



PRESS RELEASE

ARMAC and Azerbaijan Forge Stronger Ties to Advance Humanitarian Mine Action Cooperation

Phnom Penh, 22 July 2025 – In a significant step toward strengthening inter-regional collaboration in humanitarian mine action, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) had the privilege of welcoming H.E. Mr. Elnur Israfil oglu Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to its headquarters in Phnom Penh. He was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Shovgi Kamal Oglu Mehdizade, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, LAO PDR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Ambassador Jalal Mirzayev, Head of Asia and Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The high-level engagement marked a continuation of the positive momentum initiated during the 2024 study visit hosted by ARMAC, where the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) visited ASEAN Member States to observe best practices in explosive ordnance (EO) management. The visit exemplified ARMAC's commitment to South-South cooperation, fostering mutual learning among countries with shared post-conflict challenges.

The discussions reaffirmed ARMAC's mission to support regional and global mine action efforts, in line with the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025. Both parties exchanged insights on the importance of research and development, innovation, and the integration of emerging technologies to improve the efficiency and safety of mine clearance operations.

"ARMAC reaffirms its dedication to fostering regional and international partnerships that not only enhance technical capacity but also promote sustainable peace and development," stated Ms. Butth Rothna, Executive Director of ARMAC. "We are pleased to witness growing momentum for intercontinental collaboration, and we look forward to continued engagement with Azerbaijan as a key partner in this endeavor."

Echoing this sentiment, H.E. Mr. Elnur Mammadov shared: "We deeply appreciate ARMAC's leadership in mine action and their generous facilitation of knowledge-sharing platforms. Azerbaijan is determined to invest in the institutional strengthening of its mine action capacity, and we view ARMAC as a pivotal partner in this journey. The shared experiences of ASEAN countries provide invaluable lessons for our own post-conflict recovery."

The meeting also addressed the potential for future cooperation in joint research initiatives, the establishment of technical dialogues, and the promotion of region-to-region knowledge exchanges. As a center of excellence, ARMAC continues to serve as a critical platform for experience sharing and dialogue, reinforcing its role in advancing regional peace, security, and sustainable development.

This engagement underscores a shared vision between ASEAN and Azerbaijan to collaborate across borders and leverage collective expertise in the pursuit of a mine-free future.

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