1. **Name:**

ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting

1. **Short description:**

The ADMM is the highest ministerial defence and security consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN.

1. **Formality:**

Formal. Operates within the ASEAN Secretariat

1. **Regional coverage:**

Southeast Asia

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

Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos

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

There are mechanisms for the inclusion of non-state actors, but this is highly regulated and their presence is not permitted at Senior Officials’ meetings, Senior Officials’ working group meetings, or policy meetings. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can be invited to exercises, workshops and seminars. The ADMM has a protocol paper that allows chairs of the Expert Working Groups to allow for participation for international organisations and non-governmental organisations. It also allows for cooperation with Civil Society Organisations through the Concept Paper on the ASEAN Defence

Establishments and CSOs Cooperation on Non‐Traditional Security.

1. **Date created:**

2006

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

Arguably since its foundation given that it had a broad view of security. There is an explicit reference to ‘non-traditional security threats’ made in 2009, with also ‘transboundary’ issues & maritime safety in the 2011 work plan, but no explicit mention of maritime security until the 2013 work plan.

1. **Brief History and Description:**

The ASEAN Security Community (ASC) Plan of Action stipulated that ASEAN shall work towards the convening of an annual ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting. Against this background, the Inaugural meeting of the ADMM was held in Kuala Lumpur on 9 May 2006.

The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The ADMM aims to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges as well as enhancement of transparency and openness. It has four specific objectives: (a) to promote regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation in defence and security; (b) to give guidance to existing senior defence and military officials dialogue and cooperation in the field of defence and security within ASEAN and between ASEAN and dialogue partners; (c) to promote mutual trust and confidence through greater understanding of defence and security challenges as well as enhancement of transparency and openness; and (d) to contribute to the establishment of an ASEAN Security Community (ASC) as stipulated in the Bali Concord II and to promote the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme on ASC. It has three-yearly work plans that cover on broad areas of security.

1. **Maritime Security Issues Covered:**

IUU Fishing, trafficking, piracy, illegal migration, marine environment

1. **Noteworthy documents and strategies:**

* ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2009-2015
* APSC Blueprint 2016-2025
* Joint declaration of ASEAN Defence Ministers on Strengthening ASEAN Defence Establishments to mee the challenges of non-traditional security threats
* Concept Paper On The ADMM’s External Engagements
* The Concept Paper on ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives
* ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Three-Year Work Programme 2017-2019
* ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Three-Year-Work Programme 2014-2016
* Discussion Paper On Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated Fishing: Security Implications And The Role Of Defence Establishments
* Concept Paper On The Role Of ASEAN Defence Establishments In Supporting Border Management
* ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Guidelines For Maritime Interaction
* ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM) Three-Year-Work Program 2011-2013
* Concept Paper For The Establishment Of An ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting
* Joint Press Release Of The Inaugural ASEAN Defence Ministers’

1. **Meeting Intensity:**

There is 1 Minister meeting a year, with other meetings taking place to facilitate this (including Expert Working Group meetings. Different constituent parts meeting regularly, and there are ad hoc workshops, seminars, field training exercises and tabletop exercises.

1. **Ongoing projects and activities:**

There are several ongoing projects related to maritime security. These operate primarily under the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Experts’ Working Group on Maritime Security, with the culmination being a Maritime Security Conference led by this EWG.

One is on supporting border management, which focuses on exchanges of experiences and best practices, the enhancement of interoperability, the exchange of visits, discussions with other ‘cooperation platforms’ and education and training exercises.

There is also the ADMM guidelines for Maritime Interaction. This is exploring the convening of an expanded ad hoc working group composed of policy and technical officials from ASEAN Member States’ defence establishments and other maritime security agencies may be initiated by the defence establishment of any ASEAN Member State on a voluntary basis for the purposes of sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices, and exploring opportunities for cooperation to avoid untoward incidents at sea, including the possible expansion of the Guidelines to relevant civilian agencies.

In the work plans, there are discussions concerning cooperation for maritime safety and SAR, as well as an assessment of whether ADMM cooperation can assist in other NTS issues such as environmental concerns.

There is an ASEAN Our Eyes initiative, a platform for strategic information exchange. This seems to primarily cover terrorism, but does also refer to non-traditional security threats in its Terms of Reference.

1. **Funding structure:**

Funded by the ASEAN Secretariat, which is in turn funded by member countries and external countries and organizations

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

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

ADMM+; ACDFIM; AMF; EAMF; AMIM; ANCM; DGICM; ASOMTC; ASOD; AOE; ASEANAPOL; BLO; MSCP

1. **Institutional contacts:**
2. **Noteworthy literature**:
3. **Knowledge gaps to follow up on:**

The ADMM seems aware of the potential for overlap that the proliferation of meetings can cause. As a result, it has worked to identify these overlaps and structure some degree of interaction. An example is the actions of the ADMM following the institutionalization of the previously informal ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (which became the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting). It noted that ‘in addition to the ACDFIM, several other ASEAN military meetings including those among the heads of armies, navies, air forces as well as chiefs of operations, intelligence, and military medicine of armed forces of ASEAN Member States have been established’. This includes the AMIM and ANCM. Concept papers were produced that developed the linkage between the two, including the ACDFM taking stock of and consolidating all ASEAN military meetings for onward reporting to the ADMM. The ACDFM now reports to the ADMM, with the service meetings reporting to ACDFM.

This has also occurred concerning border management. The ADDM notes that member states ‘have traditionally dealt with cross-border challenges by utilizing various regional and sub-regional mechanisms such as the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM), the Senior Officials’ Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD), ASEAN Directors-General of Customs, ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE) and ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) Conference as well as Border Liaison Office (BLO), the Malacca Straits Coordinated Patrol (MSCP)’. It sought a ‘definition of the role of the defence sector in addressing these non-traditional security concerns without duplicating the work of other sectoral bodies’. Recognising this, the ADMM ‘encouraged interaction with existing mechanisms’, though it is unclear as how this interaction is structured in practice.