

Concept Paper on Establishment of ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM)

Background

The Ministry of Defence (MOD), Kingdom of Thailand and the Russian Federation are Co-Chairs of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting - Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine (ADMM-Plus EWG on MM) during the cycle of 2014-2016. The Co-Chairs had proposed a 3 Year Work Plan which was adopted by the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting-Plus (ADSOM-Plus) in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in April 2014. In line with the adopted 3- Year Work Plan of the EWG on MM, the Co-Chairs are working towards the establishment of the ASEAN Military Medicine Coordination Center (AMMCC) in Thailand by 2015.

During the 5th ADMM-Plus EWG on MM Meeting/Senior Medical Planners' Workshop, which was held in Pattaya City, Thailand in October 2014, the Workshop discussed an appropriate structure and mechanisms of the Center regarding the initial concepts such as mission, objectives as well as process and administrative arrangements of the AMMCC. In addition, the Workshop agreed to change the name of the Center from AMMCC to ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM)

Mission of ACMM

To establish practical, effective, and sustainable cooperation among military medical services of ASEAN Member States and Plus countries, both in normal and crisis situations.

Objectives of ACMM

1. General Objectives

- a. to play a unique role in demonstration regional solidarity by integrating capacities to respond to the common challenges;
- b. to coordinate and cooperate with the military medical services of the ADMM-Plus countries, related agencies, and international organizations to provide:
 - military medical services capabilities improvement and standardization;
 - harmonization of unique capabilities;
 - improvement of capabilities of the ACMM to world class standards; and
 - sustainability development; and
- c. to support other areas of collaborations under ADMM-Plus framework.

2. Specific Objectives

- a. to develop joint medical response plans;
- b. to assess medical needs in crisis situations; and
- c. to conduct proper training course and researches in area of emergency medical services.

Administrative Arrangement

The MOD of Thailand will initially support the ACMM by providing the office building, personnel, and other facilities, Structure and administrative arrangements as well as other related details will be elaborated in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

Reporting Mechanisms

Progress reports of ACMM will be submitted to ADSOM WG, ADSOM, and ADMM, respectively.

Implementation Timeline

Upon the adoption of this concept paper by 9th ADMM in Langkawi in 2015, a series of workshops to develop the TOR of the ACMM shall be conducted into 2 phases. The first phase will involve only ASEAN Member states to ensure ASEAN's ownership of the process in view of maintaining its centrality. The second phase will involve both ASEAN and the Plus countries where the Plus countries' inputs will be sought to enrich the draft TOR.

Conclusion

The ACMM will serve as a vital organ and a workable mechanism to overcome national barriers and play an essential role in enhancing the security and stability of the region. It will also actively engage, interact, and strengthen cooperation among the ASEAN Member States and Plus countries in support of regional integration and community building.