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15TH ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING (ADMM)

The 15th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) was held on 15 June 2021 via video conference. The meeting was chaired by The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Md Yussof, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Defence II, as the ADMM Chair 2021. Senior Minister of Defence, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob led the Malaysian delegation to the meeting.

The 15th ADMM discussed on ASEAN defence cooperation, including nine regional defence initiatives under ADMM. These include the proposal by Malaysia to establish the ASEAN Cyber Defence Network (ACDN), of which Malaysia is the proponent. Under this initiative, Malaysia proposes to link all cyber defence operation centres of ASEAN member states (AMS) under a network, to leverage on the cyber defence expertise of AMS. This initiative will serve as a platform for all cyber defence operation centres of AMS to promote exchanges in knowledge and best practices as well as build confidence and readiness in cyber defence related issues.

The 15th ADMM meeting ended with the conclusion of the Bandar Seri Begawan Declarations by the ADMM to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the ADMM. The leaders agreed that the ADMM continues to be the main multilateral defence cooperation in this region, with ASEAN as the driving force.

At the sidelines of the 15th ADMM, the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting was also held on 15 June 2021. The meeting discussed ASEAN-China regional defence cooperation and exchanged views on defence and security issues of mutual concern. Malaysia reiterated its view that while international law guarantees the freedom of navigation, the presence of any military assets in the South China Sea has the potential to increase tension that may, in turn, result in miscalculations which may affect peace, security, and stability in the region.

Malaysia's participation in these meetings signals Malaysia's continued commitment towards defence diplomacy through bilateral and multilateral defence cooperation. Malaysia congratulates Brunei Darussalam for successfully hosting of the meetings as the ASEAN Chair 2021 in the face of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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“PRIHATIN RAKYAT : DARURAT MEMERANGI COVID-19”

“BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA”

“PERTAHANAN NEGARA TANGGUNGJAWAB BERSAMA”

Ministry Of Defence Malaysia

15 June 2021

