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TRAFFICKING IN ILLICIT MATERIALS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Illicit material trafficking issues in Southeast Asia

- Southeast Asia's porous borders: fertile soil for trafficking illicit items and dual-use technologies, both as origin exporters and transit and transshipment hub
- Origin exporters: volume of trade of hi-tech items, i.e. exports of percentage of manufactured exports in 2009: Indonesia 11%, Thailand 25%, Malaysia 40% (60% in 2001), Singapore 50% (63% in 2001). Items, among others, include: aerospace, computers, scientific instruments, electrical machinery...

Illicit material trafficking issues in Southeast Asia

- Transit and transshipment hub: recent cases include Malaysia's seizure of suspected materials on a ship en route from Northeast Asia to Iran in March 2011; and the USS McCampbell interception of a Belize-flagged ship suspected of carrying missile technology from North Korea to Myanmar in late May, 2011
- Relatively and comparatively weak law enforcement system

Existing mechanism for Southeast Asia

- International regime and framework: IAEA Safeguards (including AP), NPT, UNSCR 1540, PSI...
- Regional arrangements: SEANFWZ, ASEAN Directors General of Customs, ASEANPOL, ARF, Asia Pacific Customs and Trade...
- National legislations: export control list
- Track II: CSCAP study group on WMD and Asian Export Control Seminar ...

National efforts

- Singapore: Strategic Goods Control Act to counter the proliferation of WMD
 - control list drawn from Missile Technology Control Regime, Nuclear Supplier Group, Australia Group, Wassenaar Arrangement
 - dual-use list, “catch-all” provision
- Malaysia: Strategic Trade Bill
 - control list is based on EU and UN lists
 - “catch-all” provision

Challenges to combating illicit material trafficking

Internal

- Capacity constraints: lack of expertise and professionalism
- Low level of awareness and attention: trade facilitation or hindrance (non-state actors)?
- Insufficient and ineffective export control system: most countries in Southeast Asia do not have a national export control list (except Singapore and Malaysia)

External

- Harmonization of national laws and regulations (politico-security community and economic community?)
- International cooperation problems

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION