



PRESS

# RELEASE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD.100/2/1/2 JLD 3 ( ) 05 /11 (ENG)

**ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING (ADMM) RETREAT,**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> ADMM-PLUS & DEFENSE & SECURITY 2019**  
**BANGKOK, THAILAND, 17 – 19 NOVEMBER 2019**

The Malaysian Defence Minister, YB Haji Mohamad bin Sabu attended the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat and 6th ADMM-Plus held at the Avani+ Riverside Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, respectively on 17 and 18 November 2019.

The ADMM Retreat was attended by all Defence Ministers from ten ASEAN member states. YB Mohamad presented Malaysia's views on regional and international defence cooperation, focusing on the need for ADMM to strengthen and deepen relations to address the wide spectrum of non-traditional security challenges including the emerging of cyber security. YB Mohamad also expressed his concerns on the situation in Myanmar's Rakhine state. He cautioned that the current situation must be addressed judiciously to avoid fleeing of Rohingyas to neighbouring countries including Malaysia and preventing them from succumbing to extremist ideologies and recruitment due to their suffering.

On the other hand, the 6th ADMM-Plus was attended by Defence Ministers of all ten ASEAN member states together with Defence Ministers or representatives of eight Plus Dialogue Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and United States). During the meeting, YB Mohamad addressed the complexity of geopolitics arising in the South China Sea and emphasised the need for Plus countries to respect and adhere to the commitment made at the 5th ADMM-Plus Meeting in 2018. He reiterated that parties must exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may further complicate the existing situation.

In light of Thailand's theme of Sustainable Security for its chairmanship this year, YB Mohamad also encouraged ADMM-Plus members to embrace this theme as an enduring vision of bringing peace, security, and stability to the region with respect to ASEAN shared interest and centrality as the key guiding principles. Subsequently the meeting also agreed on the co-chairmanship of the next cycle of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Groups (EWG) from 2020 to 2023, in which Malaysia will co-chair the ADMM-Plus EWG on Cyber Security with the Republic of Korea. Previously, Malaysia co-chaired the ADMM-Plus EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief with the United States from 2017 – 2020.

In addition, YB Mohamad also participated in three ASEAN Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings, namely with China, Japan, and the United States, as well as conducted bilateral meetings with Australia, China and New Zealand.

The ADMM Retreat and 6th ADMM-Plus were also held together with the Defense & Security 2019, a defence exhibition organised by the Thai government. YB Mohamad attended the Opening Ceremony as well as officiated the Malaysian Pavilion at the exhibition on 18 November 2019. He also took this opportunity to promote the upcoming 17th Defence Services Asia Exhibition and Conference (DSA 2020) along with NATSEC (National Security) to be held next year in Kuala Lumpur.

The objective of participating in the exhibition is to promote Malaysian industry players and products on the world stage. Local companies from various sectors, namely aerospace, ICT, telecommunication, security systems, and weaponry were brought in. This is also to highlight Malaysia's support towards regional efforts in collectively developing and promoting defence industry.

YB Mohamad's attendance to these events were part of the defence diplomacy initiative taken by Malaysia to promote positive defence relations through multilateral and bilateral platforms in addressing regional and international defence and security issues of common concerns. This also highlights Malaysia's continuous commitment towards ASEAN as the core regional platform for regional cooperation. Malaysia congratulates Thailand for the tremendous efforts in hosting the meetings and contributions towards a better ASEAN. Malaysia also welcomes Vietnam as the incoming ASEAN Chair 2020.

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***"PERTAHANAN NEGARA TANGGUNGJAWAB BERSAMA"***

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**Ministry of Defence Malaysia**  
**18 November 2019**

