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Protecting the waters of Malaysia's Maritime Zone (MMZ) is no simple task. MMZ areas are strategic gateway for many vessels and serves as a crucial international trade route for many South East Asian Countries and East Asian Countries like China and Japan.

As the principle agency responsible for ensuring the safety and security of waters surrounding Malaysia, the MMEA faces a herculean duty in maintaining law and order while coordinating search and rescue operations in the MMZ and on the high seas, since its induction in 2005.

Over the past few years, the incidences of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia have gradually declined, owing to the constant vigilance and engagement with stakeholders to safeguard the interests of ships and seafarers operating in Asia.

MMEA has established co-operation with other agencies from various countries such as the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency (BAKAMLA), the Japan Coast Guard and the Australian Border Force to increase safety patrols in our waters from piracy and sea robbery. This co-operation is vital in increasing the economic status of a country especially to Malaysia.

We must continue working together with authorities in our neighbouring countries as well as forge alliances with more established commands, like the Royal Malaysia Navy as well as foreign coast guards. As part of our policy for continual improvement, MMEA strives to update our assets and resources, as well as build close rapport with local and international counterparts.

DSA 2020 is certainly one of the key platforms that help us to achieve these objectives. Having participated in several iterations of the show, MMEA once again looks forward to gaining new insight and fresh perspectives at the upcoming show. We look forward to the many returning highlight which are expected to directly inform and impact our ongoing operations and efforts at MMEA.

Congratulations to the organizer, I am certain that the upcoming DSA 2020 will not only live up to our expectation, but exceed them.