

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY
YANG BERHORMAT DATO SERI SETIA
DR. AWANG HAJI MAT SUNY
BIN HAJI MD HUSSEIN
MINISTER OF ENERGY, MANPOWER AND
INDUSTRY
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

AT THE

THIRD BRUNEI-OMAN JOINT SEMINAR

**Banquet Hall,
Prime Minister's Office Building
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
23 April 2019**

Bismillahi Rahmanir Rahim.

Alhamdulillahil Rabbi 'Alamin

Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Asyrafil Anbiyai Wal Mursalin

Sayyidina Muhammadin Wa 'Ala Alihi Wa Sohbihi Ajma'in.

Your Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy,
Minister of Oil and Gas, Sultanate of Oman,

Your Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-
Maskari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam,

Esteemed Heads of Companies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, and a
Very Good Morning.

1. Let me first of all, extend a warm welcome to you, Your Excellency, and your delegation. We wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Brunei Darussalam.

2. I hope in the midst of your very busy schedule, you will be able to visit some of our interesting destinations, and to taste the flavour of the culture and tradition in Brunei Darussalam.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. It is a great honour for me to join you all for the first time in participating in the Brunei-Oman Joint Seminar.

4. Since its inauguration in 2014, the Seminar has become an important forum for energy dialogue between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman, and has continued to present us with opportunities to further strengthen our bilateral relations.

5. I am confident that this year's seminar will uncover many more areas in which we could further enhance our close cooperation, and promote greater understanding between our people.

6. Since 1986, Brunei Darussalam and Oman have enjoyed a long history of brotherly exchange in oil and gas professionals, for the joint capacity development of our people, particularly through the Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) and the Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). I know from my Shell experience, Omanis enjoy their assignment here in Brunei Darussalam. I am happy to note that we will in fact be hearing from two Omanis that are currently placed in BSP and Brunei LNG as part of the seminar's programme. On the other hand, I must share with His Excellency that Bruneians on cross-posting in Oman seem to almost always request for an extension.

7. The interactions between our cross-postees while on assignment serve to encourage greater collaboration and people to people contact. There is no doubt that close cooperation between our two countries is key in addressing the current and future challenges for the energy sector.

8. We also hope to foster more interactions across other sectors of mutual interest, not just the oil and gas sector.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. The Third Brunei-Oman Joint Seminar with the theme – *“Brunei and Oman Partnership: Strengthening Cooperation Towards Enhancing Resilience”* – has added value to efforts towards expanding our cooperation into other areas within Oil and Gas. Under this theme, we will exchange information and best practices in new technologies, as well as explore opportunities in the upstream and downstream energy sectors of our nations. The scope of this year’s seminar however, will also span further to include the maximization of In-country value and the role of local manpower in the Oil and Gas sector.

10. Brunei Darussalam, under the Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry, has given extra attention in mobilizing local Bruneians to fill employment opportunities where available in the energy sector and other industries.

11. We have issued Directives on local business development in 2011 aimed at ensuring and facilitating the sustainable development of capabilities and competitiveness of local contractors and suppliers, in order to support the oil and gas industry within Brunei Darussalam. The directives not only aim to develop their capabilities locally, but hope to also provide a sound foundation for the pursuit of opportunities overseas.

12. Furthermore, the Bruneianisation Directive was issued in June 2018 for the oil and gas industry, to ensure that Bruneians will take a leading role in this field. The desired outcome of this directive is to maximise employment opportunities for Bruneians at all Levels in the organization; to develop highly competent Bruneian business leaders, professionals, technicians and skilled workers; and to sustain the development of the oil and gas industry.

13. These directives have been instrumental in ensuring that the development of our energy sector creates employment and business growth opportunities for locals. We plan on extending similar directives to other sectors.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

14. We view Oman as a global frontrunner who has embarked on a similar journey before this, and hope to garner valuable insights from your experience.

15. We therefore would like to look towards Oman in the implementation of its localization strategies in the oil and gas industry. This Seminar therefore will provide an ideal opportunity for us to discuss, share and learn from each other especially in areas of success, in boosting local content and securing high participation of local workforce in the energy sector.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

16. I believe this Seminar is key in our drive towards enhancing the mutual development of the Oil and Gas sectors for both Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.

17. I wish all presenters and moderators success in all your deliberations. To participants, I encourage

everyone to engage in fruitful dialogue and make use of all the expertise and wisdom present here today.

18. With the Kalimah, Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim...I have much pleasure to officiate the Third Brunei-Oman Joint Seminar.

Thank you, and I hope you will have time to explore our country and enjoy your stay here.

Wabillahit Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamu'alaikum
Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh.