

Development of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center



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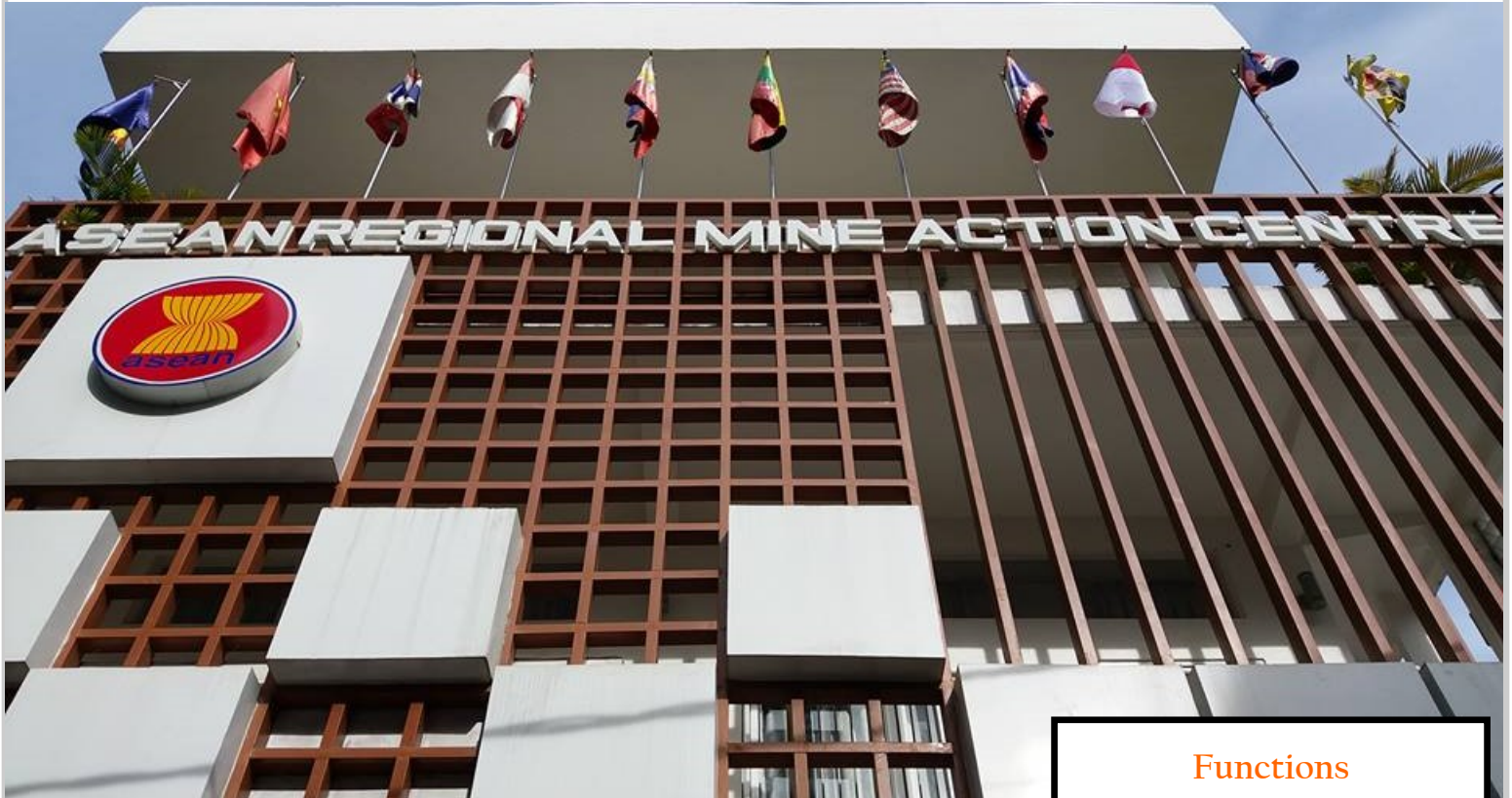




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ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)



Background:

Establishment of ARMAC was initiated by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders during the 21st ASEAN Summit in 2012.

Vision: A center of excellence to encourage efforts to address explosive remnants of war (ERW).

Progress and Achievements:

- Set up a strong organisational foundation including establishing ARMAC Permanent Secretariat and operational system.
- Met and discussed collaboration with over 20 development partners – some of them confirmed to fund ARMAC programmes/activities while others confirmed on providing technical cooperation.

Contributed technical expertise to:

- National Center for Peacekeeping Force Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC) Technical Demining – Training of Trainers Course for PKO at ASEAN and Regional Level, March 2018 in Cambodia.
- CMAA's National Mine Action Conference, 16-17 May 2018, in Cambodia
- ASEAN Defense Minister Meeting Plus Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action, April 2018 in Lao PDR.

ARMAC's Events 2019:

- MFAIC's Project on ARMAC Regional Seminar on Full and Effective Operationalization of ARMAC: Enhancing Regional Efforts in Addressing ERW through Integrated Approach
- ARMAC's Project on Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Functions

ARMAC facilitates cooperation between interested AMS and relevant institutions, including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), to:

- Enhance awareness programmes on the dangers of ERW among affected communities;
- Facilitate appropriate medical and rehabilitation assistance for victims of ERW, upon request from the affected ASEAN Member States; and
- Assist interested ASEAN Member States in research and knowledge sharing on the effects of ERW and efforts to address them, including through writing proposals for technical assistance projects and funding, at their specific and individual request.

Cambodia's Representative to the Steering Committee of ARMAC

A Short Biography of H.E. Kan Pharidh

H.E. KAN Pharidh, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and ASEAN SOM Leader of Cambodia has assumed his capacity as Cambodia's representative to the Steering Committee of ARMAC in January 2018 to replace H.E. Prum Sopheakmonkol, who had been appointed as the Secretary-General at the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA).

From 2009 to 2015, H.E. KAN Pharidh served concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Republic of Indonesia, and as Cambodia's Permanent Representative to ASEAN. In 2015, H.E. KAN Pharidh was appointed as Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

For his distinguished services, he was honored with the Highest National Decoration, Grand Order of National Merit in 2018. He currently serves as Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, ASEAN SOM Leader of Cambodia, Cambodia's ASEAN Regional Forum Expert and Eminent Persons (EEPs), as well as Cambodia's Representative to the Steering Committee of ARMAC.

Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to ARMAC

On 27 February 2018 H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and H.E. Michael Tan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to Cambodia and current Chair of the ARMAC Steering Committee, signed the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to ARMAC at ARMAC Headquarters. The signing was witnessed by the members of the ARMAC Steering Committee and delegates from the Embassies of all ASEAN Member States in Phnom Penh.

The Agreement is the key legal instrument that embodies the Kingdom of Cambodia's commitment and support to ARMAC, as the host country to the ARMAC Headquarters. It sets out the duties and responsibilities of the parties as well as the privileges and immunities, granted by the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia to ARMAC to enable it to perform its functions and operations effectively.



H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn said that the Agreement would provide ARMAC with more formal cooperation, particularly between the Centre and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He added that the support from Cambodia and other member states would help ARMAC to discharge its full mandate with regard to promoting greater awareness of dangers of explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance in the ASEAN region. "Moving forward, Cambodia still stands ready to continue assisting the Centre and I strongly believe that all ASEAN Member States are at the same position," H.E. Senior Minister said.

H.E. Mr. Michael Tan raised that the Embassy of Singapore in Cambodia would endeavour to work closely with the ARMAC Steering Committee, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Cambodia and other relevant institutions to ensure that ARMAC's first year in operation was a success. "We will work toward establishing a strong foundation for ARMAC such as putting in place a sustainable system, process and template," he said. "This is to ensure that its operations and functions are transparent, efficient and accountable."

Signing Ceremony between ARMAC and CMAA



On 19 November 2018, ARMAC and the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate greater coordination and cooperation between these two important mine action stakeholders.



H.E Mr. Prum Sophakmonkol, Secretary General of CMAA signed on behalf of Cambodia, while Executive Director Mr. Ly Panharith signed the Memorandum on behalf of ARMAC. The signing ceremony was also attended by H.E Mr. Ly Thuch, First Vice President of CMAA.

Through this MoU, ARMAC hopes to work closer with CMAA and share their experience of mine action to other ASEAN Member States throughout the region. According to the MoU, CMAA and ARMAC shall expand and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and technical expertise between representatives of CMAA and ARMAC and, where appropriate, and mutually agreed between other relevant institutions.

The 5th Meeting of Steering Committee of ARMAC on 27 February 2018

The Fifth (5th) Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), which was held on 27 February 2018, chaired by H.E. Michael Tan, Ambassador of the Republic of the Singapore to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and was attended by the Steering Committee Members of the ARMAC, delegates from all ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the Executive Director (ED) of ARMAC.

This Meeting of the Steering Committee of ARMAC was organized at the ARMAC Permanent Secretariat. Attended by the Steering Committee Members of ARMAC, the delegates from ASEAN Member States and Executive Director of ARMAC, the Meeting approved and adopted various matters (i.e. Summary Record of 4th Meeting of Steering Committee of ARMAC, Logo and Stamp, Guideline on Decision Making and Reporting Process, Selection of Two (2) Vice Chairmen, and Revised Budget 2018). The Meeting also discussed the activities to be implemented and/or participated by the ARMAC Permanent Secretariat.



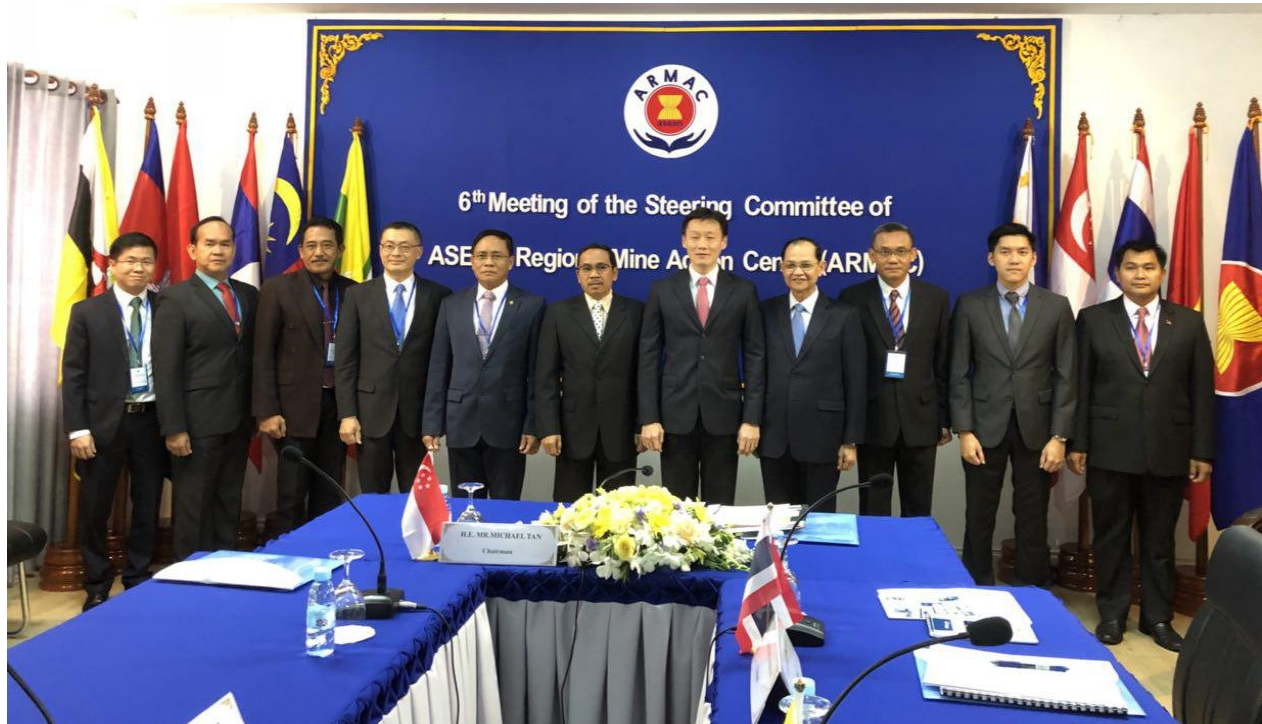
HE Michael Tan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to Cambodia and Chair of the ARMAC Steering Committee in 2018.



As part of his functions and duties, the new Executive Director will undertake activities to ensure full operationalization of ARMAC which shall serve as a center of excellence for efforts to address explosive remnants of war among interested AMS. Mr. Ly Panharith will serve as Executive Director of the ARMAC Permanent Secretariat for a non-renewable term of three years until 20 October 2020.

The 6th Meeting of Steering Committee of ARMAC on 29 May 2018

The Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) –chaired by HE Michael Tan, Ambassador of the Republic of the Singapore to the Kingdom of Cambodia, was attended by the Steering Committee Members of the ARMAC, delegates from all ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the Executive Director (ED) of ARMAC.



The Meeting adopted proposal on the Supplementary Principle in Decision-Making for ARMAC SC which aimed to reduce unexpected issues or difficulties in making decision. This would allow ARMAC to perform its functions in an effective and efficient manner. H.E. Michael Tan encouraged AMS to consider providing voluntary contribution (either in-kind or cash) such as providing training and experts/expertise, and/or referring partners or donors to ARMAC or helping to publicize ARMAC and its work.

The Meeting expressed support for ARMAC's two proposed project proposals: 1) Promote the Establishment of Regional Platform for Experience, Knowledge and Expertise Exchange on Victim Assistance among ASEAN Member States and other Relevant Stakeholders; and 2) Enhance Awareness Programs on the Dangers of Mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) among ASEAN Member States. The details of the two proposed project proposals will be further developed and circulated among SC of ARMAC by ARMAC Permanent Secretariat. At the meeting, Lao PDR has announced that it would contribute 10,000 USD to the ARMAC operational budget while the internal process of transferring money was going. In 2017, the Philippines Government remitted the amount of USD 32,100 to the ARMAC, representing the Philippines' voluntary contribution to the operations of ARMAC.

The 7th Meeting of Steering Committee of ARMAC on 26 September 2018

The 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) was held on 26 September 2018 in Siem Reap, and chaired by H.E. Mr. Michael Tan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of the ARMAC Steering Committee.



The Meeting was also attended by members of the ARMAC Steering Committee from all ASEAN Member States and the Executive Director of ARMAC. In addition to updating on the progress of ARMAC's continuing operationalisation, the meeting also discussed ARMAC's future programmes and upcoming activities. UNDP, through its project Clearing for Results, sponsored the meeting.

