

**Speech of Guest of Honour of 1st AAPG Geosciences Technology  
Workshop in Brunei Darussalam (12<sup>th</sup> March 2013)**

**Hj Azhar bin Hj Yahya, Permanent Secretary (Upstream)**

**Bismillah Hirrahman Nir Rahim**

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

The Co- Chairman of the AAPG Geoscience Technology Workshop

- Pg Dr Abd Razak bin Pg Hj Damit
- Mr Herman Darman

Dr Peter Baille, the president of AAPG Asia Pacific,

Distinguished Guests and Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you to our Wonderful country, Brunei Darussalam “the Abode of Peace” and sincerely hope you will have a pleasant experience while staying over here.

I am quite honoured to be given the opportunity to open the AAPG Geoscience Technology Workshop today. Before I proceed any further I would like to echo the sentiment of Dr Razak with respect to the recent tragic loss of life of two of our University Brunei Students while on a

geological fieldtrip recently. To this I cannot re-emphasize enough the importance of HSSE in our line of work. We in the industry should and must show a leading example in this aspect in order to prevent unpleasant incident. We, geoscientists and explorers are quite well adapt of judging the risk in our play, prospects and fields, but at the same time we should also be fully adapt at judging the risk to the environment, properties, ourselves and others during our daily activities.

Probably some of you have already guess, I am actually one of you. I am a geoscientist and explorer true and true. I also have experienced the trail and tribulation of being a geoscientist and an explorer and hence I do *understand most of your predicament*. On this, I fully appreciate the endeavor of AAPG to conduct their renowned and popular Geosciences Technical Workshop in Brunei. I believe this is the first time that any International Geoscience Society has conducted a conference in this country or even Borneo for that matter. As you can see Brunei Darussalam has a flourishing and established Geoscience community. Our conference facilities are equally as good to other in this region and we are actually quite central in term of location. I also appreciate the fact that AAPG is also working together with the Geological Society of Brunei in organizing this wonderful event and also the fact that this initiative is supported by our own National oil Company, PetroleumBRUNEI. Most of our Deep water block operators in the country such as Brunei Shell Petroleum, Shell Deepwater Borneo, PETRONAS Carigali Brunei Limited and Total EP Deep Offshore Borneo have given strong support by sending many delegates as

well as presenting various technical papers and relevant sponsorship to support this event. I strongly applaud this support and cooperation. I hope that similar support and cooperation is given for similar initiative in the future. I also understand that the turn out for this workshop is very good indeed and the organizer has managed to line-up a series of excellent presentation topics from various operators and technology providers in the region and beyond. I strongly believe and do encourage knowledge sharing and best practices especially between various operators in the region as it can only lead to progress and a "Win-Win" situation. Knowledge alone is not enough, one must be able to apply it effectively in this profession. Players of the industry should not be too engrossed in competing only but much more on complimenting each other and working together. Only with that attitude can our industry become stronger in the face of more difficult challenges ahead. If the Industry become stronger and move forward, everybody benefit not only to the IOC and NOCs but also to the society in general. A good example is the large scale seismic acquisition carried out now in the shallow water which is done jointly with a number of operators which not only save cost but also enable much better data quality that satisfy each operator's need.

As you know Brunei has a very long History in Hydrocarbon industry, which started almost, a century ago with the finding of the giant billion barrels Seria Field. Unfortunately after so many barrels of continuous production that as common to any field, big or small, almost everyone seems to forget that it's all started with that one curious explorer and that one

discovery well. Popular legend has it that the geologist who discovered Seria actually smelled the oil as he cycled on the beach during a survey. I think we have move in stride since then in advancement of technology. Brunei Darussalam can be considered relatively mature with numerous discoveries especially in the shallow offshore area. Yet thanks again to the endeavour of the curious geologists, discoveries are still being made in these so called mature areas. These continuing discoveries also demonstrate one fine trait of a successful explorer of "never say never even in the face of adversity or doubter". Often these discoveries are made by application of new technologies and sound geological principles.

As common with other area, Brunei has also move to the Deepwater frontier area, which is a fitting and timely theme of this geotechnical conference "Asia Pacific Deepwater, Exploration and Plays". Brunei exploration effort in this deep-water area is still at an early phase, nevertheless it is imperative that even at this early phase that we do it right. I hope that by having this Geoscience Technology Workshop in Brunei Darussalam will benefit our operators from the experience of other operators in other regions and vice versa.

I guess Brunei Darussalam is quite unique in certain aspect. The acreages in Brunei Darussalam is mostly covered with wall-to-wall 3D seismic, numerous wells for calibration and an excellent exposure onshore for direct geological analogue of the depositional system that I believe some of you will have the pleasure of visiting as part of the programme. But even then,

most of this is from the shallow water area. Therefore in that respect I think most of our knowledge of the deepwater realm either exploration or production not only in Brunei but also the region as a whole is still at infancy. There is still a lot of thing that we don't know. However I call this gap in knowledge as an opportunity to be creative, to apply novel way of thinking and innovation and the chance to application and experimentation with new technology either in the field of data acquisition, drilling and production/operational technology in order to find cheaper and faster way of finding and maturing discoveries. Oil and gas will not benefit anybody if it stays in the ground. There is a long and challenging bumpy road which is full of twist and turn ahead of us but I do believe with strong cooperation between all parties concerned, the IOCs, NOC and relevant government regulatory bodies, that road ahead will become easier and after all we are all in the same boat.

Once again, I wish to thank the organizer AAPG and all parties involved for inviting me to grace this wonderful event and for putting Brunei Darussalam on the geosciences map for the entire world to wonder. I also wish you all to enjoy the numerous beauty of our country and the hospitality of its people. Last of all have a wonderful, educational and safe conference. I hope you will have benefited from this workshop as much as you contribute to it.

Wabillah hi taufik wal hidayah, waassalammualaikum warahmahtullah hi wabarakatuh.

Terima Kaseh.