



STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL MINE ACTION CENTER (ARMAC)
ON ENHANCEMENT OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE
THE 17TH MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO AP Mine Ban Convention
GENEVA, 26-30 NOVEMBER 2018

Excellency Madam President;
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the President of the 17th MSP as well as the ISU for allowing me to attend this meeting and delivering this statement.

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) is an ASEAN entity under Article 16 of the ASEAN Charter. ARMAC was established by the ASEAN Leaders during the 21st ASEAN Summit to serve as a center of excellence to encourage efforts to address the explosive remnants of war for the interested ASEAN member states. There are three key functions that ARMAC focus on:

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.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

In ASEAN, there are 6 countries namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand who are the states parties to this Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Upon their request and in line with ARMAC mandate and functions, the center will support them to implement the relevant obligations of this convention.

Recently, ARMAC organised our inaugural regional workshop from 12 to 14 November 2018 in Siem Reap, Cambodia to provide the platform for knowledge sharing and to promote cooperation and assistance in mine action. Up to 100 delegates from the ASEAN Member States, ASEAN academic institutions, development partners and mine action organisations attended this workshop. Moreover, it was of critical benefit to the workshop that the ISU Director of the APMBC and ISU Director of the CCM attended and delivered the presentation on the status of the two conventions.

This is just one of ARMAC's programmes. The center plans to implement other programmes based on our assessment from the regional workshop, including inter alias:

- Study visits/seminars of ASEAN university students to raise awareness on the dangers of mine/ERW
- Establishment of a regional mine/ERW victim assistance network

- Training programme
- Exchange programme of delegates from one country to visit another country to study any specific area/expertise/programme
- Conference/workshop/seminar to share knowledge, best practices, disseminate latest trend or research finding
- Development of regional standard and integrated approach
- Research programme

ARMAC looks forward to collaborate with interested partners in implementing such programmes.

Thank you.