The Meeting took notes the implementation progress made by ARMAC, which included Switzerland's interest to support ARMAC, budget utilization, and the proposed Annual Budget (FY) for Fiscal Year 2019.

Some decisions have been made at the meeting such as the adoption of the ARMAC Policies and the new template of ARMAC Work Plan 2019-2021, and the endorsement of the draft MoU between CMAA and ARMAC on technical and Resource Mobilization Cooperation.

The Meeting noted the development of Policies and Manuals. The draft policies were submitted to the Chair and Vice-Chair for comments and inputs before circulating to the SC Members.

The Meeting welcome Australian Volunteer International to send a training development officer to the Centre to assist conduct training need assessment and develop training programme for any interested AMS.

The 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of ARMAC on 6 December 2018

The 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) was held on 6 December 2018 at ARMAC's headquarters in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Michael Tan, the Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of the Steering Committee of ARMAC. The Meeting was also attended by members of the Steering Committee, consist of delegates from all ten ASEAN Member States, and the Executive Director of ARMAC.



Handing over of gavel of Chairmanship of ARMAC for 2019 to H.E. Mr. Panyarak Poolthup, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Cambodia.



The Meeting discussed ARMAC progress throughout 2018 and highlighted the year's major achievements such as the successful hosting of the Regional Workshop, development of a new three-year work-plan, enhancement of ARMAC's operations and systems, and other milestones.

The Meeting concluded with H.E. Mr. Michael Tan handing over Singapore's Chairmanship of ARMAC to Thailand represented by H.E. Mr. Panyarak Poolthup, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Kingdom of Cambodia. ARMAC deeply appreciates the leadership and support that H.E. Mr. Tan has provided to the Center over the course of his term and thanks him for his efforts in establishing a strong operational foundation for ARMAC. The Meeting adopted ARMAC Work Plan 2019-2021, which will become the important document to help enhance the effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process for operation of ARMAC's mandate. Cambodia fully expressed support for the Work Plan, and proposed to include MFAIC's Project Proposal of ARMAC Regional Workshop on "Full and Effective Operationalization of ARMAC: Enhancing Regional Efforts in Addressing ERW through Integrated Approach" in the ARMAC's Work Plan 2019-2021. The Work Plan also included two ARMAC's Project Proposals on Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA).

The 9th Meeting of the Steering Committee of ARMAC is scheduled to be tentatively held on 18-19 March

Visit to Cambodian Mine Action Center Demining Unit 4 and the Peace Museum on 26 September 2018



Aside from the discussion in the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee of ARMAC, Steering Committee Members also had the opportunity to visit the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) Demining Unit 4 which includes the Peace Museum, Mine Detection Dog and Mine Detection Rat Training Sites.



The visit aimed to give delegates a better understanding and appreciation for mine action and highlight its positive impacts. During the visit H.E. Mr. Heng Ratana, Director-General of CMAC, welcomed the delegates and generously offered his time to guide them through the museum and sites.

The 13th Joint Working Group on ARMAC and the Seminar on the Role of Peacekeeping Forces in the Demining and Humanitarian Assistance: Workshop on the Role of Peacekeeping Operations and Practices in Cambodia

The 13 Meeting of the Joint Working Group on ARMAC and Workshop on the Role of Peacekeeping Operations and Practices was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 9-10 April 2018. The Meeting noted the outcome of the 5th ARMAC Steering Committee (5th ARMAC Steering Committee) on February 27, 2018, and the progress of the ARMAC.

The Workshop took note that for the last 12 years, Cambodia has sent thousands of peacekeepers to join peacekeeping mission under the umbrella of the United Nations. In total, Cambodia has dispatched 5,578 troops (267 of which are female) who are specialized in demining, unexploded ordinance, hospital level 2, military police, engineering and airfield engineering, staff officers and observers, to 10 UN missions in 8 countries (with a total of 31 contingents). Currently, Cambodia has 810 troops (65 of which are female) conducting their mission in five countries, including Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Central Africa Republic, and Lebanon.



The Workshop noted that participation of police in mine actions activities and peacekeeping operations was considered critical and timely as the peacekeepers were under threat from armed groups, criminals and terrorists, who have access to powerful modern weapons.

The Workshop addressed on the need of cooperation among mine action authorities/agencies to support the ARMAC's activities/programs as the ARMAC's mandate/ functions are clearly stated that it won't overlap with CMAA, CMAC and NPMEC. The existing mine-action authorities and agencies in Cambodia should explore possibilities and prioritise its cooperation with the ARMAC.

The workshop also stressed the importance on the need for the complementarity between mine-action authorities/agencies for their smooth collaboration. The Workshop agreed with the recommendation to share Cambodia's experiences and best practices with other AMS in some important areas, namely (a) peacekeeping operation; (b) land release; (c) mine victim assistance; (d) database management and mine victim information system; (e) baseline survey; and (f) coordination mechanism. It was also recommended that ARMAC should: (a) develop action plan; (b) initiate activities and projects such as organizing workshop/seminar/training at national or regional level or field trip study for interested AMS; and (c) develop project proposal to support ARMAC's operation.

