



## **LIEUTENANT GENERAL DATUK SHEIKH MOKHSIN BIN SHEIKH HASSAN DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE**

It is a great honour for Malaysia to once again host the DSA 2020. It has grown from strength to strength, weathering the ever-changing political & strategic landscape, internationally as well as regionally. In this respect, it is undeniable that DSA's contribution and active participation in Malaysia's multi-racial & multi-cultural demographic landscape, is a very niche platform with a soul & identity in its own right. This is especially in bringing together all levels and varied functional groups into a single venue to achieve common goals and shared aspirations.

As the military intelligence arm of the Malaysian Armed Forces, the Defence Intelligence Staff Division (DISD) has benefitted both directly and indirectly, in advancing its intelligence gathering capabilities and competitive competencies. This has been mainly on fulfilling our organisational role to safeguard the defence of this country and provide security assurance for Malaysia's economic prosperity and socio-political stability.

As a reflection, either in western civilisation or in eastern's unique approaches to nation-states interactions, intelligence function & its activities has always been the strategic pillar to any legitimate powers that governs its state affairs. However, changes from manual subjects through evolution of electronics to the current borderless world of Internet-of-Things (IoT), often implies the greater challenge to intelligence function and its relevance to current ways of nation-states' interaction. From intelligence point of view, it is only the landscape, its means & solutions that has been evolving. The threats are the same, which is to affect the sovereignty of the country, the freedom of its people & their economic livelihood.

As such, the DSA as a platform fuses people of likeminded and shared principles to come together, share their views, concerns, ideas in tackling the current multi-faceted threats and unconventional challenges, with newer tools, solutions and ways of doing things. If in the past intelligence were shrouded with mysteries of the unknown, today many aspect of society are aware of the collegial efforts taken by government intelligence arms of the civilian, military & police as well as their ever-growing

interdependencies with international partners especially our most valued neighbouring countries. From Malaysia's perspective, we have managed to protect the country's peace and defused civil unrest at the most delicate of times, oftentimes unknown to most of the general public.

Taking these on our stride, we look forward to DSA 2020. To all exhibitors, delegates and visitors, we hope you have a memorable and highly productive time at the conference, the exhibition as well as all meetings on the sidelines of the auspicious event in Malaysia.