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Fire and rescue operations are evolving in complexity, demanding faster response times, enhanced safety measures, and cutting-edge technology. The Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (JBPM) are committed to advancing our capabilities to better protect lives and property. One of the most promising innovations in modern firefighting is drone technology, which has the potential to transform emergency response strategies and strengthen our firefighting assets.

Drone-based firefighting solutions have the potential to enhance emergency response efforts, from deploying fire-retardant chemicals for wildfire containment to improving firefighting capabilities in high-rise buildings and supporting hazardous material assessments in challenging environments.

With Malaysia's skyline rapidly expanding—home to 366 high-rise buildings, including six surpassing 300 metres—it is imperative that we adopt new aerial solutions to enhance fire suppression efforts and improve evacuation strategies.

Recognising the challenges posed by fire incidents in supertall buildings, we have formed a strategic council with Malaysia's six tallest buildings to enhance fire, safety and emergency response frameworks. As we continue to develop strategies for high-rise fire management, there is potential for drone technology to complement these efforts, offering new capabilities in surveillance, assessment, and firefighting support. These collaborations will ensure that critical infrastructure meets the highest safety standards and drones can be effectively deployed in life-threatening scenarios.

However, technology alone is not enough. To fully integrate drones into fire and rescue operations, we must establish clear operational protocols, inter-agency coordination, and specialised training for firefighters and emergency response teams.

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With advancements in AI-driven drone navigation, real-time thermal imaging, and autonomous fire suppression systems, we must adapt and innovate to keep pace with emerging threats.

Advancing firefighting technology demands continuous innovation, strategic collaboration, and the integration of cutting-edge solutions. Harnessing the potential of drones in fire suppression, situational awareness, and high-risk operations is crucial to enhancing national emergency preparedness and protecting lives. Together, we must push the boundaries of innovation to build a safer, more resilient future.

I look forward to DronTech Asia 2025, from 30 September to 2 October at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur, as a pivotal platform for shaping the future of drone technology. This event will drive discussions and breakthroughs that will redefine not only firefighting and emergency response but also numerous industries and sectors that stand to benefit from the advancement of unmanned aerial systems.

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