



20 - 23 APRIL 2026
MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR

Hosted, Supported & Co-organised by:



DATO' HAJI AMRAN BIN HAJI AHMAD
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

I extend my sincere appreciation to the organisers of DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026 for this opportunity to once again address participants of this distinguished gathering. These events have consistently proven to be platforms for innovation, collaboration and shaping the future of security and defence.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) stands at the very heart of national security and transnational enforcement efforts while also playing a role in sustaining Malaysia's economic resilience. In 2024, we achieved a remarkable revenue collection beyond the target set by the government, a testament to the strength and effectiveness of our tax and duty enforcement. Beyond revenue collection and trade facilitation, our work is fundamentally about safeguarding the nation from cross-border threats and dismantling smuggling networks that seek to undermine the integrity of our systems.

As global security challenges evolve, customs agencies worldwide are finding themselves on the frontlines of an increasingly complex battle. Smuggling, money laundering, arms and drugs trafficking as well as illicit trade once isolated crimes are now part of larger, organised transnational networks linked to terrorism financing, human trafficking and economic sabotage.

Despite these challenges, our relentless commitment to combatting illegal trade and protecting Malaysia's economy continues to yield significant results. Each successful operation represents the disruption of criminal networks, the protection of legitimate businesses and the reinforcement of Malaysia's commitment to upholding law and order both domestically and internationally.

Yet, as threats evolve, so must our strategies. We must continuously innovate, adapt and integrate cutting-edge enforcement approaches to stay ahead. At the same time, security is never the responsibility of one agency or one nation alone. Trade and security are deeply interconnected across borders and collaboration remains the key to a stronger, safer region.



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Through events like DSA and NATSEC Asia, Malaysia remains a proactive player in regional security efforts and the RMCD fully supports these platforms for meaningful global engagement. It is particularly commendable that this edition emphasises the role of technology in enhancing capabilities and resilience.

In an era of accelerating trade flows and increasingly complex threats, technological advancement is essential in enabling a customs force that anticipates risks rather than merely responding to them. These platforms bring together experts, policymakers and frontline officers to champion innovation and deliberate on practical solutions for securing borders, safeguarding trade and dismantling transnational threats.

For the RMCD, these conversations are naturally indispensable. Our ability to anticipate and counter new challenges depends on collaboration, intelligence-sharing and access to the latest enforcement solutions.

As DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026 convene the world's best minds in defence and security, let us recognise that our collective resolve is the true defence against evolving threats. Congratulations to the organisers and may this edition of DSA and NATSEC Asia be the best yet!

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