



**CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF
THE 3RD ASEM CONFERENCE ON COUNTER -TERRORISM**
(Semarang, Indonesia, 14-15 November 2005)

1. The 3rd ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism was held in Semarang, Indonesia on 14-15 November 2005. The Conference was the continuation of the previous ASEM Conferences on Counter-Terrorism held in Beijing (2003) and in Berlin (2004) and as a follow up activity to implement the 2002 ASEM Co-operation Programme. The Conference was sponsored by Indonesia and co-sponsored by China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom and the European Commission. Participants were representatives from ASEM partners including counter-terrorism officials as well as relevant institutions---Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC), South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Interpol, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC). The list of participants is attached as Annex A. The Conference was opened by H.E. Mr. Arizal Effendi, Indonesian ASEM SOM Leader, Director General of American and European Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Rhusdy Soeriaatmadja, Head of International Cooperation of the Indonesian Coordination Desk for Counter-Terrorism.

2. The Conference strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in London (7 and 21 July 2005), Bali (1 October 2005), as well as New Delhi (29 October 2005) and Amman (9 November 2005) and expressed solidarity to the victims of the attacks. The Conference recognised terrorism as a global threat and urged the international community to work more closely in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its background and motivation. The Conference supported the efforts of the international community, particularly the countries victimised by the terrorist attacks, in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

3. The participants acknowledged Indonesia's resolute efforts in combating terrorism particularly the recent breakthrough in tracking down the terrorists. This breakthrough was recognised as a success of international cooperation in developing capacity-building and capability through the sharing of technology, know-how and intelligence information.

4. The Conference rejected as a principle any attempt to stereotype terrorism or associate terrorism with any religion, race, nationality, or ethnic group. The Conference reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism must be in accordance with international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, as well as human rights and humanitarian law. The Conference called for the full implementation of

UNSCR 1373, by building a solid network in support of UN-CTC and UNODC programmes in combating terrorism. All partners, that have become parties to, were urged to implement all of the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and become signatories to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism adopted in April 2005, and calls upon ASEM partners that have not done so, to sign and ratify those 13 conventions. Partners committed themselves to enhance efforts to finalise the Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism. The Representative from UNODC outlined UNODC's capacity and institution building programmes to enable requesting countries to achieve this objective, and a number of delegates commented favorably on assistance received from UNODC.

5. The Conference recognised that terrorism, including its links with transnational organised crime, money laundering, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, trafficking in forged documents, illicit arms trafficking as well as illicit drugs manufacturing and trafficking, posed serious threats to the peace and security of Asia and Europe and beyond. Therefore the Conference underlined the significance of concerted efforts and coordinated responses including institutional and capacity building at national and regional level to combat terrorism.

6. The Conference firstly evaluated the progress of ASEM cooperation on counter terrorism with reference to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2004 Berlin Conference. The Conference hence held comprehensive and fruitful discussions on three major topics: Cooperation in Border Control and Security, Enhancing Law Enforcement Cooperation, and Cooperation among Regional Centers in Counter Terrorism. New areas of ASEM counter terrorism cooperation such as in the area of enhancing interfaith dialogue and empowering the moderates, were also explored accordingly.

7. The Conference further underscored the significance of making use of practical measures to prevent radicalisation and combat violent radicalism. The Conference urged all ASEM partners as well as the international community to intensively promote interfaith, inter-cultural and inter-civilisation dialogue to broaden mutual understanding, and tolerance towards building cooperation and harmony within the international community. The Conference reiterated that global efforts to combat terrorism must be comprehensive and include efforts to identify and eliminate the underlying factors and root causes of terrorism without acknowledging these as justifications for terrorist and/or criminal activities.

8. The Conference, guided by the Declaration on Cooperation against International Terrorism endorsed at ASEM 4 Summit and in the ASEM Cooperation Programme on Fighting International Terrorism, highlighted the following:

- On evaluation of ASEM cooperation on counter-terrorism, particularly on the implementation of the Berlin recommendations, the participants discussed the development on the initiative to establish 24 hours/7 days networking of counter-terrorism agencies. Germany presented the Directory of Existing Institutions and Fora of Intra-Interregional and international Cooperation in the Area of Fighting Terrorism.
- On other measures in preventing terrorism, particularly within the framework of coordination among the counter-terrorism agencies of the ASEM members, Finland raised the possibility to establish regular meetings of Heads of national counter-terrorism agencies. The modalities of the meeting are subject for further study and coordination to be reported to the 4th Conference in Denmark.
- On improving cooperation in border control and security, the Conference was of the view that there is a need for improvement of border control and security management, including information sharing on customs and immigration. The participants whilst sharing their experiences in improving their national border control system viewed that immigration and customs are crucial matters and explored the possibility of developing further cooperation in this field, including providing information on lost and stolen travel documents to the Interpol (ICPO) database. They also encouraged all partners to share information on suspected terrorists and if possible, establish information networking among ASEM members. The participants also attached the importance to ensuring effective cooperation between border control agencies such as customs and immigration with intelligence and security agencies.
- On enhancing law enforcement cooperation, the Conference agreed that this is a key tool in preventing and combating terrorism. The Conference discussed the issues on joint investigation of terror attack, cooperation on mutual legal assistance as well as preventing the financing of terrorism. Participants agreed on the importance of exchanging information in operational terms through all the channels provided for law enforcement. A good instrument on this regard is the liaison of anti-terrorist officers. The participants also discussed the need to overcome the differences in the legal systems to ensure that the terrorist are prosecuted for their crimes. Regarding post blast investigation, participants agreed on intensifying information-sharing acquired through investigation and discussed possible joint investigation by law enforcement agencies of the ASEM partners. The participants congratulated Italy and the United Kingdom for the joint investigation that led to the arrest of one of the suspects of the failed attack in London on 21 July 2005 as a good and practical example of a successful cooperation against terrorism.
- On preventing the financing of terrorism, the participants agreed that this effort plays an essential role in dealing with the global threat of terrorism. In this

respect participants agreed on the need to take into account both the activities of financing the terrorist organisations and the financing of a single act of terrorism that could be financed through petty crimes. Participants further exchanged experiences on the development of Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) in their respective countries and cooperation in the sharing of financial intelligences among the FIUs. Moreover, countries called for continued support and liaison cooperation in anti-money laundering and the counter financing of terrorism measures and capacity-building through the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-Style regional bodies. The Conference called for enhanced cooperation in joint investigation of cases of money laundering and exploration of viable ways to address such issues as repatriating terrorist suspects and disposing seized terrorist assets. Participants also expressed the desire to minimise the impact of anti money laundering measures on normal business and trade activities and personnel exchanges.

- On cooperation among regional counter-terrorism centres, the Conference discussed the development of regional centers in Asia and Europe in promoting capacity building of law enforcement practitioners, disseminating information for public awareness and addressing transnational crimes. In order to further promote the development of counter-terrorism capacity in the countries fighting against terrorism, they viewed that the importance of inviting ASEM partners' counter terrorism authorities to participate in the Centres' activities. The participants had an opportunity to visit and observe JCLEC's facilities and activities.
- On preventing people or groups from taking radical and extreme steps that could lead to the use of terrorism, the Conference viewed that interfaith dialogue and cooperation to empower the moderates would reduce the violent radicalism and contribute positively towards international efforts to combat terrorism. The participants were encouraged by developments of bilateral cooperation of a number of ASEM partners, involving religious communities, including the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue and other initiatives.

9. The Conference further suggested that all ASEM partners to take concrete and coordinated measures on the following :

- Completing and updating annually the Directory of Existing Institutions and Fora of intra and inter regional and international cooperation (Germany);
- Completing and updating annually ASEM contact point for analysing and implementing ASEM recommendations (China);
- Further studying the possibility to establish computerised 24/7 terrorism threat alert system among ASEM partners (Italy);
- Further studying the possibility to establish regular meetings of the Heads of national counter-terrorism agencies (Finland);

- Further intensifying information sharing/exchanging amongst law enforcement agencies of the ASEM partners;
- Further studying the possibility to establish an ASEM-wide networking of Financial Intelligence Units (Indonesia);
- Exploring the possibility to establish an ASEM-wide system of exchanging information on potential threats of possession or use of WMD by terrorist organisations (Poland);
- Inviting ASEM partners to empower the moderates through the promotion of interfaith dialogue and cooperation (youth exchange, leaders and scholars of religious communities) (Indonesia);
- Encouraging the regional counter-terrorism centres in Asia and Europe to further enhance links amongst them in order to support the ASEM cooperation in combating terrorism (Malaysia).
- Encouraging ASEM partners to ratify and implement the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and to implement relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, taking advantage of the offer of UNODC to assist in institution- and capacity-building programmes available, upon request, at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Encouraging further ASEM partners to redouble their efforts in early finalising the draft of the International Convention on Terrorism.

10. The Conference looked forward to the hosting of the next ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism by Denmark in May 2006. The Conference agreed that the results of this Conference as well as of the 4th Conference of 2006 would be presented at the Sixth ASEM Summit in Finland, 2006.

Semarang, 15 November 2005