

As of 15 June 2015



Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM Symposium on Countering Radicalisation

Concept Paper (Proposed by Malaysia)

Background

Radicalisation is complex in nature, with its multifaceted processes and motivational factors. Therefore, in order for governments to develop effective and efficient counter-terrorism policies and programmes regarding radicalisation, these complexities have to be understood in a thorough and comprehensive manner.

Questions as to what constitutes radicalisation, why and how it happened, who are the susceptible and vulnerable groups, and how do we craft and formulate an effective and sustainable response must be addressed to ensure the stability of national and international security.

At present, the international community is facing a new terrorism phenomenon, with unprecedented flow of foreign terrorist fighters from various parts of the world participating in the Syria and Iraq conflicts. As of May 2015, it was estimated that over 25,000 foreign terrorist fighters from approximately 100 countries, including those in Southeast Asia, have participated in militant activities in ISIL and other extremist groups.

Therefore, in line with the United Nations Resolution 2170 (2014) – concerning the increasing flow of foreign terrorist fighters joining extremist groups, through the manipulation of the cyber space for the purpose of radicalization, recruitment, financing, planning and training – it is imperative for the international community to intensify its effort in countering radicalisation.

In addition, following the adoption of the United Nations Resolution 2178 (2014) that condemns violent extremism and underlines the need to prevent the movement and support for foreign terrorist fighters, there is an increasing demand for countries to improve international and regional cooperation, especially in sharing experiences, expertise and best practices among policy makers, law enforcement officers and counter terrorism experts.

In this regard, the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, is proposing to conduct the ‘Symposium on Countering Radicalisation’ for ASEM Member Partners.

Symposium Proposal

Realising that radicalisation is a cause of concern for all, it is imperative that we:

1. Ascertain the current state of affairs;
2. Identify gaps at the policy and implementation levels;
3. Review lessons learned; and
4. Suggest recommendations at the strategic and operational levels.

Symposium Format

The Government of Malaysia proposes to organise and facilitate a two-day symposium for both policy-makers and practitioners in the field of counter-terrorism. Among the subjects that would be covered in this symposium include:

- 1. Moderation In Countering Extremism**
- 2. Public - Private Partnership (PPP): Silver Bullet in Countering Radicalisation?**
- 3. Strategic Communication and Online Radicalisation**
- 4. Dealing with Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs): A Case of ‘Damned if You Do, Damned if You Don’t’?**
- 5. The Science Of Rehabilitation and the Art of Reintegration In Countering Radicalisation**
- 6. Community Engagement – ‘All For One, and One For All’**
- 7. Countering The Narrative – ‘It All Starts With A Story’**

Other Information

1. Participants of the Workshop will comprise policy makers, law enforcement officers and counter terrorism experts engaged in the fight against terrorism from ASEM Member Partners. The Symposium is not open to the general public or the media.
2. The methodology of the Symposium will be lecture-based and panel discussions.
3. The language of the lectures and discussions will be in English.
4. Participants are expected to bear the expenses for travelling and accommodation.

5. The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs will coordinate the preparation for the Workshop.