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MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT



The Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia remains steadfast in our commitment to protecting lives, safeguarding property, and ensuring the safety of our communities. Our mission is as challenging as it is vital, and it is one that evolves constantly in response to emerging risks and circumstances. Whether responding to urban disasters, combating fires, or assisting in humanitarian crises, we are dedicated to meeting the demands of a complex and unpredictable world.

Events like DSA and NATSEC Asia are crucial to the work we do as first responders. The innovations on display—ranging from advanced fire suppression systems to unmanned vehicles and drones for disaster assessment—play a vital role in enhancing our operational capabilities. As first responders, these tools allow us to adapt to challenges such as the growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters fuelled by climate change, as well as the complexities of urbanisation and densely populated areas where crises can escalate rapidly.

We have witnessed these challenges firsthand, particularly with the annual floods that impact large parts of our country with increasing severity. At the same time, new risks, such as cyber disruptions to critical infrastructure, demand a more integrated and collaborative approach to crisis management.

Within this evolving landscape, the Fire and Rescue Department must adapt continuously. Our role extends beyond firefighting; we are disaster responders, urban search-and-rescue specialists, and critical agents of community resilience. Events like DSA and NATSEC Asia equip us with the tools, knowledge, and partnerships needed to rise to these challenges.

In this regard, technology is central to the transformation of emergency response. It enhances our ability to act swiftly, precisely, and safely when every second counts. To give real-world applications, robotics allow us to conduct rescue operations in hazardous environments, such as collapsed buildings or chemical spill zones, without endangering human lives. Meanwhile, AI-powered analytics facilitate rapid decision-making by processing vast amounts of data to identify risks and prioritise actions.



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By no means do these tools replace our firefighters. However, they empower them. They make our operations safer and more effective, ensuring that we can fulfil our mission even in the most challenging circumstances. I eagerly anticipate discovering the next wave of these advancements at DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, exploring how they can further enhance our ability to save lives.

No single agency or organisation can address the scale of today's challenges alone. Collaboration is the key to resilience. The Fire and Rescue Department works closely with the Malaysian Armed Forces, police, and other agencies to ensure a unified response to crises. Events like DSA and NATSEC Asia strengthen these relationships by providing a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and joint problem-solving.

To the organisers, exhibitors, and participants of DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your dedication to advancing safety and security strengthens agencies like ours and contributes to a safer, more secure world for all.

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