



IONS 2016 SEMINAR – CONCEPT PAPERS

SEMINAR THEME: FOSTERING PARTNERSHIP IN IOR: CHARTING COURSE FOR MARITIME COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT

SESSION-2 THEME: MARITIME SECURITY IN THE IOR

CONCEPTS

TOPIC 1 - EVOLVING MARITIME THREATS: A CONFOUNDED TERRITORY OF TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES OF IONS NAVIES

Proliferation of globalization and the rise of transnationalism have bonded the human-ocean relationship more resolutely than ever before. Today, all the states across the globe commonly share many of their vested interests in the ocean, while faced with multitudes of common challenges with increasing complexities. Given, the transnational character of ocean and the interconnectedness of ocean-related affairs, these challenges are causing far reaching implications in today's interdependent world. By the same token, the transborder nature of oceans that paves the way for many opportunities also invites transborder form of non-traditional threats that are difficult for any state to handle alone, like IUU fishing, piracy, smuggling, gun-running, human/drug-trafficking, etc. The oceans are also breeding grounds for inter-state rivalry and disputes over the resources they offer. Yet, the irrefutable fact remains predominant, that ensuring 'maximised' boons for one state engenders banes for the others, which in turn perturbs the entire interdependent world. Thus, in today's world, there is no alternative to inclusiveness; mutual cooperation is indispensable for attaining the desired benefits from the oceans. Given the growing strategic and economic importance of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) vis-à-vis the quantum of challenges encountered there, the need for meaningful partnership among the littorals is strongly felt by all concerned. In this backdrop, IONS 2016 seminar has been premised on fostering partnership for maritime cooperative engagements by the littorals of Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Accordingly, the seminar topics have been chosen to bring some pertinent issues under spotlight, which hinge upon cooperative engagements in the IOR. The seminar topics are distributed over five sessions, with individual session theme, e.g. strategic and economic outlook, security, cooperation, HADR, etc. The seminar aims at exploring some vital grounds of cooperation in the IOR while offering a comprehensive understanding of its various dynamics, and a piercing vision through the challenges and barriers to a thriving future.



When it comes to maritime cooperation, maritime security receives ‘high priority’ although it is a complex and challenging ground. In IOR, the complexities and challenges arise mostly from the dynamicity of its security environment stemming from the evolving nature of threats posed by the state and non-state actors. These are often galvanized by social disorder, political upheaval, technological advancements, etc. Globalization is yet another factor which has propelled the effects of these challenges with far-reaching implications, like persistent threats from expanding and evolving terrorist and criminal networks, threats to maritime commerce, particularly the flow of energy, etc. Hence, the second session of the seminar is premised on ‘*Maritime Security in the IOR*’ with a view to draw some concrete recommendations to address the maritime security challenges emerging in the 21st Century.

Today’s maritime security challenges cover a widely varying range of threats that the navies need to deal with - from the threats of non-state actors against the ‘good orders at sea’, to the threats from state actors. Added to these are HADR operations or other forms of Maritime Operations Other Than War (MOOTW). Hence, when it comes to force structuring or defining their roles and employments, the planners in the drawing board become perplexed with a sea of dilemmas and obscurities. Another interesting viewpoint is that, for dealing with the trans-boundary threats of non-state actors, conventional navies (or maritime security forces, for that matter) are collaborating with each other, while in a traditional conflict scenario, the navies or maritime security forces per se are potential belligerents themselves. Accordingly, the first topic of session 2, is chosen to be ‘*Evolving Maritime Threats: A Confounded Territory of Traditional and Non-Traditional Roles of IONS Navies*’, with a view to delineate the nature of today’s maritime threats and the range and extent to which navies should cooperate with each other to counter the peacetime threats from non-state actors, while maintaining their potentials for conventional employment of war fighting. It is also expected that a set of guiding principles would be drawn in connection with the aforesaid dilemma of determining the roles and employment-options for the IOR navies.



TOPIC 2 - MARITIME TRADE SECURITY IN IOR: IMPORTANCE OF MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

*P*roliferation of globalization and the rise of transnationalism have bonded the human-ocean relationship more resolutely than ever before. Today, all the states across the globe commonly share many of their vested interests in the ocean, while faced with multitudes of common challenges with increasing complexities. Given, the transnational character of ocean and the interconnectedness of ocean-related affairs, these challenges are causing far reaching implications in today's interdependent world. By the same token, the transborder nature of oceans that paves the way for many opportunities also invites transborder form of non-traditional threats that are difficult for any state to handle alone, like IUU fishing, piracy, smuggling, gun-running, human/drug-trafficking, etc. The oceans are also breeding grounds for inter-state rivalry and disputes over the resources they offer. Yet, the irrefutable fact remains predominant, that ensuring 'maximised' boons for one state engenders banes for the others, which in turn perturbs the entire interdependent world. Thus, in today's world, there is no alternative to inclusiveness; mutual cooperation is indispensable for attaining the desired benefits from the oceans. Given the growing strategic and economic importance of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) vis-à-vis the quantum of challenges encountered there, the need for meaningful partnership among the littorals is strongly felt by all concerned. In this backdrop, IONS 2016 seminar has been premised on fostering partnership for maritime cooperative engagements by the littorals of Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Accordingly, the seminar topics have been chosen to bring some pertinent issues under spotlight, which hinge upon cooperative engagements in the IOR. The seminar topics are distributed over five sessions, with individual session theme, e.g. strategic and economic outlook, security, cooperation, HADR, etc. The seminar aims at exploring some vital grounds of cooperation in the IOR while offering a comprehensive understanding of its various dynamics, and a piercing vision through the challenges and barriers to a thriving future.

*W*hen it comes to maritime cooperation, maritime security receives 'high priority' although it is a complex and challenging ground. In IOR, the complexities and challenges arise mostly from the dynamicity of its security environment stemming from the evolving nature of threats posed by the state and non-state actors. These



are often galvanized by social disorder, political upheaval, technological advancements, etc. Globalization is yet another factor which has propelled the effects of these challenges with far-reaching implications, like persistent threats from expanding and evolving terrorist and criminal networks, threats to maritime commerce, particularly the flow of energy, etc. Hence, the second session of the seminar is premised on *'Maritime Security in the IOR'* with a view to draw some concrete recommendations to address the maritime security challenges emerging in the 21st Century.

If we prioritize the mutual maritime security related issues, the security of maritime trade probably would top the list. In the security environment of IO, characterized by volatility, instability, complexity, and interdependence, the necessity of maritime cooperation in safeguarding the seaborne trades cannot be overemphasized. This is primarily due to the fact that such a security environment has made the already-elusive non-traditional threats to maritime trade much difficult for any single nation to handle. Dense shipping, with weak maritime policing in IO have provoked the spread of piracy over the last decade, which has now become a major concern of trade security in the Red Sea, Somalia Basin and Malacca Straits. From these perspectives, the effectiveness of the security regimes in place, like ISPS, CSI, PSI, SUA convention, etc, comes under question. As such, a re-evaluation of these security initiatives is deemed necessary. In this regard, the need for an action-centric organization and scopes for the navies and maritime security agencies to work together for ensuring the safety of maritime trade and freedom of navigation in the IOR needs to be considered. In this backdrop, the second topic of session 2 has been chosen to be, *'Maritime Trade Security in IOR: Importance of Multilateral Cooperation'* with a view to stimulate a deeper understanding of the maritime trade related security environment in IO and explore the need, scope, and extent of multilateral cooperation in protecting maritime trade.