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## 5th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM)

02 Aug 2007



Call by ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The 5th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) was held in Singapore on 2 Aug 2007. This meeting was attended by Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri HJ Awang Halbi Bin Hj Md Yussof, Commander Royal Brunei Armed Forces; General Ke Kim Yan, Commander-in-Chief Royal Cambodian Armed Forces; Air Chief Marshal Djoko Suyanto, Commander-in-Chief Indonesian National Defence Force;

General Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Bin Hj Zainal, Chief of Defence Force Malaysia Armed Forces; General Hermogenes C Esperon Jr, Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines; and General Boonsrang Niumpradit, Supreme Commander Royal Thai Armed Forces. Brigadier-General Bouasieng Champaphanh, Deputy Chief of General Staff Lao People's Army; Lieutenant-General Ye Myint, Chief of Military Security Affairs Myanmar Armed Forces; and Lieutenant-General Pham Hong Loi, Deputy Chief of General Staff Vietnam People's Army represented their respective Chiefs of Defence Forces at the meeting.

Lieutenant General Desmond Kuek, Chief of Defence Force Singapore chaired the meeting. For the first time in the history of the ACDFIM, all ten ASEAN militaries were represented. The ACDFIM started five years ago as an informal networking and confidence building platform amongst ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces. The ACDFIM has since developed into an important avenue for ASEAN militaries to build capacity and strengthen practical cooperation. This year, the theme for the ACDFIM is "Enhancing capacity in addressing security challenges through sharing expertise". In line with this theme, the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces agreed to work together to address common security challenges in the areas of maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, counter-terrorism, infectious diseases management and peace-keeping. The ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force further agreed to strengthen cooperation amongst ASEAN militaries through information sharing, intelligence cooperation and capacity building activities such as exercises and workshops.

They also agreed that ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and other experts could be invited to attend and share their knowledge on issues of common security concern at future meetings. As a reflection of the collective commitment of the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces to further practical cooperation, the 5th ACDFIM adopted a resolution which specified a series of capacity building activities that ASEAN militaries have volunteered to organise in the next two years. The Royal Thai Armed Forces will host the first activity - a seminar on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief - in the first quarter of next year.

As part of the ACDFIM programme, the ASEAN Defence Chiefs also jointly called on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and on Second Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen.



ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Force signing the 5th ACDFIM resolution.

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