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MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



**GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SRI PANGLIMA HAJI AFFENDI BIN BUANG RMAF  
CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE MALAYSIA  
CO-ORGANISING CHAIRMAN, DSA 2020**

*Selamat datang!* A very warm welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> iteration of the Defence Services Asia (DSA) Exhibition and Conference 2020!

Malaysia is once again honoured to host our defence industry's trademark event, DSA 2020. This year presents yet another opportunity for the Malaysian Armed Forces to showcase the best of the country's and region's defence capabilities, assets and infrastructure while creating a platform for knowledge sharing of sound global standards and practices to enhance while strengthening our capabilities particularly in a landscape of growing new threats.

The timely development of Malaysia's Defence White Paper is essentially a tangible demonstration of our government commitment towards integrity, transparency, openness and inclusiveness in the national defence planning. The precept of 'man, machine and method' plays a significant role in carrying out the military's business of warfighting. Thus, a Future Force that is technologically skilled, innovative and adaptive to change is needed for the Malaysian Armed Forces.

The '4th Dimension Malaysian Armed Forces' development plan, that has been rolled out in Malaysia's Defence White Paper tabled in Parliament in December 2019 highlights the Malaysian Armed Forces' aspiration to develop a Full Spectrum Force that is versatile, credible and balanced.

Additionally, this year is a crucial milestone for Malaysian Armed Forces to move towards this development plan which involves tri-services, i.e. the 'Army for Next Generation' (or Army 4 Next G), the Royal Malaysian Navy's '15-to-5' transformation programme and the Royal Malaysian Air Force's 'Capability Plan 2055' (or CAP55). The Future Force shall be a balanced, versatile, lean and mean fighting force that is poised to defend the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of this beloved nation of ours, whilst at the same time, addressing the various requirements in Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW).

In order to do so, we must keep abreast of the latest developments in the region and around the world. The rapidly evolving face of terrorism and extremism, coupled with increasing geopolitical shifts in the Asia Pacific region, has made it more crucial than ever for us as a region to come together and collectively protect our people against external threats.

Simultaneously, it is important that we have greater coordination and integration between the defence and security agencies in the ASEAN region and beyond. Malaysia has always upheld the importance of the respective member countries working together in defence, among other areas, for the greater good of the region. In today's climate it is crucial for our military and civilian forces to work closely hand in glove with each other to be effective in combating external threats.

The Malaysian Armed Forces views with great seriousness in regard to the growing and emerging threats in the country as well as regionally and globally. Hence, efforts are underway to set up a Cyber and Electromagnetic Command to deal specifically with cyber threats as well as providing a holistic organization for defence operations within the cyber domain. The command is aimed at strengthening the defence of Malaysian Armed Forces in facing the cyber security threats.

Thus, the role of the DSA series, which continues to serve as a premier platform for leading players in the global defence and security industry is vital. This world-class exhibition continues to attract high-ranking government officials, defence personnel and ministers alongside corporate giants in the field, who come together in the interest of advancing regional security and defence as well as promoting mutually beneficial inter-governmental relationships.

With its timely theme, "Advancing into a New Era of Defence", DSA 2020 features several interesting highlights, among which include Army Command Centre, Business to Business (B2B) Meetings, Cyber Defence Conference, Chief of Navy Breakfast Talk and drone demonstrations. Needless to say, we anticipate many thought-provoking and stimulating discussions and debates throughout the entire duration of the exhibition.

We look forward to welcoming more than 350 VIP delegates and 50,000 visitors to our shores during the four-day exhibition, which will see the gathering 1,500 participating companies and a showcase of 33 international pavilions.

DSA 2020 will also feature the National Security Asia 2020 (NATSEC Asia 2020), a returning feature that is dedicated to the country's national security components. Judging from the success of the inaugural event in 2018, I believe that NATSEC Asia

2020 will once again stimulate effective synergies between the region's national security forces and military forces, in the interest of advancing our collective safety as a region.

It is an opportunity for participants to shape the opinions and direction of debate in internal security matters whether in the areas of technology, procedures, or policies. Thus, it is hoped that NATSEC Asia 2020 will stimulate more holistic improvements to the security industry in this region, from policies to solutions.

I want to take the opportunity to applaud the organising committee and all those who have personally worked to bring DSA 2020 and NATSEC Asia 2020 to fruition. Through these exhibitions, we look forward to shaping and navigating the direction of regional and national defence and security policies and practices, for the foreseeable future.

Thank you.