



# SPEECH

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## **Speech by Radm Lui Tuck Yew, Chief Of Navy at the Opening Ceremony of Exercise Pacific Reach 2000 at Tuas Naval Base on 2 Oct 2000 at 7.00 pm**

02 Oct 2000

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and participants of Exercise Pacific Reach 2000.

It is an honour for me to officiate at today's opening ceremony of Exercise Pacific Reach 2000. On behalf of the Republic of Singapore Navy, let me first extend a very warm welcome to the participants from the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, Republic of Korea Navy and the United States Navy. It is also our pleasure to host our guests from Australia, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, United Kingdom and Russia who have been invited by the Exercise Pacific Reach organising committee to observe this exercise.

Exercise Pacific Reach 2000 is unique. It brings together for the first time in this region, the submarine community not only from the Asia Pacific region but also our friends from Europe. Exercise Pacific Reach is therefore a significant milestone in regional maritime co-operation.

Exercise Pacific Reach is important in two key aspects. Firstly, it contributes to the professional development of submarine rescue operations. Countries such as Singapore will benefit immensely from the experience of the more established submarine operators. The joint exercises will also allow the respective navies to be familiar with each other's operating procedures and equipment, which will come in useful should we have to deal with any contingencies.

Secondly, Exercise Pacific Reach contributes to the growing web of multilateral defence ties and interactions in the region, as exercise participants and observers from so many countries gather to share their expertise and experience. Singapore believes that defence exchanges and exercises of this nature are useful in enhancing channels of communications among regional armed forces, and help them to develop a better understanding of one another's needs and concerns. Singapore participates actively and sometimes plays a key role in such efforts because such interactions make an important contribution to regional peace and security.

In closing, I would like to encourage all participants and observers to take this unique opportunity to foster new friendships even as you deepen existing ties. The ties forged at Exercise Pacific Reach will stand us all in good stead for future co-operation. On this note, I wish all of you a challenging and successful exercise.

Thank you.

**News Release:**

- RSN Hosts First Multilateral Submarine Rescue Exercise in the Western Pacific Region (MINDEF\_20001002203)

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