1. **Name:**

ARF Defence Officials Dialogue

1. **Short description:**

The inter-sessional meeting is the primary forum for the discussion of transnational crime in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Its purpose is to promote dialogue regarding challenges and threats that ARF members face and concrete cooperation.

1. **Formality:**

Mixed. It has a small unit within the ASEAN secretariat but no dedicated secretariat of its own.

1. **Regional coverage:**

Indo-Pacific

1. **Members (including states and non-states):**

10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam); the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and the United States); Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste; and one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea).

1. **Includes non-state actors?**

Yes, but there is a degree of separation. The ARF has a 1.5 track body called the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons group (the EEPs), which meets annually to provide advice and recommendations to ARF officials. Second-track (i.e. non-official) institutions, such as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN ISIS) and ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) also generate ideas and input for the ARF's consideration. The second-track institutions and networks conduct a number of seminars and working groups on regional security issues, involving academics, security specialists and officials participating in a personal capacity.

1. **Date created:**

2001

1. **Date visibly started to engage with maritime security (e.g. first document that refers to it):**

Explicitly focused on maritime security as a theme in 2019. ‘discussing measures to strengthen maritime security capabilities in a coordinated manner and to build trust among them’.

1. **Brief History and Description:**

The establishment of the ARF Defence Officials’ Dialogue was in 2012, though engagement between defence officials began prior. In 1997 it took the form of a luncheon for defence officials. In 1999 at the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) it was agreed that defence officials should participate, and another luncheon was held in 2001. In 2002 the first formal meeting took place. It allows the exchange of views on regional security issues and proposes measures to increase effectiveness of regional cooperation.

1. **Maritime Security Issues Covered:**

GAP

1. **Noteworthy documents and strategies:**

GAP

1. **Intensity:**

Around 3 meetings per year

1. **Ongoing projects and activities:**

Unclear

1. **Funding structure:**

Unclear

1. **Challenges:**

As it takes place within the ASEAN structure, an ongoing challenge is its perception as a talking shop, tied into broader regional limits to cooperation.

1. **Cooperation or link with other arrangements:**

ARF ISM on Maritime Security

ADMM+

1. **Institutional contacts:**

N/A

1. **Noteworthy literature**:

Tan, S. S. Defence and Security Cooperation in East Asia: Whither ASEAN Centrality?

1. **Knowledge gaps to follow up on:**