

to give prior notification of any new arms acquisitions and to offer an explanation for the use of these new weapons. Finally, if these stages have been successful, discussions could begin if deemed necessary, on the prior notification of troop movements. At each stage, negotiations should begin with a discussion of threat perceptions so that each member will know the reasons for which its neighbours are acquiring weapons. If this can be achieved, then the members of ASEAN may enhance their ability to defend themselves against external threats without risking the possibility of a destabilizing arms race among them.

Another lesson which may be learned from Europe is that contacts and discussions at all levels can, over time, enhance negotiations which take place at an official level. It may be fruitful for ASEAN members to encourage parallel discussions and contacts to take place within academic and other non-official communities. Over time, discussions and contacts on different levels may come to reinforce one another's efforts.

It may also be fruitful for ASEAN members to encourage the same sort of scholarly and non-official discussions with its dialogue partners. This process could eventually enhance any security or confidence-building discussions which might take place at ASEAN's Post Ministerial Conferences. Should these discussions prove to be fruitful and should ASEAN find success in implementing a more formal confidence-building process within its own Association, then perhaps there will be an opportunity for ASEAN members to discuss confidence-building measures with their dialogue partners at the Post Ministerial Conferences.

The final lesson which may be learned from the European experience is that the processes of arms control and confidence-building will not unfold quickly. It will take a great deal of time and effort to overcome a history of uncertainty and to build in its place, a cooperative effort towards a common security interest. Any success which may occur, will probably be gradual and the process will need to follow a logical evolution with each step building on the last.