





YB SENATOR TENGKU DATUK SERI UTAMA ZAFRUL AZIZ MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE & INDUSTRY

On behalf of the Malaysian Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), I am pleased to address the delegates and participants of both Defence Security Asia (DSA) 2024 and National Security (NATSEC) Asia 2024. These events have not only built up a solid reputation, but the presence of high-level government officials, defence experts and industry leaders also reflect its high prestige, perhaps the most prestigious of its kind.

Although these events are directly related to defence and security, I cannot over-emphasise the immense strategic value that DSA and NATSEC Asia bring from an investment, trade and industry perspective - not only to Malaysia, but also to the region, and to participating nations from around the globe.

The theme of DSA 2024 and NATSEC Asia 2024, "Building Resilient Nations for the Next Generation," resonates deeply with our ministry's objectives. Resilience goes beyond military capabilities, and extends to international partnerships that support regional stability, which is key to our socio-economic growth.

DSA and NATSEC Asia's unique platform creates an environment conducive to forging bilateral international trade ties. Malaysia's growing aerospace industry is well-poised for further integration into the global value chain, as envisaged by the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP2030). We see opportunities in innovative areas such as advanced air mobility, including drone manufacturing and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Our overarching focus is to cultivate a resilient domestic supply chain by diversifying our supplier base, investing in indigenous manufacturing capabilities, and leveraging advanced technologies for improved supply chain management. This will, in turn, contribute to the overall resilience of the global aerospace and defence industries.

Post-pandemic recovery has seen the global aerospace industry increasing production capabilities to meet global market demands. The industry is also fast embracing cutting-edge technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), automation, and robotics. This technological shift is transforming the aerospace and defence industries in Malaysia, not only in manufacturing but also in Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) and Systems Integration activities. To ensure a robust talent pipeline for all high-tech industries, including aerospace, we will also prioritise the implementation of a key enabler on talent under the NIMP2030. In short, Malaysia is dedicated towards developing the industry ecosystem systematically and holistically, to ensure we can remain at the forefront of the global aerospace and defence sectors.





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For the Southeast Asian and ASEAN regions, DSA and NATSEC Asia are essential in fostering a sense of collective security, and these events provide a platform for collaborative defence efforts. As such, MITI firmly supports DSA 2024 and NATSEC Asia 2024, which recognise the interconnectedness of defence, security, and the collective prosperity of participating nations.

A secure region makes for an attractive destination for investments and trade, benefiting all participating countries. By hosting this event biennially, Malaysia has proven itself to be a reliable and strategic partner. As we open our doors to foreign direct investments, technological transfers, and collaborative ventures on defence technology, we are also indirectly contributing to regional economic growth and resilience.

I extend my warmest welcome to all participants and encourage everyone to explore the economic opportunities that DSA 2024 and NATSEC Asia 2024 present. Let us work hand in hand to build a safer, more prosperous future for our nations.

Thank you and my best wishes for a successful DSA and NATSEC Asia 2024.

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