



*PRESS*  
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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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**ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING (ADMM) RETREAT,  
19 FEBRUARY 2020, HANOI, VIETNAM**

***'Cohesive and Responsive'***

The Malaysian Defence Minister, YB Haji Mohamad bin Sabu attended the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat held at the Melia Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam, on 19 February 2020.

Eight out of ten Defence Ministers from ASEAN Member States (AMS) attended the ADMM Retreat. In his opening remark, YB Mohamad congratulated and expressed Malaysia's support towards Vietnam ASEAN 2020 Chairmanship.

In support of Vietnam's theme of 'Cohesive and Responsive', YB Mohamad presented Malaysia's views that AMS should focus on strengthening regional unity and solidarity while complementing one another towards ASEAN community building. He acknowledged the good work that ADMM has produced and believed that under Vietnam's leadership, existing initiatives will be continued while exploring new opportunities to enhance ADMM's cohesive performance and contribution to the maintenance of regional peace, security and stability.

He also expressed importance for ASEAN to improve the capacity of adapting to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Recognising this challenge, YB Mohamad highlighted Malaysia's upcoming focus on building awareness and inculcating regional cyber security culture and positive norms through the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Cyber Security, which Malaysia will co-chair with the Republic of Korea from 2020 to 2023. The vision aims at minimising gap of knowledge, awareness and capacity in cyber domain among AMS and Plus countries.

In line with Malaysia's aim to operationalise the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (AMRG on HADR) this year, YB Mohamad also took the opportunity to personally thank each ASEAN Member State for the support given to Malaysia on developing this initiative. The Standard Operating Procedure of the AMRG on HADR complements the ASEAN HADR guideline of cooperation, reflecting cohesiveness in responding to regional disaster.

Through the course of developing relations with ASEAN's friends as well as maintaining relation with Plus partners, YB Mohamad expressed views of the need

for ADMM to uphold the principle of ASEAN Centrality. At the side-line of the meeting, YB Mohamad also participated in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting with Australia, and conducted bilateral meeting with the Australian Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds.

Noting the grave concern of the current outbreak, the ADMM Retreat released a Joint Statement on Defence Cooperation Against Disease Outbreak acknowledging ASEAN's united view in responding to the outbreak of the COVID-19 in a collective and cohesive manner.

The presence of YB Haji Mohamad bin Sabu at the ADMM Retreat showcased Malaysia's commitment towards ADMM, of which remains the highest defence diplomacy contributing towards regional peace, security and stability of the ASEAN region. Malaysia together with AMS congratulated Vietnam for a successful hosting of the ADMM Retreat and looks forward to attending the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> ADMM and 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus in November 2020.

-End-

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

**Ministry of Defence Malaysia**  
**19 Januari 2020**

