



**20 - 23 APRIL 2020**  
MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



**DATUK MOHAMADDIN BIN KETAPI**  
**MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE MALAYSIA**

Selamat Datang – to DSA 2020 and to Malaysia.

In 2018, 25.83 million foreign visitors spent RM84.1 billion in Malaysia while domestic visitors spent another RM60.4 billion within the country. Domestic tourism experienced 11.7 percent growth, with a total of 78.2 million visitors in the same year.

Thus Malaysia's tourism is vital to stimulating the country's economy, and has always been so.

One of our key focuses in encouraging greater tourism within Malaysia and promoting a healthier tourism industry, is to ensure the safety and security of all tourists within our borders at all times.

For this, we continue to work closely with the Defence Ministry and Home Ministry to enhance border security particularly at key hotspots and alleviate any possible threats to foreigners in the country.

We continue to work with our regional counterparts to brand ASEAN as a single tourist destination in the long run. The realization of this vision relies heavily on the strength of our defence mechanisms against clandestine activities like drugs and human trafficking as well as in its disaster recovery and preparedness.

High-profile, world-class events like Defence Services Asia (DSA) not only serve to enhance collaboration and understanding between governments of this region, but also contribute significantly to national tourism. Since its inception, DSA has encouraged visitors into the country and raised Malaysia's profile preferred as a preferred business and holiday destination.

We are immensely proud and pleased to host DSA 2020. To all visitors and delegates, I hope you take some time off from the show to explore the many unique attractions and delights this country has to offer which are in-line with our Visit Malaysia 2020 theme "Visit Truly Asia, Malaysia".

Thank you.