

**BNERI Annual Conference 2014**  
**YB Pehin Dato (Dr.) Hj. Mohammad Yasmin Umar**  
**Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. And a very Good Morning.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia,

Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Ali bin Apong, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office,

Mr Adnan A. Aziz, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency,

Your Excellencies High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps,

International guests, Senior Government Officials,

CEOs & Managing Directors of oil and gas companies,

Students from higher education institutes,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the inaugural (*in-au-gu-ral*) Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI) International Conference. We highly appreciate your presence and willingness to share your experience and lesson-learnt in the various fields of energy and energy policies. I will be very brief as I wish to make way to the very interesting line of speakers that we have at this morning's Conference.

2. The Brunei Darussalam Energy White Paper launched yesterday by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sets the targets that Brunei Darussalam sought to achieve in order to have a more secured and sustainable energy for its social, economic and political well-being. The conference's theme "*Future Secure and Sustainable Energy Landscape for Brunei*" is therefore timely.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

3. Brunei's average annual oil and gas production is around 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, and the sector contributes to more than 60 percent of the GDP. Oil and gas are finite resources, therefore while maintaining a sound economic growth, we need to pay more attention to more efficient and prudent use of our energy resources, taking due consideration on the climate change agenda.
4. Sustainable development of the country requires our devoted attention to energy security. As energy producer and exporter, energy security for Brunei Darussalam depends heavily on its economic resilience particularly in light of future uncertainties in oil and gas. Brunei Darussalam needs to take serious consideration especially on practical policy and strategies that would enhance energy technology and management, efficient use of energy, clean energy promotion, and development of alternative and renewable energy, including research and development of innovative technologies.
5. We recognise that we will still be depending on our energy sector for years to come for our economy, while we continue to develop other sectors. It is therefore important for us to continue to sustain our economic growth through diversification of the energy sector. And this requires a systematic approach and concerted efforts by all parties concerned.

6. The Energy Department, Prime Minister's Office (EDPMO) has thus introduced the Energy White Paper that sets out three (3) strategic goals coupled by its respective KPIs – of which will guide us in achieving our vision for a “Sustainable Energy for Brunei Darussalam's Prosperity”. We are working hand in hand with our local, regional and international, private and public partners, to ensure that a welcoming and conducive investment environment continues to exist.
7. Achieving target as stated on the Energy White Paper needs long term energy development policies and programs and to ensure that those policies and programs are in action and synchronise (or in harmony) with the economic growth of Brunei Darussalam under Wawasan Brunei 2035. We expect that this conference can assist us to inspire innovative ways based on policy research solutions.
8. We have a diverse group of speakers today whom are from esteemed international organisations as well as members of the BNERI International Advisory Board. It would be such a privilege to hear these experts' views on our Energy White Paper.
9. I really hope that we can have an interactive Conference with takeaways that are tangible and forward moving. We have such a diverse group today- from senior-level Government officials to students. I look forward to a robust discussion in the next hour or so. We plan to make this a yearly event to held back to back with the BNERI International Advisory Board Meeting so I hope that today's Conference will set a high-standard precedent to subsequent conferences.
10. Before I close my remarks, I would like to congratulate the organising committee for organising the BNERI International Conference led by BNERI CEO on their hard work in putting this all together.

11. I wish you all a successful Conference, thank you very much.

With the kalimah Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim, salawat and salam to our prophet Muhammad Salullahu Alaihi Wassalam, **I am pleased to declare this “BNERI International Conference 2014” opened.**

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalammualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.