

Guest of Honour's Speech
Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (R) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.)
Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar
Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office
Contract Signing for the Provision of Integrated Oil Country Tubular
Goods Supply and Local Threading Plant Project
Member's Lounge, Empire Hotel
26 November 2014

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 Afternoon.

Her Excellency Noriko Iki, Japan Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam,

Mr. Yap Kong Fah, Acting Managing Director, Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad,

Mr. Wayne Hutchinson, Vice President Contracting & Procurement, Shell Global Solutions International,

Mr. Toshihiko Kunishi, Executive Officer, Vice Head of Unit, Pipe & Tube Unit, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation,

Mr. Shuichi Suzuki, Executive Officer, General Manager, Tubular Products Division, Sumitomo Corporation,

Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is a great honour for me to be here together with all of you and to witness in just a short while, the signing of the contract for the provision of the very first integrated oil country tubular goods supply and local threading plant here in Brunei Darussalam.
2. I would like to congratulate all parties involved for their hard work and cooperation in bringing this important project to this country, and with it the benefits not only to the domestic oil and gas industry, but also spin-offs in terms of support services and local employment opportunities. In particular, I would like to provide a very special mention to the contributions made by our foreign direct investors, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation as well as the Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources, Brunei Economic Development Board and the Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad.
3. The Plant will be built at the Salambigar Industrial Estate, an area that has been developed by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam through the Brunei Economic Development Board with specialized projects such as this in mind. From the perspective of the Government, this project will not only bring in Foreign Direct Investment but also equally important transfer of technology and knowledge from Japan, a nation well-known for its technological advancement and innovation. Whilst serving as an important and latest milestone in the long history of economic ties between Brunei Darussalam and Japan, this project also further satisfied the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam's vision and strong commitment on bringing in FDIs that would contribute to further diversification of Brunei Darussalam's economy.

4. The infusion of investments by both the Government in preparing the industrial estate and others, including those at Pulau Muara Besar, Bukit Panggal in Tutong and Sungai Duhon in Kuala Belait and in this particular project by internationally renowned companies like Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation demonstrate the confidence that we all have in the future of the oil and gas industry not only in Brunei Darussalam but the region as a whole, even under the current challenging environment for the upstream producers especially in respect to the oil and gas market.
5. I believe that this project would serve as a very important catalyst in attracting and bringing in more would be investors to come to Brunei Darussalam and to look closely at what the country has to offer in terms of facilities and opportunities not only in activities that relate directly to oil and gas, but also in other economic sectors.
6. The Energy Department of the Prime Minister's Office is mindful that having a pool of readily available professionals and technical workforce is a key component in ensuring the sustainability of the country's oil and gas. On this we have through close cooperation with other agencies within the Government including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Communication and the industry players including BSP, introduced the Energy Industry Competency Framework or in short the EICF. The EICF is designed to provide technical and vocational trainings to young locals so that upon graduating from these trainings, they are immediately ready for employment. I noted that the threading plant will require technical staff once operational, I would therefore like to ask the parties involved to discuss the operation's staffing and support services' requirement so that we could prepare for and maximize locals and local SMEs involvement in the project and its operation as early as possible.

7. In addition, our manpower resources, be it at management or staff level should be implanted with high ethical values of honesty including in matters relating to business integrity. It is important that this requirement is strictly observed by all, management and staff alike with zero tolerance to anyone breaching this requirement. Therefore apart from providing technical and vocational trainings, courses being provided at the teaching institutions should also include syllabus on law, governance and religious values on the important of honesty and observation of ethical business values. This measure will help us maintain a favourable business environment for both businesses and investors alike, one that promotes fair competition and discourages unhealthy practices such as corruptions, monopoly and so on. The latter practices often result in material, legal and financial consequences for the corporation as well as the individuals concerned.
8. Before I conclude, I would like to invite everyone here to join me in prayer to Allah Subbahanhu Wataala for the continuous prosperity and well-beings of our beloved and wise ruler, Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam and Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, members of the Royal family and for the people of Negara Brunei Darussalam as a whole, and also in seeking the blessings of Allah Subbahanhu Wataala for the safe and timely implementation of the Project.

9. I would also like to remind all parties involved in the construction and commissioning phase, for the activities to be conducted with due regard to all the legal requirements and the observation of the best Health, Safety, Security and Environment standard. And lastly, please allow me to again express my appreciation to Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad and Nippon Steel Sumitomo Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation for the invitation to this very important function.

Wabillahi Taufil Walhidayah. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi and thank you.