

**Intervention on**  
**Cooperation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**  
**by Hon. Mr. Somchat Panapat**  
**The Thai Parliamentary Delegation**  
**At the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia – Pacific Parliamentary Forum**  
**19 January 2010, Republic of Singapore**

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**Mr. Chairman,**  
**Distinguished Guests,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Parliament of Singapore for kindly hosting this well-organized 18<sup>th</sup> APPF Meeting.

We cannot refuse that, as the other parts of the world, our Asia – Pacific region is now facing both traditional and non-traditional security challenges that affect the stability and development of the whole region.

Traditional security challenges include failure of arms control, infringement of the nuclear proliferation treaty by enriching uranium, border conflicts such as dual claims over land or maritime territory, illegal migrants or land separation efforts, etc., that have already led or may lead to future armed attacks. Furthermore, globalization has come with new challenges that demand updated efforts, both in quality and quantity. ICT has encourage free flow of information and contacts, we need to follow up and take serious controlling actions over the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear know-how and nuclear materials.

Non-traditional security challenges include human trafficking which over 50 percent of victims are children and 70 percent are females; illicit drugs especially the ongoing outspread of amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) in Southeast Asia; natural disasters, poverty and development gap, etc.

Not only the threats to peace, we also have to aware of other dimensions of non-traditional threats , which newly appear in this era such as the climate change, competition over resources, global militarization, epidemic/pandemic diseases, transnational crimes, and so on. The said challenges directly affected the security, stability and development of our region en large.

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Regarding the peace and security of our region, in my own opinion, it seems that along 42 years after the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and 14 years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty being agreed respectively, there has been no measure deemed really works in intercepting proliferation and test of those dreadful weapons. As representatives of our peoples who will inevitably be affected by the infringement of the Treaties, we – APPF parliamentarians - should pursue our legislative role in monitoring the governments' implements of policies and measures as well as to support and work in parallel with their governments to foster cooperation and consultation habits, through the ARF, towards peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia – Pacific region and the well-being of our peoples.

The ARF, as one among pivotal entities in the evolving regional architecture, needs to work in tandem with the developing ASEAN Political-Security Community Council and in cooperation with other key roles in regional peace and security such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). These mentioned institutional cooperation networks will help promote ultimate trust and confidence within the Asia – Pacific region and accelerate its instantaneous response to different threats and challenges in collective manner.

Due to the large scale of impacts of the said challenges, no one country can solely tackle with them on its own ability but the joint efforts should be exerted. In this connection, the good governance, transparency and trust within the international community are required as key drivers. Thus, we, as representatives of our peoples who will inevitably affected by the challenges, should pursue our legislative role in monitoring the governments' implements of policies and measures as well as to support and work in parallel with the governments to foster cooperation and consultation habits, through the ARF, in order to achieve the progress towards our prospect to disarm and to restore peace and security in our region and the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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