The 14th Joint Working Group on ARMAC on 18-19 August 2018



The Joint Working Group on ARMAC was held on 18-19 August 2018 in Siem Reap Province to discuss the proposed budget for FY2019 and the following years.

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia as the host country committed to providing funding support for the operationalization of the Centre for two years (2017-2018). However, Cambodia also welcomed AMS's contribution to the Centre, of which the Government of the Philippines had contributed USD32,100 for the Operationalization of the Centre in 2017. Moreover, Lao PDR had committed to contribute USD10,000 to the Centre, while the remaining gap will complete by Cambodia.

The Meeting also noted the ARMAC quarterly report (April-June 2018), that ARMAC had continued to undertake activities to build partner relations and networks. Over the three months of April – June, 2018, ARMAC Permanent Secretariat (PS) conducted a number of courtesy meetings with various representatives including the Ambassador of Turkey, GICHD Director, ICRC Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator and UNMAS Chief of Geneva Office, among others. Further to this, ARMAC PS participated in local and overseas events that further developed the awareness and reputation of ARMAC, including the National Mine Action Conference in Cambodia, ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting Plus Expert's Working Group in Lao and the Intersessional Meeting of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Geneva.

The Workshop on Role of Women in Demining Operations and ARMAC Assistance on 18-19 August 2018



The Workshop was held on 18-19 August 2018 in Siem Reap Province.

The Workshop took note the efforts made by the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, especially from CMAA and CMAC in formulating policies focusing on gender mainstreaming in mine action. The objective of the Workshop is to promote the roles of women in demining and mine risk education working alongside with their male counterpart as well.

In promoting gender in demining operation, the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has increased the number of female deminers under the CMAC Framework in-

creased to 120 out of 1448 personnel, which is equally to almost 10% of the total workforce.

The Workshop produced some recommendations for ARMAC as follows:

- i. To explore the possibility to sign the MoU on Cooperation between ARMAC and NPMEC and between ARMAC and CMAC;
- ii. To engage ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Partners in supporting and cooperating with ARMAC;
- iii. To promote cooperation between ARMAC and mine-action nationally and internationally related institutions in other affected AMS;
- iv. To raise the profile of ASEAN female deminers in the region;
- v. To develop gender mainstreaming in ARMAC programme activities; and
- vi. To conduct the research and/or publish the article on gender mainstreaming in mine action.



ARMAC Workshop on "Promoting the Complementarity between National Mine Action Strategy and ARMAC Work Plan"

on 18-20 December 2018

ARMAC Workshop on Promoting the Complementarity between National Mine Action Strategy (2018-2025) and ARMAC Work Plan (2019-2021) was convened on 18-20 December 2018 in Siem Reap, bringing together participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA.IC), Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy and Finance, CMAA, CMAC, ARMAC, and Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS).

The Workshop was organized by MFA.IC and was aimed to promoting discussion on how to synchronize NMAS and ARMAC work plan to ensure optimum result in addressing ERW in AMS, especially Cambodia.



