

**Malaysia, Australia, US Co-host ARF Workshop On Multi-year Strategic Exercise Plan
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PUTRAJAYA, April 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, Australia and the United States (US) are co-hosting the two-day Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Multi-Year Strategic Exercise Plan, beginning today in Kuala Lumpur.

In a statement here Thursday, the foreign ministry said the workshop was held in conjunction with Malaysia's chairmanship of ASEAN, and as part of its commitment to the Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement.

The workshop is aimed at encouraging a more integrated coordination and synergy in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises among the various ASEAN-related mechanisms and bodies in disaster management, wherever possible, in particular the ARF, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting.

The statement said the participants included among others, senior civilian and military officials representing the relevant agencies in the field of disaster management.

The workshop is co-chaired by Undersecretary of the Disaster Management Division, National Security Council, Mohd Ariff Baharom; Manager of Civil-Military and Stabilisation Policy Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, Garry Dunbar; and, Deputy J-5 (Planning), US Pacific Command, Commodore Ian Middleton.

The statement said the outcome of the workshop would be reported to the 22nd ARF Ministerial Meeting which will be held in Malaysia in the third trimester of this year.

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