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CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE, MALAYSIA

I am privileged, yet humbled, by this opportunity to express my strong support for DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026. These platforms have an excellent track record of enhancing our readiness to face the future of defence and security in an evolving regional and global environment.

Having been actively involved with DSA and NATSEC Asia since their inception, I have witnessed firsthand the pivotal role they play in fostering collaboration and driving innovation within the defence sector. This year, I am particularly honoured to participate for the first time in my capacity as the Malaysian Chief of Defence Force. I look forward to engaging with military leaders, defence innovators, and security professionals as we collectively strive to enhance our capabilities in an era marked by rapidly evolving challenges.

In this regard, the theme "Enhancing Capabilities and Resilience Through Technology" could not be more pertinent. The very definition of security and defence in today's world has been fundamentally reshaped. We no longer prepare for battles that follow a conventional playbook. Modern conflict is no longer confined to traditional battlefields; it now unfolds in data centres, contested airspace, across supply chains, and even within the minds of populations.

The pace of technological advancement is unrelenting, transforming the landscape of defence and security before strategies have the chance to take form. Our mission is no longer to prepare for a single, defined threat but to simultaneously be ready for all of them.

Resilience, therefore, is even more critical than military strength and firepower alone. We must evolve with the times, and technology plays a central role in this evolution. We must equip ourselves with the tools to counter emerging threats from unmanned systems and AI-driven warfare to cyber defence and space-based intelligence.

That said, the true strength of a military force lies not merely in the sophistication of its systems but, more importantly, in the people who operate them, the leadership that directs them, and the strategy that integrates them effectively. Let me reiterate: the future of security will not be determined solely by those with the most advanced technology but by those who know how to apply it intelligently, decisively, and purposefully.



DSA and NATSEC Asia help us to achieve this purpose. These platforms bring together nations, industry leaders, and professionals to explore how innovation can be translated into real-world operational environments.

As we look to the future, the Malaysian Armed Forces remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthening the national defence posture while deepening our engagement with regional and international partners. No military stands alone, and no nation secures itself in isolation. Collaboration lies at the heart of modern security.

This is precisely why events like DSA and NATSEC Asia are essential. They serve multiple, equally important purposes. Beyond providing a platform to showcase cutting-edge technology, they foster meaningful dialogue, joint cooperation, and strategic partnerships that will shape the future of global defence.

To all DSA and NATSEC Asia participants, I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity. The challenges ahead demand innovation, collaboration, foresight, and decisive leadership. These events enable us to rise to that challenge. In doing so, we are not merely preparing for the future of defence and security; we are shaping it.

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