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Cybersecurity is an issue which a robust and technologically advanced country like Malaysia must focus and give utmost priority. If it is left unchecked, it can lead to national security issues and even lasting catastrophic effects.

As of November 2019, the number of cybersecurity related incidents in Malaysia recorded by Cyber999 managed by Malaysia Computer Emergency Response Team (MyCERT) is 9,805 compared to the corresponding period last year at 9,370 incidents. From the analysis of these figures, three crucial categories recorded the highest number of incidents are fraud, intrusion and malicious codes. Just as worrisome, these three categories recorded an uptrend in 2019 compared to the same period in 2018.

The bulk of fraud were related to phishing activities, a form of online fraud in which the perpetrator masquerades as a reputable entity or person in email or other communication channels. Other highly reported incidents of fraud include the Macau Scam, Love Scam, Loan Scam and Parcel Scam.

However, while cyberspace allows easy dissemination of information in the palm of our hands, this wider accessibility comes with great responsibility. For instance, according to the country's Counter-Terrorism Division, up to 98% Malaysian militants were recruited online. Extremist ideologies reach just about any unsuspecting individual sitting in front of a computer screen in the comfort of their own homes. Thus, the onus is on regulatory bodies to engage experts to monitor and control extremist websites. It is also equally important to develop counter-content messaging techniques to prevent vulnerable individuals from being psychologically entangled in deviant ideologies.

CyberSecurity Malaysia will continue to develop Malaysia resilient against cyberattacks through various initiatives and programs. We will work closely with the Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII) sectors to raise the level of cyber preparedness, implement proper internal mechanisms and procedures in order to

cope with cybersecurity incidents. Cyberspace protection is crucial for the protection of human life since extreme cyberattacks can potentially cause even loss of life.

Yet, responsibility cannot be shouldered by just any one agency. In fact, it remains pivotal that the many relevant agencies within the ecosystem, including (though not limited to) Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council, National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA), Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) work cohesively and coherently to ensure the security of our cyberspace.

On that note, it is indeed our great pleasure and honour that CyberSecurity Malaysia is invited to take an active and prominent role in this second edition of the International Exhibition on National Security for Asia (NATSEC Asia 2020). We are confident that this is an ideal platform for knowledge sharing, experience and expertise among all the relevant agencies and bodies entrusted with the crucial task of safeguarding the national security and order of our country.