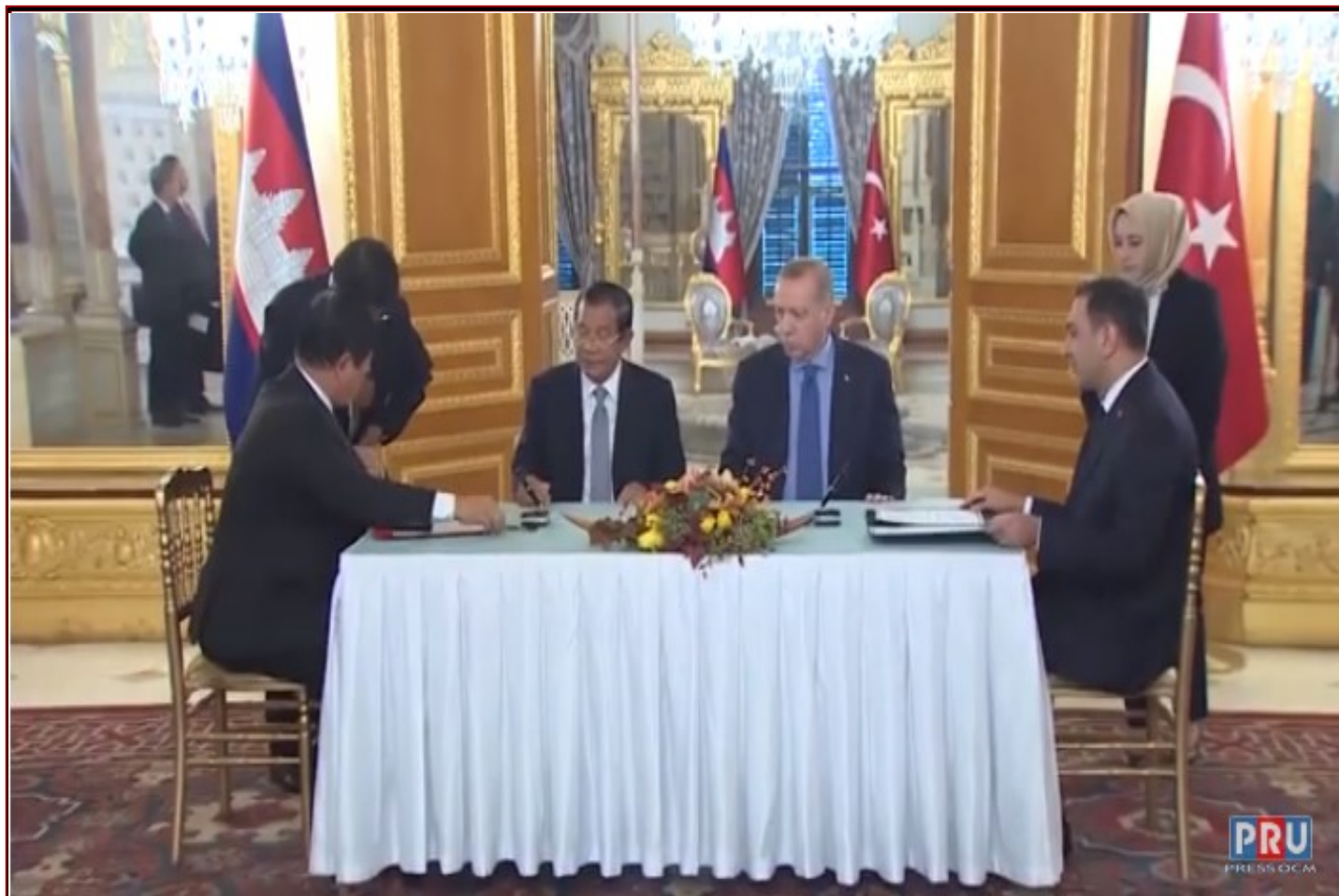
On the **complementarity** between NMAS and ARMAC Work Plan, Mr. Ly Panharith, Executive Director of ARMAC, shared his presentation on the progress of ARMAC and complementarity between **Goal 4 of NMAS** (to minimize mine/ERW including cluster munitions casualties, and improve livelihood of survivors and mine/ERW affected communities), and the **Objective 4 of ARMAC Work Plan** (to facilitate medical treatment, physical rehabilitation and psychological supports for the mine/ERW victims in interested AMS). In this regard, ARMAC is working with **SingHealth** from Singapore to formulate joint programme to provide **psychological support** and other assistance for landmine victims in Cambodia.

Based on NMAS (2018-2025), CMAA raised that in order to address the remaining contaminated area of **1,970 km²**, Cambodia planned to release all known landmine **110 km²/per year**, cluster munition **62 km²/per year** and ERW **42 km²/per year** until 2025. In order to assure the successful implementing of NMAS, the three-year implementation plan (2018-2020) of NMAS was developed to realize the NMAS's goals in 2025.

To successfully implement three-year implementation plan, CMAA needed financial support of **USD 150 million** or **USD 50 million** per year. Successful implementation of NMAS will help Cambodia to minimize the casualties from mine/ERW including cluster munitions as well as to improve the livelihood of survivors and mine/ERW affected communities.

The Workshop took note that it was important that the CMAC, ARMAC, and JMAS should engage more closely to work together to accomplish the goals and objectives which stated in NMAS and ARMAC Work Plan. The Workshop adopted key recommendations for future reference.

Cambodia-Turkey Cooperation in Mine Action



During the Working Visit of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 20-22 October 2018, Samdech Techo and the Turkish President presided over the signing ceremony of eight agreements/MoU, including the MoU of Cooperation between the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and the Turkish National Mine Action Centre.

By recognizing the common presence of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW), which impacts the safety of citizens and hinders national socio-economic development, the cooperation between the two centers would facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience, and technical expertise in order to address such issues.

