



**JOINT DECLARATION OF ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS
ON STRENGTHENING ASEAN DEFENCE
ESTABLISHMENTS
TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF
NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS**

WE, the Defence Ministers of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, the Deputy Defence Minister of the Union of Myanmar and the Undersecretary of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines, gathered in Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand on 26 February 2009 for the 3rd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "ADMM");

UPHOLDING ASEAN's purposes and principles as identified in the ASEAN Charter;

ACKNOWLEDGING that under the ASEAN Charter, the need to strengthen existing bonds of regional solidarity to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible in order to effectively respond to current and future challenges and opportunities;

RECOGNISING that the establishment of ADMM in Kuala Lumpur in May 2006 was regarded as a monumental event that has paved the way for the evolution of ASEAN security and defence cooperation among ASEAN defence establishments;

NOTING with satisfaction the significant progress of the ADMM after the adoption of the Concept Paper for the Establishment of an ADMM in May 2006, the Protocol to the aforementioned Concept Paper and ADMM's Three-Year Work Programme in November 2007, and the ADMM-Plus Concept Paper in November 2007, together with the implementation in accordance with the framework and guidelines contained in these instruments;

DETERMINED to strengthen cooperation in the security and defence cooperation in support of ASEAN integration and the building of the ASEAN Political-Security Community and its goals of a cohesive, peaceful and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security;

CONCERNED over the increasingly serious nature of non-traditional and transnational security threats which have become important factors of uncertainty affecting and posing new challenges to regional and international peace, stability and prosperity;

RECOGNISING the complexity of non-traditional security issues and the useful and proactive roles that ASEAN defence establishments could play in addressing these issues as part of an integrated approach and through collective efforts;

BELIEVING that regional and international cooperation needs to be strengthened to meet non-traditional security challenges and the future need for ASEAN defence establishments to cooperate with non-military sectors, bodies, civil society organisations so that their joint efforts are results-oriented;

BEARING IN MIND the need of ASEAN Member States to respond effectively, in accordance with the principles of comprehensive security, as stated in the ASEAN Charter;

REAFFIRMING our support for the development and adoption of norms that promote cooperation on non-traditional security concerns, develop coordination mechanisms for military participation, consider the conduct of combined training and exercises in disaster relief and emergency response operations, consider establishing more links and coordination mechanisms between the ASEAN Member States to enable efficient and faster delivery of aid in times of emergency, and support the development of modalities of coordination for military participation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and post-conflict resolution and rehabilitation, as emphasised by the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme;

RECALLING that one of the purposes of ASEAN is to maintain the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN as the primary driving force in its relations and cooperation with its external partners in a regional architecture that is open, transparent and inclusive, bearing in mind the goal of the ASEAN Political-Security Community of promoting a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent world;

RECALLING the commitment of the ASEAN Defence Ministers, outlined in the Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Enhancing Regional Peace and Stability, signed in November 2007 in Singapore, to deepen interactions and cooperation with ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners through the establishment of, amongst others, the ADMM-Plus at a pace comfortable to all ASEAN countries, and strengthen ASEAN's and ADMM's role as the primary driving force in developing relations with ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners, with a view to ensuring peace and stability in the region;

COMMENDING the work of the Working Group on Establishing the ADMM-Plus to follow up on the decision of the 2nd ADMM in November 2007 to finalise the modalities of the ADMM-Plus;

EXPRESSING satisfaction that the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) is a useful platform on which cooperation on issues of common security interests could be forged and that the ASEAN militaries have achieved notable progress in this regard by implementing the Two-Year Activity Workplan that was adopted by the 6th ACDFIM in August 2008;

DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:

Adopt the Concept Paper on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, which sets to accelerate the ASEAN militaries' operational effectiveness in the said issues;

Adopt the Concept Paper on ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus): Principles for Membership, which sets the principles for membership in the ADMM-Plus;

Adopt the Concept Paper on ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Cooperation on Non-Traditional Security, which outlines the framework and guidelines for the ASEAN defence establishments' engagement with civil society organisations on the said issues;

Promote cooperation and collaboration among ASEAN defence establishments in disaster management;

Enhance the operational effectiveness of ASEAN defence establishments in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to minimise victims and losses in natural and man-made disasters;

Explore and identify possible ways and means for the use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, bearing in mind the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and ASEAN Standard Operating Procedures for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP);

Deepen interactions and cooperation with ASEAN's friends and Dialogue Partners through the establishment of amongst others, the ADMM-Plus;

Work towards finalising the modalities to establish an ADMM-Plus at a pace comfortable to all ASEAN Member States;

Explore and identify possible ways, mechanisms and cooperative approaches among ASEAN defence establishments and civil society organisations on non-traditional security issues;

Enhance dialogue and cooperation among ASEAN defence establishments and civil society organisations in order to contribute to the maintenance of regional and international peace, stability and prosperity;

Deepen ASEAN defence establishments and civil society organisations cooperation through practical and concrete activities such as establishment of contact and cooperation, arrangement of workshops, and finding appropriate channels in order to exchange views and collect useful public opinions bearing in mind that governments of ASEAN Member States retain the full and final discretion with regard to the nature, manner and extent of their respective engagement with civil society organisations;

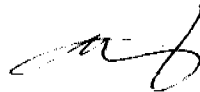
DONE at Chonburi, Thailand, this Twenty-Sixth of February
in the Year Two Thousand and Nine, in a single original copy
in the English Language.

For Brunei Darussalam:



**DATO SERI PADUKA AWANG HAJI EUSOFF
AGAKI BIN HAJI ISMAIL**
Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

For the Kingdom of Cambodia:



GENERAL TEA BANH
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense

For the Republic of Indonesia:



JUWONO SUDARSONO
Minister of Defence

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic:




LIEUTENANT GENERAL DOUANGCHAY PHICHIT
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence

For Malaysia:



DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

For the Union of Myanmar:



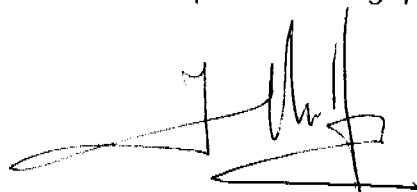
MAJOR GENERAL AYE MYINT
Deputy Minister for Ministry of Defence

For the Republic of the Philippines:



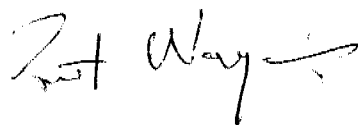
ANTONIO C SANTOS, JR.
Undersecretary of National Defense

For the Republic of Singapore:



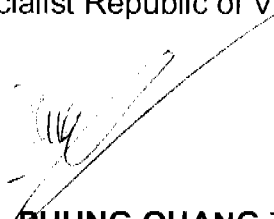
TEO CHEE HEAN
Minister for Defence

For the Kingdom of Thailand:



GENERAL PRAWIT WONGSUWON
Minister of Defence

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:



GENERAL PHUNG QUANG THANH
Minister of National Defence