



6-9 MAY 2024
MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SRI HAJI AFFENDI BIN BUANG **CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE, MALAYSIA**

It is a wonderful privilege for me to see the coming together of yet another edition of DSA and NATSEC Asia. Having been personally involved in previous editions of these reputable shows, I have witnessed first-hand the multiplied growth and prominence that these events and their numerous components have garnered through the years.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic presented some setbacks, DSA and NATSEC Asia made a bold and spectacular comeback in full force in 2022 - the results and successes of which are exemplary and evident, based on the numerous positive reports received. And in just a blink of an eye, here we are at the threshold of yet another installation of these greatly anticipated biennial events.

Once again, the international defense and national security fraternity, particularly within the Asian region, will descend upon Kuala Lumpur as the country plays host to what I believe is the biggest and most high-profile shows of its kind. So, on the onset, I would like to extend my admiration and congratulations to the organisers and supporting partners for coming together with, dare I say - military precision, to earnestly and competently piece together the various components of DSA and NATSEC Asia 2024 - the sum of which I am confident will be greater than their parts.

As anyone even remotely associated with the defence and security society, both locally and internationally will attest, we need to constantly evolve, while working in solidarity with our allies and counterparts from around the world. The approaches and solutions of the past may not be applicable today. Likewise, current strategies and technologies may be redundant or obsolete down the line. It is therefore highly essential that we continue to adapt and change with the times, hand-in-hand, to meet ever-evolving threats, that take many shapes and forms, including the ever pervasive cyber attacks such as phishing.

Make no mistake, these threats are real. Being increasingly dependent on cyberspace, the Malaysian Armed Forces is equally vulnerable to such dangers. Attempts were thwarted through continuous vigilance and rapid responses against these threats. That said however, cyber attacks will continue to become more sophisticated with far reaching consequences even as we improve our responses. With the establishment of the MAF Defence Cyber and Electromagnetic Division, it surely sets the MAF on the correct footing for further initiatives in the Cyber Electromagnetic domain.



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Having served in various staff and command positions at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of the Malaysian Armed Forces, I cannot adequately stress the importance of constant learning, cooperation and improvement of the global defence and security fraternity. This is vital in order to stay ahead and above any unscrupulous threats, towards national, regional and global peace and stability. At the same time, I have always been a strong proponent of lifelong learning, and the importance of gaining knowledge as means of increasing competency and efficiency.

For all these reasons stated above, I believe DSA and NATSEC Asia to be two unparalleled opportunities for players in the global defence and security arena to come together towards greater international and cooperation in maintaining peace and stability. Although taking place over just three days, the impact of these events and their components are second to none, and simply cannot be underestimated.

No other event provides such opportunity to engage with high-level government and military personnel including ministers, secretary generals, chiefs of services, international delegations, and key decision makers. It is the most relevant platform to exchange ideas and initiate collaborations. DSA and NATSEC Asia are, without mistake, the largest and most efficiently organised defence and homeland security events in Asia, and arguably in the world.

Let me make this clear - this is an unrivalled opportunity that cannot be missed! I look forward to yet another edition of DSA and NATSEC Asia and pledge the full, utmost, and unbridled support and cooperation of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

Thank you.

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