



**SPEECH BY
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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**FOURTH ASIA PACIFIC WATER SUMMIT
(4th APWS)**

**SATURDAY, 23rd APRIL 2022
KUMAMOTO
JAPAN**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين
وإسلامة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

- His Excellency
Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan
- Excellencies
Head of States, Ministers, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

اسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Warm Greetings and a very good day to everyone

1. First and Foremost, allow me to express Brunei Darussalam's deepest condolences to the government and people of Japan for the lives lost and destruction caused by the 2016 earthquake

2. At the outset, representing Brunei Darussalam, please allow me to express my utmost appreciation to His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan and The Joint Executive Committee of the 4th Asia Pacific Water Summit for inviting us to today's event and to extend my sincere congratulation for successfully organizing today's event. I would also like to thank you and sincerely appreciates for the excellent hospitality of the government of Japan and City of Kumamoto has given us since our arrival.

3. We acknowledge the vital need for addressing water challenges especially in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. We call upon concerted voice in learning and re-learning our ways to manage future related challenges by exploring best practices and to pursue growth while at the same time to cope with evolving threats for our future generations.

Ladies and Gentleman

4. This is clearly highlighted in the Non-legally binding Kumamoto Declaration which addresses the three main areas that this summit wishes to discuss, which includes **Improved Governance; Closing Financial Gap; and Appeal for the science and technology community.**

5. Indeed, we agree that the thematic concept as stated is vital if we are to address the current situation of water supply and balance, in particular towards aiming for sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. In dealing with water security as well as facing the challenges of water scarcity issues and climatic change, Brunei is of no exception to such predicament. In turn, we would like to share the experiences and current status on the development of water resources and water supply in Brunei Darussalam, the challenges and national water issues that we faced towards achieving sustainability in every aspect.

7. In the context of Brunei Darussalam, we are fortunate that we are able to provide 100% of its population, with potable water with quality within World Health Organization International Water Quality Guidelines. This coverage includes those living in the few rural areas, where access by road is unavailable, and supply of water is provided by the installation of individual community water purification system by utilizing slow sand filtration systems. The system is well managed by the villages with quarterly monitoring and continuous support from the Water Services Department, Public Works Department.

8. The overall water supply and demand sustainability in Brunei is largely achieved mainly due to various factors which includes and not limited to; the manageable size of the country's population; the considerably small geographical land area; adequate available water resources; and relatively strong economic conditions to provide financial support for the sustainability of these provided services.

9. However, it is undeniable that the greatest challenge the country's facing is the increasing demand due to population growth and industrial development coupled with the ongoing issue of global warming and the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. To ensure a clear vision to address these challenges, the ministry have formed the Water Security Framework 2021 - 2035 that addresses four key strategies adopted to increase robustness of the overall water supply system of the country covering all aspects of water supply management, which includes water

resources & production; water network efficiency; water quality; and water governance.

11. Such efforts is reflected through our government's efforts in the application of reservoir conservation and development, water conservation policies and programs, water governance and demand management, as well as enforcements to tackle issues related to water pollution and uncontrolled development that pose serious negative impact to water resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. Brunei Darussalam is also on its way in exploring current technological advancements in addressing and tackling water issues, which primarily includes improvements to Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping, new meter management programme, upgrading telemetry system, planned maintenance programme as well as improvement to water infrastructures maintenance system.

13. Towards this, we acknowledge that financing needs of water infrastructure development are huge, where most infrastructure projects tend to be capital intensive. This is one of the many challenges that countries are facing in search for the appropriate financing approaches and incentives to suit their own condition.

14. There is no 'one solution' to the many challenges that we faced. At the same time, strategic assistance is still required to better develop the approach and implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management due to the relatively small pool of technical expertise available locally.

15. At this point, all infrastructure projects in Brunei Darussalam are and has been financed by the country's national revenue generation and with worldwide current popular adaption of Public Private Partnership financial system on infrastructure development, we will make use of the possibility of adapting the system. But consideration will be taken to the low income population so that full accessibility to the basic needs can be achieved by ALL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

16. Brunei continues to stand for multilateralism, unity and regional cooperation especially in tackling water challenges. For this and towards the benefit of all, Brunei is committed to work together not just as a community, regional members but global participants as well in our efforts for sustainable water management.

17. Before I end my statement, please allow me to iterate and highlight Brunei Darussalam full support and commitment in principal to the Non-Legally Binding Kumamoto Declaration to

be adopted as a way forward for us in achieving mutual goals. We are confident that the declaration can bring us into a more heightened and new level of cooperation and coordination in addressing water related issues.

18. To this end, we mark our current initiatives and future related effort as our commitments to the agenda and looking forward for the successful implementation of our concerted agreement during this summit and across all Member States in achieving mutual goals. I wish all Head of States, Ministers and delegates pleasant discussion and hope for our better future.

Thank You

Wabillahi Taufik WalHidayah
Wassalamu'alaiukm Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh