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Published February 19, 2008

SINGAPORE AIRSHOW 2008**Focus on air power, defence procurement****Air power needed to counter security threats: minister**By **VINCENT WEE**

(SINGAPORE) Arms are high on the agenda on the sidelines of the Singapore Airshow, with two conferences taking place - one on global air power and the other on defence procurement.

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Mr Teo: Stresses the significance of air power in non-combat operations

Conference, the first defence procurement conference to be held at an international air show. Opening the conference, Manpower Minister and Second Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said 'all governments, big and small, are rightly concerned that their defence procurement processes are efficient and effective'.

Mr Ng said Singapore's strong defence ecosystem has helped the island acquire cost-effective solutions optimised to meet its operational requirements. Commercial partnerships are the most logical approach, he said.

Mr Teo said: 'Singapore understands the importance of developing

At the opening of the Global Air Power Conference, organised in conjunction with the airshow, Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said yesterday that air power is needed to counter growing security threats.

'The inherent characteristics of air power - flexibility and mobility - make it well suited to meet expanding and varied challenges,' said Mr Teo. 'Air power has also evolved to encompass new concepts and capabilities brought about by advances in technology. For instance, missions that could previously be performed only by manned aircraft can now be carried out by unmanned systems.'

Mr Teo also emphasised the significance of air power in non-combat operations. He cited the role of helicopters in relief operations during the Indian Ocean tsunami and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Arms purchases were the focus at the International Defence Procurement

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partnerships with like-minded defence procurement agencies around the world. This conference is an excellent forum for defence procurement practitioners to learn from each other and to share best practices.'





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