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“National security lies not just in protecting our borders, but in bridging divides”. This oft quoted opinion reflects the basis towards maintaining national security granted the present and emerging geo-political and geo-strategic landscape as backdrop. As the world reaps the endless benefits afforded by technology, which now touches every facet of our lives, it also leaves nations and societies vulnerable to threats exacerbated by volatility, uncertainty, complexities and ambiguities emanating from the misapplication of technology. In this sense, the fundamental purpose of Government would be to protect the nation and insulate its citizens from these threats. For that purpose, national security in Malaysia is referred to as a state of being free from any threat, whether internally or externally, to its core values. Granted that the threat spectrum is extensive covering physical and non-physical dangers, the responsibility to maintain national security is daunting thus demanding continuous vigilance, extensive surveillance and concerted measures.

That notwithstanding, Malaysia’s emphasis towards national security requires a higher plane of pragmatism and not merely securing our borders. The National Security Council is tasked in building bridges, firstly between nations especially with neighbouring countries to engage these threats concertedly before reaching our shores. Secondly between Government agencies and society at large to shape Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society solutions and finally, amongst society itself to create a united, resilient and determined citizenry in facing such menace. To meet that end, it is pertinent that the National Security Council continue to seize opportunities in transpiring Malaysia’s National Security aspirations, enhancing bonds amongst its counterparts from other nations, facilitating the exchange of information and experiences, and engage the security industry to explore possible systems required to effectuate the various measures formulated to maintain national security.

For that, the National Security Asia (NATSEC Asia) 2020 provides the quintessential platform to facilitate the National Security Council’s end state where leaders responsible for national security, captains of industries related to national security and

the general public could be engaged efficiently and effectively. Taking into cognizance the myriad of parameters influencing national security ranging from counter-terrorism to cybersecurity, differing from food security to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, the organizing of NATSEC Asia 2020 is envisaged to afford the essential forum where national security stakeholders are able to engage each other, deliberate vigorously on issues affecting the security of the nation and to build bridges in our continuous effort to elevate confidence.

NATSEC Asia 2018 was a major success in which the National Security Council benefitted significantly from the prestigious event. Taking into cognizance the reputation of NATSEC Asia, I am confident that the second instalment will receive tremendous support from local, regional and global participants. On the same score, all delegates will gain immensely from a prestigious event that has since been recognized as highly productive, beneficial and insightful.

Thank you and see you in NATSEC Asia 2020.