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By 2030, ASEAN's economy is expected to become the fourth largest single market with Malaysia ranked highly among emerging economies for its relatively open, newly industrialized market economies.

One of the ways the new government has tried to revitalize and stimulate the local economy is by abolishing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and introducing the Sales and Service Tax (SST) instead. This was one of the major initiatives that the Customs Department was involved in during the past year.

We also work hand in hand with the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Malaysian Border Control Agency (AKSEM), Immigration Department of Malaysia, Inland Revenue Board (LHDN), and Bank Negara Malaysia to tackle multiple crimes like the smuggling of illicit cigarettes, drugs and other contraband items. These initiatives involve a lot of information sharing and close cooperation between all the agencies especially when it come to the border enforcement at all Malaysia entries. We have also working closely with Intergovernmental bodies namely World Customs Organization (WCO), Interpol, and other Customs Administration on knowledge sharing, enforcement method, and preventive actions while keeping a close communication with the agencies. By streamlining our communication and information distribution at all levels, we will be able to combat these crimes more effectively.

I personally look forward to meeting our counterparts from around the region at Defense Services Asia (DSA) 2020, and improving customs-to-customs collaboration particularly with our counterparts in ASEAN. I'm also keen to explore the many opportunities for networking and collaboration that will be available throughout the duration of the exhibition and conference.

Congratulations to the organizers for another successful conference. To all delegates, exhibitors and visitors, welcome to DSA 2020!

Thank you.