

**Third Meeting of the CSCAP Study Group on
Regional Peacekeeping and Peace-building
New Delhi, India, December 8-9, 2006
Executive Summary**

The CSCAP Study Group on Regional Peacekeeping and Peace-building convened its third and final meeting on December 8-9, 2006 in New Delhi, India. Study Group members brought forward an impressive range of national perspectives on issues they felt demanded greater attention at the global, regional, national, and civil society levels. The group identified four such issues and proposed tentative solutions for further consideration.

1) Coordination between the Region and the United Nations: Asia Pacific states contribute roughly half the troops and nearly a quarter of all police deployed in UN peacekeeping missions. Regional states also make significant military and police contributions to non-UN missions such as Afghanistan and several Pacific Island states. A regional perspective or 'voice' on the conduct of international peace operations has yet to coalesce, however, leaving the region's input and imprint out of proportion to its actual contributions. The formation of a consultative mechanism within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in order to monitor and advise the UN Peacebuilding Commission could help such a regional perspective come into focus and find channels of influence.

2) A Greater Role for Regional Organizations: The outbreak of conflict requires the immediate deployment of a standing capacity to minimize the extent of that conflict's violence and destruction and to create the diplomatic, political, and humanitarian space necessary for the successful negotiation of the conflict's end. Regional organizations have demonstrated the interest, willingness and capability for providing this needed rapid response capacity. Two examples of successful rapid deployment within the Asia Pacific region include the EU-ASEAN deployment to Aceh (under the Aceh Monitoring Mission, or AMM) and Australian/New Zealand deployment to conflict in the Solomon Islands (under the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, or RAMSI), as well as to conflicts in other Pacific Island states. Given the existing peacekeeping capacities of the region's states, a regional standing capacity could be formed to respond to regional crises such as the deterioration of law and order in the Pacific Islands and to natural and humanitarian disasters elsewhere in the region. This would not be in contradiction with the central role that the UN needs to play in the formulation and implementation of peacekeeping mandates. On the contrary, it would follow naturally from the provisions in Chapter VIII of the UN Charter which call for the development of such regional arrangements. In all cases, regional debates and missions should be undertaken in light of the principles contained in the UN Charter.

3) Development of a Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Program within the ASEAN Secretariat. Recent debates within ASEAN have focused on the future direction of the Association and the need for it to engage more directly issues of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. A program within the ASEAN Secretariat targeted directly at these issues would provide regional actors with guidance on matters such as humanitarian assistance in cases of conflict, conflict resolution initiatives, and post-conflict development frameworks. The program would also allow for a sustained dialogue between regional policy circles and civil society actors on matters of post-conflict reconstruction. The proposed Council of the ASEAN Security Community could develop the administrative and political elements related to this Program.

4) Training Inconsistencies and Lack of Communication among the Region's National Peacekeeping Facilities. Peacekeeping troops and police receive training for deployment in UN missions within their respective national training centers. The training they receive varies with respect to language, training doctrine, and pre-deployment briefings on the applicable law in a given conflict situation. Moreover, there is currently no venue for specific intra-regional sharing of

peacekeeping experiences and best practices. The region's various peacekeeping capacities should be better networked in order to minimize training inconsistencies and to benefit from others' practical experiences and 'lessons learned'. The formation of a regional association of the Asia Pacific's various national peacekeeping training centers, within the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (currently headquartered in India), would provide three benefits. First, it would allow the region to link more directly with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations Best Practices Unit. Second, it would allow for greater intra-regional cross-training in skills, doctrine, and applicable law, including international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law. And third, it would permit others within in the region who have an interest in developing greater peacekeeping capacity to draw from the existing skills and experiences of other regional members.