Press Statement

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Minister of Defence

Third ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (3rd ADMM-Plus)

Kuala Lumpur, 4 November 2015

Today, I chaired the Third ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (3rd ADMM-Plus) - a biennial dialogue platform between ASEAN Defence Ministers and its dialogue partners; and as a precursor to Lao PDR’s chairmanship next year.

The 3rd ADMM-Plus was attended by the Secretary General of ASEAN, Defence Ministers from 10 ASEAN Member States and 8 ASEAN Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

In the meeting, we deliberated on recent developments in ASEAN, specifically on the ASEAN Community 2015’s pillars, namely on the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC).

We were also briefed on the progress of the six ADMM-Plus Experts’ Working Groups (EWGs) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter-Terrorism, Peacekeeping Operations, and Humanitarian Mine Action. The activities conducted across the EWGs – Field Training Exercises, tabletop exercises, meetings, workshops, and seminars would further enhance capacity and capability building, as well as promote trust and confidence among the ADMM-Plus members.
We then exchanged views on regional as well as international security and
defence issues. The discussions focused on maritime security, the
proliferation of terrorist groups especially the Islamic State, cyber security and,
humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

We are steadfast in our belief that defence cooperation should be deepened
and strengthened in the common pursuit of regional peace and stability.

Furthermore, I have officially handed over my Chairmanship of ADMM to HE
Lieutenant General Sengnowane Sayalat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of National Defence for Lao PDR. I would like to take this opportunity to wish
HE Lt Gen Sengnowane and his team every success during his term as Chair
of ADMM.