

## **ASEAN defence security foresighting in the next two decades**

Peace, cooperation, and development continue to be the mainstream in the region and the world in recent years. The political, security environment, however, continues to witness complex developments. Insecurity and unpredictability are the most prominent feature, reflecting a fierce competition between trends and power centres in shaping a new world order. Meanwhile, hot spots and security challenges continue to linger on and evolve unpredictably. Southeast Asian defence and security environment has been strongly influenced by increasingly acute strategic competition between major powers; geopolitical shifts in the region; challenges to multilateralism and multilateral institutions; and complicated development of nontraditional security issues.

Southeast Asia lies in the centre of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Consequently, its defence and security environment in the next two decades is likely to witness the risk of collision, confrontation, and armed race; increased challenges to ASEAN's centrality; maritime security; and nontraditional security issues. In order to safeguard our interests and enable us to respond effectively to increasingly complex defence and security challenges, it is necessary for ASEAN members states to unite with each other and make joint effort to build an increasingly strong Community and consolidate ASEAN's centrality in the regional architecture.