



Roland Quitarano, Defense Contract Management Agency International host nation program manager, speaks at a seminar April 13 during an international government quality assurance conference at the Koreana Hotel in Seoul. (U.S. Army photos by Pfc. Park Young-ho, Eighth Army Public Affairs)

Agency hosts international contracting officials in Seoul

Walter T. Ham IV | Eighth Army Public Affairs

Defense contracting officials from 14 nations gathered in the Republic of Korea's capital of Seoul April 11–13 to discuss best practices in government quality assurance.

Held at the Koreana Hotel in the heart of downtown Seoul, the conference brought together military and civilian officials from nations with whom the United States has international agreements for the exchange of government quality assurance services and those nations interested in entering into such agreements with the United States.

The 2011 gathering, hosted by the Defense Contract Management Agency and the South Korea Defense Agency for

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Technology and Quality, marked the first time the conference was held outside of Europe. Held almost every year since 1997, the first conference was in Wiesbaden, Germany.

“(The conference is) an opportunity to benchmark successes, share lessons learned and develop joint strategies for the future,” said Roland Quitoriano, DCMA International host nation program manager. “It’s not only what DCMA wants to share with the other nations, but it’s also an opportunity for DCMA to learn from our partners.”

Quitoriano said the conference enabled the quality assurance professionals to network and develop future strategies together.

“If we have an agreement with a nation, we can request that they perform quality assurance for us on our contracts in their country,” said Quitoriano, “and we reciprocate by doing the same for their contracts in our country.”

In addition to saving money, Quitoriano said the mutual government quality assurance process benefits the United States and its allies by putting quality equipment into warfighters’ hands.

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Another conference participant, Zvi Margalit, Israeli Ministry of National Defense deputy quality assurance minister, said the conference had allowed him to meet people he had only talked with on the phone before. “It is very good to meet the people that we are talking with,” said Margalit. “This meeting is very good and useful.”

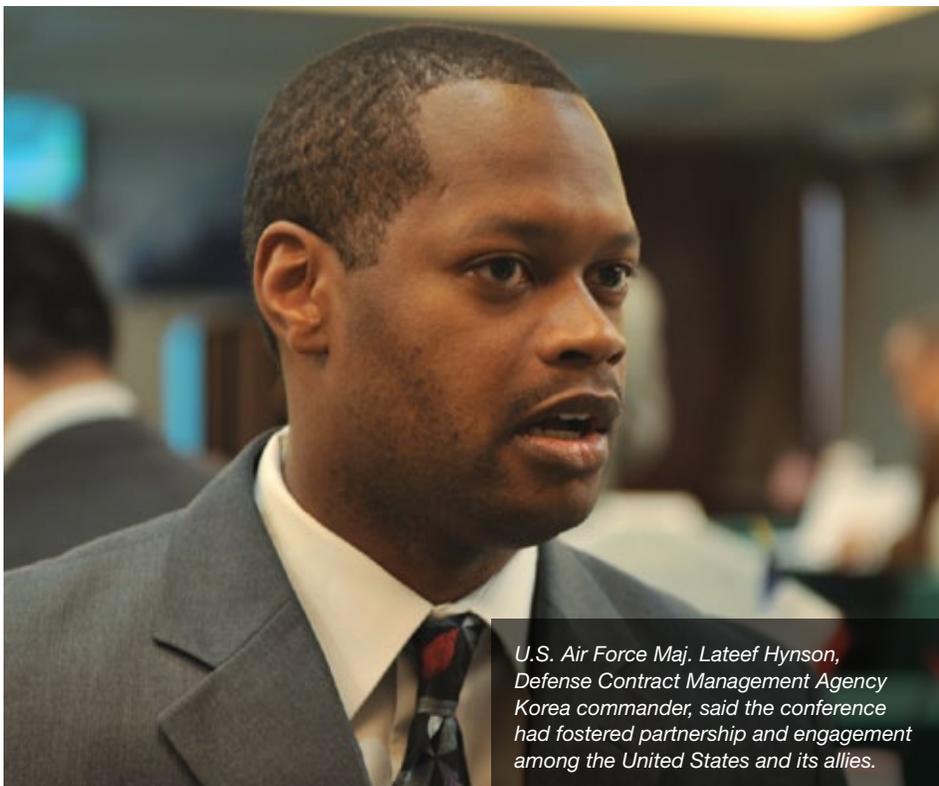
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the conference had fostered greater partnership and engagement among the United States and its allies.

DCMA Korea provides quality assurance on the performance of U.S. contracts for U.S. forces in South Korea and around the globe. DCMA Korea partners with South Korea’s Defense Agency for Technology and Quality, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. “This is the first time (the conference) is in Asia, and it allows everyone the opportunity to see Korea,” Hynson said.

Choi Seong-gyun, South Korea Defense Agency for Technology and Quality Daegu Center team chief, said he was honored to introduce the conference participants to Korea.

“We want to show Korea to other nations,” said Choi, calling the conference, “a good opportunity for us to understand the government assurance system of each country.” 



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