concerning exchange of publications, defense universities that issue publications agreed to provide their counterparts in member countries with their publications. They agreed to encourage the faculty of the member defense universities to contribute papers and studies to one another's publications.

One of the delegates from South Korea proposed to establish a working group composed of faculty members of the defense universities with permanent teaching and research staff to promote cooperation in research, which might some day lead to a joint publication, as well as to discuss education programs. The U.S. delegate supported the idea and proposed the group be called the Education and Research Study Group of National Defense Universities, Colleges, and Institutions. The participants agreed that the proposal by South Korea should be implemented on a voluntary basis, within the framework of the ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Universities and agreed with the name proposed by the U.S. delegate.

On the question of improving the procedures of the ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, it was suggested that instead of establishing a permanent Secretariat, a topic that had been discussed at the past four meetings, Web sites should be utilized for exchanging information among member defense universities. On the question of establishing a common Web site of the ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities, it was agreed that the question should be deferred to future meetings and that, for the time being, each defense university should be encouraged to open its own Web site and hyperlink with those of other

member countries. The participants agreed that the chairman's summary and papers presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting would be carried on the Web site of the National Institute for Defense Studies of Japan.

The chairman invited views and comments from the floor regarding rules for selecting host countries for future meetings, and said that it is desirable to expedite the selection to make smooth management of the ARF meetings possible. A formal decision on a host country of an ARF defense university meeting is made by an ARF Ministerial Meeting. With this in mind, participants discussed rules and reached a consensus that each future meeting should select a host country for the meeting to be held two years hence and that the country hosting the current meeting should work as a liaison until the next host country is formally endorsed at the ARF Ministerial Meeting.

The ARF defense universities have discussed various ideas for cooperation at the previous four meetings of heads of defense universities, and the member universities agreed to encourage the implementation of those that were feasible. At this 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the participants agreed that the member universities are recommended to make presentations on the activities they have carried out in the past at the next meeting.

6. The chairman announced that the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, on July 25 endorsed Russia's proposal to host the 6<sup>th</sup> ARF Meeting of the Heads of Defense Universities, Colleges, and Institutions of 2002, and the participants welcomed the decision. And the chairman expressed his sincere hope that a host country for the 2003 meeting would be selected from the ASEAN countries as soon as possible.
7. Moreover, one of the delegates from South Korea announced that the Ministry of National Defense and National Defense University of South Korea would host a four-day workshop in August 2002 in Seoul. The purpose of that workshop is to reinforce confidence-building through

exchanges of opinions on issues such as regional security, military exchanges and cooperation, defense officials networking, defense modernization plans, and so forth. During the intermission of Session III, the staff members of the Asia Pacific Area Network (APAN) introduced its mission and work to the participants. The mission of APAN is to communicate and share information electronically to facilitate regional understanding, build confidence among Asia-Pacific neighbors and enhance security cooperation.

8. The meeting went well in a warm and friendly atmosphere, and the participants expressed their thanks to the chairman. They expressed satisfaction with the program, including the tour of the comprehensive firepower exercise at the Higashi-Fuji exercise site, and their appreciation for the efforts by the National Institute for Defense Studies and others concerned for the preparation of the program.

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