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GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SERI PANGLIMA HAJI ZULKIFLI BIN HAJI ZAINAL ABIDIN
CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE MALAYSIA
CO-ORGANISING CHAIRMAN, DSA 2020

Selamat datang! Welcome, to the 17th iteration of the Defence Services Asia (DSA) Exhibition and Conference 2020!

We often take for granted the peace and stability enjoyed in Malaysia. This does not happen purely by chance, of course. There is an entire mechanism that operates in the background in order to ensure that peace, stability and security are continuously maintained and upheld. This lofty weight is borne by the country's armed forces and defence sector, as they work hard at keeping traditional and non-traditional security threats away and uphold the security and safety of the people.

If I may quote the words of Swedish economist and diplomat, Dag Hammarskjold, who served as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, "The pursuit of peace and progress cannot end in a few years in either victory or defeat. The pursuit of peace and progress, with its trials and its errors, its successes and its setbacks, can never be relaxed and never abandoned." Indeed, the pursuit of peace and stability is continuous as it is costly, but they are worth the expense.

In order to uphold peace and stability, we must also be able to keep abreast of the latest developments in the region and around the world. The rapidly evolving face of terrorism and extremism, coupled with increasing geopolitical shifts in the Asia Pacific region, has made it more crucial than ever for us as a region to come together and collectively protect our people against external threats.

This has been the primary aim of the Defence Services Asia (DSA) series since its inception. DSA continues to serve as a premier platform for leading players in the global defence and security industry. This world-class show continues to attract high-ranking government officials, defence personnel and ministers alongside corporate giants in the field, who come together in the interest of advancing regional security and defence as well as promoting inter-governmental relationships.

With its timely theme, "Advancing into a New Era of Defence", DSA 2020 features several interesting highlights, among which include the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosives (CBRNe) forum; Cyber Defence and Cyber Security conference and demonstrations; a terrorism-themed security conference; Chief of Army Roundtable Talks (ChART); Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) conference and live demonstrations. Needless to say, we anticipate many thought-provoking and stimulating discussions and debates throughout the entire duration of the show.

We look forward to welcoming more than 50,000 visitors to our shores during the four-day show, including 350 VIP delegations.

DSA 2020 will also feature the National Security Asia 2020 (NATSEC Asia 2020), a returning feature that is dedicated to the country's national security components. Judging from the success of the inaugural event in 2018, I believe that NATSEC 2020 will once again stimulate effective synergies between the region's national security forces and military forces, in the interest of advancing our collective safety as a region.

I would like to take the opportunity to applaud the organizing committee and all those who have personally worked to bring DSA 2020 and NATSEC Asia 2020 to fruition. Through these shows, we look forward to shaping and influencing the direction of regional and national defence and security policies and practices, for the foreseeable future.

Thank you.