

**Speech By**  
**YB Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Mohammad Yasmin**  
**Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office**  
**The 1<sup>st</sup> Brunei Darussalam-Oman Joint Seminar on Energy**  
**Banquet Hall, Prime Minister's Office Complex**  
**25 November 2-14**

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim,

All praise be to Allah Subbahanhu Wataala, salawat and salam upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'alaihi Wassalam, his family, companions and faithful and honest followers till the end of time.

Assalamualaikum Warahatullahi Wabarakatuh and Very Good Morning.

Your Excellency Mr. Salim Al-Aufi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Sultanate of Oman and members of the Omani delegations,

Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries,

Senior Government Officials and members of the private sectors,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. First and foremost, please allow me to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome and thanks to Your Excellency Mr. Salim Al-Aufi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil and Gas of the Sultanate of Oman, and members of your delegation for giving us the honour of your presence in Brunei Darussalam and to be with us today at this historic event that commemorates our two nations' cooperation in the field of energy, especially in the area of oil and gas.

2. Brunei Darussalam and Oman's special bilateral relations was underlined during His Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam's State Visit to the Sultanate of Oman in April 2009, where both His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Said Al-Said discussed and called for ways to be found to further enhance and improve our relationship and strengthen our bilateral ties. Again, the special relationship was further enhanced by the official visit of His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office to the Sultanate of Oman earlier in February this year, where His Royal Highness also had an audience with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Said Al-Said.
3. The year 2014 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year since Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman formally entered into a diplomatic relationship, quite soon after we achieved our full independence. Over the years, we have seen many exchanges of official visits and discussion at Ministerial and Senior Officials' levels resulting in the signing of many important agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) covering a wide spectra of areas of cooperation including energy, investment, avoidance of double taxation as well as cultural exchanges.
4. Today we have 22 Omanis currently on cross-posting with Brunei's oil and gas companies - some are here with us this morning, whilst at the same time, 22 Bruneians are working in Oman, including cross-postees and direct hires. I hope that this number will be further increased in the years to come as such cross-postings are mutually beneficial not only in terms of acquiring knowledge but

also in fostering friendship and understanding between the people of the two countries.

5. The Brunei-Oman Joint Seminar, which starts today, is one of the results of the 14<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam-Oman Bilateral Consultative Meeting held earlier this year in Oman. This event is a new and further extension of the cooperation by both countries in energy. The theme “Enhancing Partnership Towards Energy Sustainability’ is appropriate as both Brunei Darussalam and Oman heavily relies on oil and gas as the main backbone of their economies. Both economies seek sustainability in the energy sector that integrates economic, social and environmental aspects.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

6. Before I conclude, please allow me to thank the Organizing Committee for their hard work in making this seminar a reality. This joint seminar would not be possible without the strong support accorded to us by His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Oman Minister of Oil and Gas and members of his staff. I would also like to acknowledge the good work by His Excellency Ahmed bin Hashil Al-Maskari, Ambassador of Oman to Brunei Darussalam and his staff in ensuring that this event would be successful. I trust we will gain lessons learnt from this 3-day event in order to improve further on the next one.
7. I look forward to receiving the report on outcome of this seminar which I was made to understand will include a roadmap on the follow-up of energy cooperation between our two countries.

8. With the kalimah Bismillah Hirrahaman Nirrahim, Salawat and Salam to our prophet Muhammad Salullahu Alaihi Wassalam, I declare open the 1<sup>st</sup> Brunei Darussalam-Oman Joint Energy Seminar.

Thank you.

*WABILLAH*      *TAUFIK*      *WALHIDAYAH*      *WASSALAMU'ALAIKUM*  
*WARAHMATULLAH* *WABARAKAATUH.*