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PH takes part in ADMM Retreat



March 5, 2024 (Luang Prabang, Lao PDR) – Undersecretary of National Defense Irineo C. Espino, representing Defense Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro, Jr., participated in the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat on March 5, 2024, in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The meeting was attended by all nine other ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General, along with Timor-Leste as an observer.

In line with the full implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025, the ADMM Retreat provided an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of the ADMM in fostering collective efforts to address current and emerging regional threats, contributing to regional peace, security, and resilience. The meeting saw the adoption of the Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defense Ministers on the ADMM's Accomplishments in the Implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025.

With the ongoing work to develop the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans, the ADMM Retreat also facilitated discussions on the ADMM's trajectory post-2025, focusing on matters that will drive the future of cooperation under the ADMM and ADMM-Plus.

Senior Undersecretary Espino called for ASEAN to remain resolute in rejecting attempts to portray the region as a mere arena of major power rivalry. He also provided recommendations to guide ASEAN as Member States ponder on the future of ADMM and ADMM-Plus.

On the sidelines, Undersecretary Espino met with General Chansamone Chanyalath, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Lao PDR, and Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and concurrent Vice Minister of National Defense of Vietnam. Both counterparts reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing defense partnership with the Philippines in both bilateral and multilateral levels.

The ADMM is the highest defense consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The ADMM Retreat is a platform which facilitates informal and open discussions on strategic issues concerning the ADMM and the region.

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