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On behalf of the Defence Cyber and Electromagnetic Division (DCED) of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), it is my honour to pen a few words leading up to the inaugural Cyber Digital Services, Defence and Security Asia Expo & Conference (CyberDSA 2023).

Established two years ago, the DCED is a new division of the MAF, responsible for handling threats looming in the cyber and electromagnetic domain. This includes the management of assets such as satellite systems, network-centric operations, and secured messaging, to ensure that the three MAF branches are in sync and operating at the highest and optimum levels.

As such, the setting up of the DCED is highly timely and very much necessary in light of increasing threats in cyberspace which could bring about harm or even destroy the country's defence systems.

This is not just true in Malaysia, but in other countries around the world. If our data systems are destructed by these cyber threats, it can very well spell the detriment of national defence, affecting many parts of our daily lives as we know it in today's hyperconnected world.

However, while we need to take steps and proactive measures to safeguard our cyber systems and infrastructure, countries cannot simply do this on their own and address pertinent issues and concerns while working in their own silos. Neither can these be addressed over a short period of time.

Conversely, to effectively face these concerns head-on, we need to see the coming together of numerous stakeholders – both within and outside the government and armed forces – from around the world to systematically consolidate knowledge, expertise, and technology toward a highly robust and dynamic global cyber landscape.

In this regard, I highly applaud all those involved in making CyberDSA a reality. With conferences, exhibitions, keynote talks, roundtable discussions, and VIP delegations, this event is set to be a gamechanger in global cyber defence and security. I am happy to announce that 'SiberSiaga' (Cyber Readiness) is a yearly programme that will be incorporated into CyberDSA 2023.

As such, I implore all participants to work together to make CyberDSA a success, not only in 2023 but for years to come. Together with my colleagues and comrades in the Malaysian Armed Forces, I also look forward to meeting our counterparts from other countries to actively engage in high-level discourse and exchange.

I applaud and salute the organisers and participants, and wish everyone every success.

