

**TEKS UCAPAN YANG BERHORMAT, DATO SERI SETIA IR**  
**AWG HAJI SUHAIMI BIN HAJI GAFAR, MENTERI PEMBANGUNAN**  
**SEMASA MAJLIS MAKAN MALAM SEMPENA**  
**SAMBUTAN ULANG TAHUN**  
**THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (IET)**  
**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM LOCAL NETWORK YANG KE – 20 TAHUN PADA**  
**18 OGOS 2018 DI RADISSON HOTEL, BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
الحمد لله رب العالمين  
والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين  
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين  
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Good Evening and Salam Sejahtera

Alhamdulillah, praises to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala for allowing us to gather here tonight at the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Brunei Darussalam Local Network 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Congratulations to all IET members in Brunei in achieving this important milestone.

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the IET Brunei Local Network for inviting me to this auspicious occasion.

To set the scene, let me just say that there are various strategies for economic diversification to reduce our reliance on oil and gas in which more than half of our economy is currently made up of. Amongst them are our efforts at improving the business climate in the country, to facilitate the attraction of

foreign direct investment (FDI), and the strengthening of Government Linked Companies (GLCs) governance and the priming of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for improved productivities and growth opportunities.

On another perspective, we have seen around the world the positive impacts and intangible benefits of the role that professional societies have as a force multiplier in national development. Their traditional role for research and the publication of journals has today evolved to become itself a significant voice in the shaping of policies to spur research and innovation at the grass root levels of society and local businesses for an inclusive and sustainable national growth.

This includes the paradigm shift and the creation of a national ecosystem that promotes knowledge production, dissemination and utilization that is people centered, based on Human Resource Development (HRD) policies both in the public and private sectors which are inline with professional development criterias to support the socio-economic development that is needed to realise our Wawasan Brunei 2035. Though all of this, it is possible to create an economy that is more innovation and knowledge based rather than the resource based economy that we are currently in.

Having said all that, much is still to be desired in terms of our capacity for increased collaboration for innovation and research between our industries in the public and private sectors with our academic institutions. The socio-economic ecosystem to encourage sustainable innovation and more research opportunities needs to be established and cultivated. Together with this, our Human Resource Development (HRD) policies in both public and private sectors need to be matched with international professional development standards and with the creation of opportunities for competency development needed for professional registration within our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) community. This win-win symbiosis

no doubt will in turn give the much-needed uplift to the ratings of our academic institutions that eventually will translate to a more informed, adaptive and dynamic workforce for the future of Brunei Darussalam.

However, for an innovation and knowledge-based economy, there comes with it the element of a willingness to try, to apply oneself without embarrassment, the social acceptance of failures, the ability to continually adapt and not give up. Through grit and determination, together with the proper incentive policies and positive encouragement, the capacity and capability to manage these risks must not become a hindrance to unleashing the power of the ideas, creative energies and initiatives to further mobilise our grassroots society and our local businesses. Through a whole of government and whole of society approach, we have seen examples of how this aspiration has flourished in other societies around the world.

I believe, that the capability and the capacity to achieve this aspiration are also already embedded within our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) community in Brunei. Thus, we are urging our STEM community to be affiliated and be more involved with professional societies like the IET in Brunei. Because, with the right synergistic mix of professionals having a wide range of multidisciplinary backgrounds, and with enough membership support, professional societies like the IET Brunei can lead and aspire to do just that.

I am, therefore, delighted to see that the vision and mission of IET Brunei is to share and advance knowledge towards national development through open, flexible and unlimited knowledge network, to establish and instill the culture of professionalism and to promote and assist IET member development through various networking and mentorship initiatives leading to professional registration.

It is also humbling to note that IET throughout the world has established its values of Integrity, Excellence and Teamwork to Inspire, Inform and Influence our next generation of scientists, technicians and engineers, and to the wider Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) community to advance society from the grassroots levels up to the public and private sectors. The vision of IET to engineer a better world, together with the above mission statement and its values in my opinion is in itself already a solid and established strategy that will complement our efforts in achieving our overall national goals. In shaa Allah.

On that note, I would like to congratulate again IET Brunei for all the achievements that it has accomplished in the last 20 years. I am deeply humbled and grateful to the vision and passion of IET Brunei pioneer members and all its voluntary members throughout the last 20 years who have contributed unconditionally and who have sacrificed unselfishly their spare time and efforts in order to give back to society for the greater good. This is the spirit of volunteerism that is the strength of IET Brunei Darussalam, which can be modelled by other professional societies in Brunei. It is said that volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have... the heart.

Our heartfelt praise and commendation also goes out to our youths, our successors and our future generation of leaders in the IET Young Professional Section (YPS) for all your efforts including the organisation of IET's Annual Faraday's Challenge with the kind and generous support from OGDC - have seen increased participation from schools in the past few years. I am for sure looking forward to see the Faraday Challenge in Brunei grow and be represented at the regional level. Our deep gratitude as well to those who have participated in IET Present Around the World Competition at the national level and congratulations to those that have represented Brunei at the regional level the past few years. Also to IET On Campus Societies notably from Politeknik Brunei and Universiti Teknologi Brunei, which I hope will expand to

other academic institutions as well. Do continue to remain active, passionate, enthusiastic and inspired in the pursuit of professionalism, knowledge, academic excellence and lifelong development.

On a final note, I dare say that IET Brunei Darussalam Local Network is here to stay... and the Ministry of Development looks forward to support all its initiatives in the near and far future. Well done to the IET Brunei Committee, sponsors and staff of Radisson Hotel in the organising of this event.

وابيلاهي توفيق والهداية  
والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Thank you