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## **SOUTHEAST ASIAN DEFENSE CHIEFS HOLD ANNUAL SUMMIT IN LAOS**

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Efe Ozkan

An annual meeting of the defense ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) kicked off on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Laos, with many bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the event.

In his opening remarks to the 18th annual gathering, Kao Kim Hourn, ASEANs secretary-general, stressed the importance of strengthening practical cooperation and external engagements in the defense sector. The meeting concluded with the adoption of key guiding documents and decisions, with details of bilateral meetings announced on X.

On the sidelines, Kao held bilateral meetings with prominent defense leaders.

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