

Indian Mission to ASEAN (Jakarta)

Brief note on ADMM Plus

Establishment

The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) comprises of 10 ASEAN Member States and 8 Dialogue Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States). The first meeting of ADMM-Plus took place in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 12 October 2010.

2. The stated purpose of ADMM-Plus is to strengthen security and defence cooperation for maintenance of peace, stability, and development in the region.
3. Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus Ministers meet annually, to further dialogue and cooperation amongst ASEAN and the Plus Countries in the midst of an increasingly challenging regional security environment.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the ADMM-Plus include.
 - (i) Capacity building of ASEAN Member States to address shared security challenges.
 - (ii) To promote mutual trust and confidence between defence establishments.
 - (iii) To enhance regional peace and stability through cooperation in defence and security.
 - (iv) To contribute to the realisation of an ASEAN Security Community, as stipulated in the Bali Concord II.
 - (v) To facilitate the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme, which calls for ASEAN to build a peaceful, secure and prosperous ASEAN, and to adopt greater outward-looking external relation strategies with our friends and Dialogue Partners.

Activities

5. The ADMM-Plus serves as a platform for practical cooperation amongst the participating countries' defence establishments. The ADMM-Plus currently focuses on seven areas of practical cooperation:

- (i) Maritime Security (MS),
- (ii) Counter-terrorism (CT),
- (iii) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (HADR),
- (iv) Peacekeeping Operations (PKO),
- (v) Military Medicine (MM),
- (vi) Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and
- (vii) Cyber Security (CS)

6. Experts Working Groups (EWGs) have been established to facilitate cooperation in the seven areas as mentioned above. The EWGs are each co-chaired by one ASEAN Member States and one Plus Country, following a three-year cycle.

7. Presently, the EWGs are functioning as under:-

| <u>EWG</u> | <u>Co-Chairs</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Counter Terrorism | Myanmar & Russia |
| Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) | Indonesia & India |
| Maritime Security | Thailand & US |
| Military Medicine | Brunei & Australia |
| Peacekeeping Operations | Vietnam & Japan |
| Humanitarian Mine Action | Cambodia & China |
| Cyber Security | Malaysia & Korea |

8. **EWG on HADR.** India and Indonesia are co-chairs of the EWG on HADR. The cycle of activities started in 2020 and will complete in 2024.

Capacity and Capability Building Programs in ASEAN

9. We have structured dialogue mechanisms with nearly all the ASEAN countries at the MoD as well as the Service Headquarters level in the form of Staff talks.

A number of Tailor Made Training programs and specialized training courses as per the requirements of ASEAN Countries have been initiated by

India: Language Training Labs, Basic Technical Training Schools, Computer Training Labs etc. Vacancies in prestigious courses in India such as, the Staff College Course, Higher Command Courses as well as the National Defence Course are also being offered. Indian Military Training Teams are also deployed in a number of ASEAN countries for imparting specialized training to the Armed Forces.

Cooperation in the field of UN Peacekeeping Operations has also been initiated with the ASEAN countries. Personnel from these countries have been attending courses and seminars in the Centre for UN Peacekeeping Operations in India. Engagement with the troops and observers in the UN missions abroad has been noteworthy. Our personnel have also been attending UN related seminars and meetings hosted by ASEAN countries.

Exercises with ASEAN countries

10. We have been conducting Joint Military Exercises with nearly all the ASEAN countries involving the three components of Land, Air and Maritime domain. It is also intended to increase the scope and complexity of these Joint Exercises by involving the tri – services components in future. Indian Defence Forces have also been participating in the Fleet Reviews and Exercises hosted in ASEAN countries with military assets as well as deputing troops and observers.

Participants

11. The Concept Paper on ADMM-Plus: Principles for Membership, adopted at the 3rd ADMM, Pattaya, 25-27 February 2009 stipulated the principles for membership to the ADMM-Plus process, as follows:

- (i) The Plus country shall be a full-fledged Dialogue Partner of ASEAN;
- (ii) The Plus country shall have significant interactions and relations with ASEAN defence establishment; and
- (iii) The Plus country shall be able to work with the ADMM to build capacity so as to enhance regional security in a substantive way in order to promote capacity-building in the region in the fields of defence and security.

12. From our side, it is mainly the Ministry of Defence that coordinates and

participates in ADMM-Plus and Related Meetings.

From MEA, it is JS (D&ISA), who coordinates ADMM-Plus Matters.
