

- 3) Unlike Europe, many of South-East Asia's boundaries are demarcated at sea necessitating a different approach to confidence-building and arms control (i.e., the consideration of air and naval forces).
- 4) All states involved in European security issues are members of the CSCE. The members of ASEAN however are involved in security issues not only with states outside of ASEAN but also with states outside of South-East Asia (i.e., Japan, China, India).
- 5) Each region has faced threats of an entirely different nature. The impetus for the CSCE process came from Europe's desire to avoid war between its two ideological blocs. The main security threat within the ASEAN region, however, has been the threat of internal subversion, guerilla activity and civil war.

The main lesson to be learned, is that although the concept of confidence-building may be applicable in the South-East Asian region, because of different historical, political and geostrategic conditions, it is not possible to simply transfer the positive experience of Europe's CBMs to other regions of the world. Confidence-building measures in any region will have to be a product of the local interests and circumstances in that region.

However, there are still lessons which each organization can learn from the other. The CSCE has recently called for warring parties in Europe to seek out bilateral solutions to their problems. This measure is usually more characteristic of the ASEAN members.

The following are a list of suggested lessons which ASEAN members may take from the CSCE experience.

- 1) Within a regional association which has been established to facilitate cooperation, regular and open discussions of security concerns can help to create a better understanding of concerns and intensions. This may help to avoid insecurity caused by misperception.
- 2) It will be important to address the growing fears of the escalation of an arms race within the region.
- 3) In order to avoid misconceptions over the intended use of newly acquired weapons, it may be fruitful to encourage ASEAN members to promote more open communication on the issues of force postures, arms acquisitions, military doctrine and defence strategy.
- 4) Encouraging scholarly and other non-official discussions on these issues may serve to reinforce existing cooperative efforts.