

# Canada co-hosts regional workshop on WMD non-proliferation

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*Canada's Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder opens the regional workshop on non-proliferation.*

MANILA - Canada recently co-hosted with the Government of the Philippines a two-day regional workshop to improve the capacity of governments in the Asia-Pacific region in implementing a United Nations resolution on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The workshop coincided with the 10th anniversary of the UN Resolution 1540. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted the resolution in 2004.

More than 40 representatives from the government of the Philippines, other ASEAN member states, partner countries, international organizations including the United Nations, and experts on WMD discussed issues relevant to the implementation of UN Resolution 1540, and shared best practices in security and counterterrorism strategies.

"The effective implementation of UN Security Council 1540 in the Asia-Pacific region is an important contribution to strengthening regional and global security," Canada's ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder said during the opening of the workshop in Makati City.

"Given that no country is immune to the potential impact of WMD terrorism, we must work constantly and collectively to prevent weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related

materials from falling into the wrong hands," Ambassador Reeder added.

"Canada is focused on working collaboratively with our partners in the region to advance this goal."

Ambassador Reeder also thanked the Philippine government for its support in the conduct of these capacity-building initiatives.

Canada takes a leading role in a joint initiative with South Korea in the implementation of the resolution.

The workshop focuses on assisting in the development of national action plans by UN member states, their successes and challenges in meeting the objectives of UN Resolution 1540 and incorporating it into broader national security strategies and bilateral partnerships.

Outreach activities and the establishment of regional coordination mechanisms were also in the agenda.

The Government of Canada, through the Global Partnership Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, provided approximately P1.2 million in travel and logistics support for the workshop participants from the Asia-Pacific region.