

37TH SCUFN MEETING
24-28 JUNE 2024
JEJU ISLAND, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**INTERVENTION BY MR MOHD HELMY AHMAD, HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
MALAYSIA**

25 JUNE 2024

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity given to Malaysia to provide an update the agenda pursuant to the decision made at SCUFN-36 on the way forward of the naming proposals of undersea features issue in the South China Sea.

First of all, Malaysia would like to express its utmost appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for organising this 37th SCUFN Meeting in this beautiful Jeju Island as well as for the warm hospitality provided to us.

Mr. Chair and SCUFN Members,

Pursuant to the decision made during 36th SCUFN Meeting, Malaysia had taken the initiative to convene the engagement session with all interested parties namely the Philippines, Viet Nam and China. The planned engagement session was scheduled from 23rd to 24th May 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The two-day engagement session was commenced in the traditional ASEAN spirit involving Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam on the first day, followed by a bilateral consultation between Malaysia and China on the second day.

In this regard, as a host of the engagement sessions, Malaysia would like to report the outcome of the discussions.

As Viet Nam and the Philippines had not received a mandate from their respective governments to engage in a discussion with China, Malaysia resorted to host two separate engagement sessions namely the Trilateral Engagement Meeting between Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam on 23rd May 2024 and the Bilateral Consultation between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China on 24th May 2024.

The outcomes of the engagement sessions are as follows:

- To explore the mechanism and possible options for the submissions of proposals on the way forward for the naming of undersea features in the South China Sea.
- To ensure future engagement sessions are well-structured, Malaysia will prepare a timeline for the submission of the mechanism and possible options to be made at SCUFN in the form of a draft Framework of Engagement Session of All Interested Parties and Acceptable Timelines, Details of Programme for a Joint Proposal for consideration and consensus of all interested parties.

Mr. Chair and SCUFN Members,

As for the latest update, last evening, here in Jeju Island, Malaysia made another effort and initiative to convene a sideline session and invited all interested parties on the undersea feature naming proposal in the South China Sea for another discussion. However, it is unfortunate that the said session was participated by the representatives of Malaysia, the Philippines and China only.

Conclusion

All interested parties should continue their commitments to engage and explore a joint proposal on the way forward for undersea features naming in the South China Sea. Malaysia believes that this matter requires several engagement sessions involving all interested parties. In light of the time constraints due to the convening of the 37th SCUFN in June this year, additional time should be afforded to all interested parties to convene a series of future discussions and consultations on the way forward for undersea features naming in the South China Sea. In this regard, Malaysia would like to reaffirm our position that Malaysia is open and willing to discuss with all interested parties namely the Philippines, Vietnam and China with a view to explore a joint proposal on the way forward for undersea features naming proposals in the South China Sea.

Thank you Mr Chair.