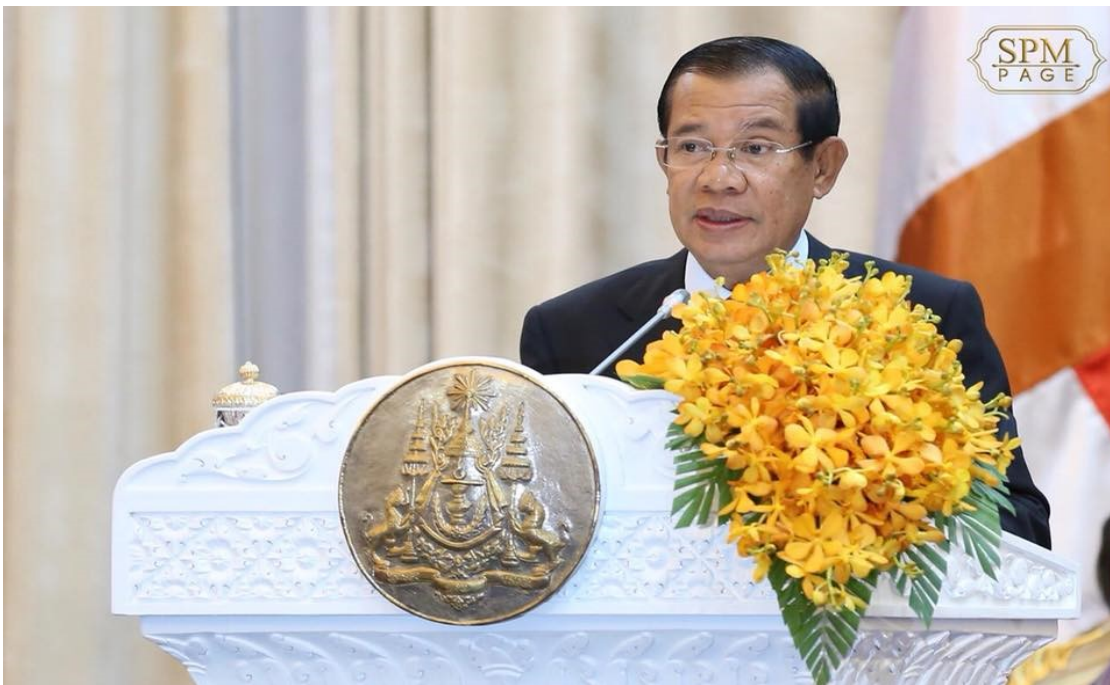
The cooperation can take in the form of consultative meetings, participation in the workshop, seminar, conferences, and exhibition, provision of training, and the conduct of visit and exchanges.

With regards to assistance to ARMAC, Turkey has confirmed to initially donate two photocopy machines and two professional cameras to ARMAC for its operation where they are still considering on funding to ARMAC's operation and one vehicle.

National Convention for Mine Action officially launched National Mine Action Strategy for 2018-2025

On Thursday, May 17, 2018, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, made a remark at the National Convention for Mine Action and announced the launch of the National Mine Action Strategy for 2018-2025 at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh. The Convention was held on 15-17 May 2018, focusing the topic of "Towards a Mine-Free Cambodia in 2025," aiming to show the 25-years achievement of the mine action sector and demonstrating Cambodia's ability to cope with the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war. It also aimed to find opportunities and ways to mobilize resources for the mine action sector.

Before the closing ceremony at the National Conference for Mine Action, **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** has visited the exhibition of mine action and unexploded ordnance activities organized by the mine authorities. The exhibition highlights the activities of non-governmental organizations and relevant institutions that have been involved in mine action in Cambodia.



Samdech Techo Prime Minister was delighted to conclude the Closing Ceremony of the National convention on Mine Action. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** stated that the legacy of landmines and explosive remnants in Cambodia has been left behind for decades of war and internal conflict that has made Cambodia one of the most landmine and ERW affected countries in the world.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister said that through the information system, the number of victims of landmine ERW in Cambodia has reached 64,688 from 1979 to 2017. Cambodia has always sought to find ways to solve this problem, to effectively manage mine clearance and explosive remnants of war and mine risk education, which has gradually reduced the number of accidents. In fact, the number of victims has dropped sharply from about 4,320 in 1996 to about 100 per year in average over the last five years.

To resolve this issue, after the liberation day of January 7, 1979, as a leader, **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** struggled to overcome all obstacles to consolidate the country for peace and the people of Cambodia, while on the one hand we had to fight to prevent returning of the Pol Pot regime and on the other hand to revitalize the society. The country was in a state of political and economic isolation. Through the implementation of the "win-win" policy, Cambodia has gained full peace throughout the country, ending the decades-long war. Khmer Rouge's political and military organization has been dissolved and the country has regained total peace and unity that has never been in history for more than 500 years in Cambodia. (Next Page)

National Convention for Mine Action and Announces the Establishment of the National Mine Action Strategy for 2018-2025 (Continue)

At present, Cambodians clearly see the development of the society and the progress in all areas arising from the values of peace. In this regard, Cambodian people who understood very clearly on the destruction by war, as in its recent history. So, we must be highly committed to protecting peace in Cambodia in any case. Peace and stability have contributed strongly to reduce the risk of landmines and unexploded ordnance and have strengthened democracy, respect for human rights and human dignity.

Prime Minister **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** rejected press reports that "Cambodia's land mines are already expired". "Please do not make such a suggestion, because this can cause a misunderstanding and a lack of caution for the people because the landmines and UXO can be dangerous at all times", Samdech Techo said.

On the occasion, **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** said firmly, "to achieve our vision as defined in National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2018-2025, we should adopt five recommendations as follows:

- 1) Continue to strengthen the quality, safety, accountability and efficiency of its work in order to gain the support and trust of stakeholders.
- 2) Continue the implementation in accordance with the National Mine Action Strategy (2018-2025), National Mines Action Plan, and Guidelines issued by Mine Action Authorities.
- 3) Continue to strengthen and enhance cooperation and partnership with Mine Authority, especially the provision of information, including information on finance, equipment, operational forces and technical assistance, etc, for Mine Authorities to be able to summarize and report to the Royal Government and relevant stakeholders.
- 4) Promote cooperation with the Mine Authorities and Municipal Authorities to ensure the effective design and implementation of the annual Mine Action Plan.
- 5) The Mine Authorities should oversee all demining operators to adhere to guidelines for cleanup planning and to continue to effectively implement the Mine Action Strategy of 2018-2025.

On this occasion, **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** highly appreciated CMAA and all mine-related authorities, for coordinating and managing the mine action sector throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia. The efforts of leaders, officials, and staffs in the demining field have made mine-action planning and prioritization responsive to the needs of the local community and the government's priority policy goals.

Finally, in order to fully realize the vision of a mine-free Cambodia by 2025, **Samdech Techo HUN Sen** appealed to the donor community, development partners and friendly nations to continue to support and strengthen cooperation and partnership with the Mine Action Authority in all aspects.

Regional Workshop on "Enhance mine action knowledge and promote future platforms for mine action knowledge sharing for ASEAN Member States" on 12-14 November 2018

This Regional Workshop was held on 12-14 November 2018 in Siem Reap Province. This Workshop was funded by the Mission of Canada to ASEAN.

The three-days Workshop covered the full scope and breadth of mine action and brought together ASEAN and international stakeholders to share their insights and knowledge.



H.E. Meas Kimheng, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation .

During the last day of the Workshop, the sessions covered the areas of research and development as well as on how international cooperation can be a key factor in ensuring the sustainability of mine action programmes. It also covered on how Cambodia's support to ARMAC, as host country, to assist the Center in operationalizing and continuing its future mission.

Mr. Heng Sarith, Director of APSC Department, reiterated Cambodia's commitment that Cambodia attached great importance of full and effective operationalization of ARMAC. After the launching of ARMAC building in 2016, Cambodia has made full financial contribution to ARMAC in two- years consecutively (2017-2018). Cambodia assumes the role of Vice Chair of ARMAC Steering Committee to assist Singapore, as the Chair in 2018, to fully operationalize ARMAC Permanent Secretariat.

Cambodia proposed that relevant ASEAN Meetings could promote ARMAC's profile and seek additional assistance from ASEAN Member States as well as interesting Dialogue Partners and External Parties.

The Workshop underscored the necessity of using the combination of deminer, machine/equipment and animal (dogs and rats) in its operation.

It is recommended that ARMAC could play a vital role to share regional knowledge on technology, documentation of best practices, innovative researches, and impact of mine action on human being and disaster management.

The Closing Ceremony of the Workshop was presided over by H.E Mr. Meas Kim Heng. He noted the importance of ARMAC in building connections and promoting communications between ASEAN Member States to share knowledge and resources. He encouraged ARMAC to take the results and recommendations from the Workshop to develop more relevant programmes and projects. Likewise, he also encouraged all delegates to keep in touch with ARMAC for further joint collaboration and future concrete plans and activities in order to raise the awareness of ERW.



ARMAC Timeline

2012

⇒ The Heads of States/Government of ASEAN Member States adopted the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Establishment of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) in 21st ASEAN Summit, on 18 November 2012, in Cambodia. Under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint, the establishment of ARMAC is to envisage a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region –considering the presence of landmine and explosive remnant war (ERW) challenge the region on specifically the safety of people, socio-economic development and aggravation of humanitarian problems.

2013

⇒ The ARMAC Term of Reference (ToR) was adopted during 22nd ASEAN Summit, held in June 2013, in Brunei. As stated on the ToR, ARMAC is an entity associated with ASEAN under Article 16 of the ASEAN Charter. For further establishment of ARMAC, Cambodia has been selected as the Host Country of ARMAC. ARMAC carries out the mandate and functions as follows:

1. Enhance awareness programs on the dangers of ERW among affected communities;
2. Facilitate appropriate medical and rehabilitation assistance for victims of ERW, upon request from the affected ASEAN Member States; and
3. Assist interested ASEAN Member States in research and knowledge sharing on the effects of ERW and efforts to address them, including through writing proposals for technical assistance projects and funding, at their specific and individual request.

2014

⇒ Following the adoption of ToR of ARMAC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia, provided a building for ARMAC Headquarter in Phnom Penh.

2015

⇒ The renovation of ARMAC Headquarter and supply of office equipment was funded by the People Republic of China's Government as the generous support for the operationalisation of ARMAC in the ASEAN region.

2016

⇒ The Inauguration of ARMAC Headquarter was held on 25 May 2016. In addition to this, the 1st Steering Committee Meeting was conducted to discuss further establishment and operationalisation of ARMAC.

2017

⇒ Executive Director and key personnel of ARMAC assumed the position.

2018

⇒ The Signing Ceremony of Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) on Hosting and Granting Privileges and Immunities to ARMAC



ARMAC Headquarters

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