

Keynote Speech by YB Minister of Energy

4th ASEAN CIO Forum

8-9 June 2015

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim

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

Assalamualaikum Waa'rahmatullahi Waa'barakatuh and a very good morning.

Your Excellencies High Commissioners and Ambassadors,
Permanent Secretaries,

Yang Mulia Adi Shamsul bin Haji Sabli, Deputy Permanent Secretary (IT & E-Government) at the Prime Minister's Office

Yang Mulia Muhammad Norshafiee bin Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Director of E-Government National Centre, Prime Minister's Office

Senior Government Officials,
Speakers and Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First of all, it is a great honour for me to be with you all at this 4th ASEAN CIO Forum and the first to be held in Brunei Darussalam. The theme for the Forum this year is “Global Competitiveness – Optimising Technological Advances”. I was made to understand that there are 14 delegates attending this ASEAN CIO Forum, therefore making this Forum one of the most attended ASEAN CIO Forums to date.

2. In this modern world, ICT play an essential role in our daily lives. As a country, ICT allows us to increase our global competitiveness through optimization of opportunities provided by the ever-advancing technologies.

3. It is for this very reason that the Government of His Majesty and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam has embarked on key programmes and spending in the ICT sector since the introduction of the E-Government programme in 2001, including the spending of more than half a billion Brunei Dollars, much of it spent over the last five years, in various ICT projects. These key programmes include:

- i. The investment in IT infrastructure and systems has seen tremendous progress such as a secure Government-wide network, the establishment of world class data centers and facilities, standardized shared services and various enterprise government systems. The Government is committed to continuing

investment in this area taking into account our Vision 2035 for Brunei to be recognized for the accomplishments of its educated people, the quality of life and its dynamic and sustainable economy.

- ii. Apart from investing on infrastructure, we are also investing in local human resources and developing sustainable local businesses in the ICT sector. Our focus is on developing technical competencies of locals in line with the industry trends. This in turn would provide a more sustainable environment for local ICT businesses to flourish. There is much scope for Brunei to develop an industry competency framework for the ICT sector. The contribution of the industry in this instance is quite important to the success of this proposed industry competency framework.

4. Finally, looking forward to the future, the Government has recently embarked on a new five-year strategic plan called the Digital Government Strategy 2015-2020. We are evolving from a focus on systems and e-services to a Whole-of-Government approach towards innovation and service provision. This would lead to the digital transformation of the Government where services would be made **simpler, faster** and **more accessible** by taking into account the need of the citizens and the business community for services that cut across multiple agencies. We also want to put in place a two-way communication platform where

the public could **contribute and participate** in the development of national policies and other matters of public interest.

5. We recognize that ICT development plays an essential role in helping ASEAN to achieve its ASEAN Economic Community aspirations. On this, I am certain that our ambition and vision for a Digital Government is one that is shared by our ASEAN neighbours and indeed governments the world over.

6. My sincere thanks goes to our distinguished international delegates, speakers and all participants for their presence today at the launch of the 4th ASEAN CIO Forum as well as our Digital Government Strategy 2015-2020.

7. Last but not least I would like to thank the organizing committee from the E-Government National Centre, Brunei Darussalam for their effort and hard work in organizing this forum.

To all our honourable delegates from ASEAN Member Countries, please spare some of your precious time to visit and enjoy some of the sights and the hospitality that Brunei Darussalam has to offer.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah Wassalamu'alaikum
Waramahtullahi Wabarakaatuh

