



6-9 MAY 2024
MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



ADMIRAL TAN SRI ABDUL RAHMAN BIN AYOB **CHIEF OF NAVY**



Salam Sejahtera and congratulations to the organisers for initiating yet another edition of DSA and NATSEC Asia. As the military arm responsible for safeguarding Malaysia's maritime interests and sovereignty, I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the upcoming events, which promises to be a significant showcase of the prowess and dedication of our armed forces, particularly the Navy, in safeguarding the maritime interests of our nation.

The role of the Navy in protecting our maritime interests cannot be overstated. As we navigate the complex and ever-evolving security challenges of the 21st century, it is essential to understand the critical importance of our naval forces in ensuring the safety, security and prosperity of our nation. The seas and oceans that surround us are not only a source of immense economic potential but also present unique strategic challenges that require constant vigilance and innovation.

Malaysia's geopolitical and strategic interest lies at sea and as a maritime nation, it faces various maritime security threats, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, illegal fishing, and the smuggling of drugs and other illicit goods. These activities can disrupt maritime trade and pose risks to the safety of sailors and fishermen. Additionally, Malaysia, like several other Southeast Asian nations, is embroiled in territorial disputes in the South China Sea. These disputes have the potential to escalate tensions and lead to incidents that threaten Malaysia's sovereignty and stability. Moreover, the physical separation of Peninsular Malaysia from Sabah and Sarawak poses serious threats to Malaysia's security. The dangers of these various threats to international trade have brought the maritime dimension of security to the global consciousness and lifted it high on policy agendas. This does not only concern Malaysia. Countries worldwide are enhancing their capabilities to overcome these issues through proactive measures.

International cooperation is essential to maintain good diplomatic relations between countries to overcome the various maritime threats. Notably, there is an urgent need for comprehensive research that focuses on the issues and challenges of maritime law enforcement and explore the best solutions for improving local, regional and global maritime security.

This is where events such as DSA and NATSEC Asia are highly instrumental, as they have been a strong champion of international cooperation and advocate for the advancement of technology. In this regard, I am heartened to learn that the theme for DSA 2024 and



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NATSEC Asia 2024 is "Building Resilient Nations for the Next Generation". Resilience is particularly crucial if we want to be well-equipped to face the challenges ahead of us.

However, we cannot achieve this alone. There needs to be a coming together of an armada of stakeholders from the military, government, public and private sectors to develop effective solutions. DSA and NATSEC Asia I believe can answer and elevate this call as a lofty platform towards this end.

In conclusion, the DSA and NATSEC Asia is not just an event; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our maritime interests and securing our nation's future. I urge everyone to support this essential initiative and actively engage in discussions and collaborations that will strengthen and enhance our national security.

Thank you for your dedication to our nation's defence and I look forward to a successful Exhibition that reinforces our crucial role in protecting our maritime interests.

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