ASEAN DEFENCE SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING-PLUS
(ADSOM-PLUS)
29 APRIL 2011
YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

AGENDA 7

Consideration and Discussion on Papers of EWGs:

7.2 ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING-PLUS
(ADMM-PLUS):
- Experts’ Working Group on Maritime Security -
- Concept Paper -
(Malaysia/Australia)
ADMM-PLUS MARITIME SECURITY EXPERT WORKING GROUP (EWG)  
CONCEPT PAPER

I. Introduction

1. The defence leadership and focus of ADMM-Plus provide an opportunity to facilitate 
operational cooperation between ASEAN and key partners on regional security issues 
such as maritime security.

2. Maritime security presents a range of strategic challenges in the Asia-Pacific region 
arising from a combination of factors including:

   • Dependence on Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC). Safe, free and lawful 
navigation through international sea lanes is vital to the security and economies of 
the Asia-Pacific region.

   • Constraints on cooperation and threats to good order at sea. These include 
piracy and armed robbery against ships, maritime terrorism, illicit trafficking in 
drugs and arms, people smuggling, pollution, illegal fishing, marine natural 
hazards, and uncertain maritime domains.

3. This paper outlines potential areas for practical defence and military maritime security 
cooperation under the proposed ADMM-Plus Experts’ Working Group on maritime 
security. Cooperation will be undertaken in accordance with the fundamental ASEAN 
principles of consensus, respect for sovereignty and progress at a pace acceptable to 
all ADMM-Plus members.

II. Purpose and Objectives of the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security EWG

4. The ADMM-Plus Maritime Security EWG could be used to develop a more effective 
defence and military response to maritime strategic challenges in the Asia-Pacific 
region. Malaysia and Australia propose the working group commence by identifying 
areas of common interest across the spectrum of maritime security challenges, for 
discussion within ADSOM-Plus and the ADMM-Plus. These common areas of 
interest could then be further explored to develop practical initiatives for defence and 
military cooperation.

5. Overall aims of the working group could be:

   • Enhanced maritime cooperation. This is currently underdeveloped at a 
   multilateral defence-defence level in the region, but enhanced cooperation is 
fundamental to maintaining good order at sea and peace and stability.

   • Identifying risks in the maritime domain, especially non-traditional threats. A 
   more effective and cooperative approach is required to analyse significant 
   maritime security threats in the region.
III. Functions and Responsibilities of the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security EWG

6. The ADMM-Plus Maritime Security EWG is responsible for:

- Assisting the ADMM-Plus in implementing ADMM-Plus decisions related to maritime security.
- Recommending specific steps for practical maritime security cooperation.

IV. Composition and Reporting Procedure

7. Australia and Malaysia propose to co-chair the maritime security working group for the three years from 2011-2013. All ADMM-Plus member states with an interest in maritime security issues will participate as their capacity and interest allows. The ADMM-Plus Maritime Security EWG would report through the ADSOM-Plus Working Group to the ADSOM-Plus, then to ADMM-Plus.

V. Work Plan

8. Given the range of multilateral institutions already active in addressing maritime security concerns in the region, care will be taken to ensure the ADMM-Plus maritime security agenda complements that of existing groupings, most notably: ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional Meetings on Maritime Security (ARF ISM MS); ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF); Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP); and Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS). As to ensure effectiveness the activities of ADMM-Plus Maritime Security EWG will complement, and be coordinated with, those of all other ADMM-Plus Expert Working Groups.

9. The maritime security working group could initially consider the following areas of defence and military cooperation:

- Identifying regional maritime security challenges and their potential impacts to 2020 and beyond.
- Managing maritime security in a multilateral environment
- Improving information sharing.
10. The Working Group will meet at least twice per year for the duration of Malaysia and Australia’s co-chairmanship, and will focus on developing common understandings of maritime security, sharing perspectives and developing cooperative mechanisms acceptable to all ADMM-Plus members. During this period, the following initial initiatives are proposed:

- **In 2011:**
  - Conduct an initial working group meeting to identify common areas of interest, priority challenges and concepts for future cooperative activities. This initial meeting will focus on issues of mutual interest and set the direction for the working group during its first term.
  
  - Conduct an exchange of perspectives on the security impacts of the issues identified in the first working group meeting. Develop and consider proposals for improved information sharing on these issues.

- **In 2012:**
  - Hold a scenario-based workshop to explore cooperation and information sharing in a hypothetical maritime security scenario. The hypothetical scenario will be based upon the key issues identified in the 2011 meetings.

  - Following these initial three activities, assess progress and identify areas of agreement. Refine the work plan to include new practical cooperative initiatives to address newly identified requirements. These initiatives will form the basis of the working group’s work plan through until the end of Malaysia and Australia’s co-chair term in 2013.

VI. **Conclusion**

11. The maritime security working group aims to be a cooperative platform for information sharing and integrated, collective effort to address shared maritime security challenges at a pace comfortable to all members. Malaysia and Australia welcome the participation of all ADMM-Plus members in the Maritime Security working group. Should ADSOM-Plus endorse the maritime security working group and its proposed co-chairs at the ADSOM-Plus meeting in Indonesia, in April 2011, Australia would be pleased to host the first meeting in mid-2011.