



**OPENING REMARKS
YANG BERHORMAT DATO SERI SERTIA Ir.
AWG. HAJI SUHAIMI BIN HAJI GAFAR
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT**

**AS CO-CHAIR OF
THE BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NATIONAL
COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**“OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF
THE BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NATIONAL
CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY”**

**25 JULY 2020
BANQUET HALL, PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE**

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

Yang Berhormat,

Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong
Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism
National Council Member on Climate Change, BNCCC

Yang Berhormat,

Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato
Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof
Minister of Transport and Infocommunications
National Council Member on Climate Change, BNCCC

Yang Mulia,

Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw
Acting Minister of Energy
National Council Member on Climate Change, BNCCC

Yang Mulia,

Dato Seri Paduka Ar. Awang Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin,
Deputy Minister of Development

Yang Berhormat,

Dayang Khairunnisa binti Awang Haji Ash'ari
Member of the Legislative Council and Co-Founder of Green Brunei

Yang Mulia,

Awang Haji Azhar bin Haji Yahya

Permanent Secretary (Energy) at the Ministry of Energy
as Chair of the Executive Committee on Climate Change

Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Managing Directors, Chief Executive Officers, Senior Officials, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, and a very good morning.

1. Alhamdulillah, Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadaullah ibni Al-Mahrum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam has consented for the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP) to serve as the national policy governing climate change issues. Today will mark the officiation and release of the policy document.
2. It gives me great pleasure to address you on this auspicious occasion of the "Launching of the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy document" this morning.

(COVID-19)

3. Alhamdulillah, Brunei Darussalam has started implementing de-escalation plans related to COVID-19. Since restrictions were in place in March this year, daily activities have lessened, altering the patterns of Green House gas emissions in Brunei. A reduction of about 36 percent in the Green House

Gas emissions in the industrial sector was observed in first Quarter (Q1) of this year compared to last year, and at the same time, 7 percent increase in the residential sector. For the land transportation sector, the Green House Gas emissions declined by 11 percent and a further reduction of 8 percent in March and April respectively. Emissions from the aviation sector dropped to a high 75 percent in April 2020.

4. These temporary reductions may be short-lived, but it shows us the possibilities of running our daily lives in a less carbon-intensive way. So now as we ramp up our activities in the weeks to come, it is an opportunity to re-examine our operations again.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

(Global Climate Change)

5. The earth is heating up. The annual average global temperature is likely to be at least 1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels and will likely reach the dangerous 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold as early as 2030. Globally, we just had the warmest five years and the warmest decade on record, with 2020 set to become another exceptionally warm year.
6. Glaciers are receding at an alarming rate, consistent with the projected sea level rise up to 1.1m by end of the century, threatening low-lying coastal zones. The recent Amazon forest fire, Europe heatwaves, Japan Typhoon Hagibis, Australian fire and Jakarta floods were among the extreme weather events, that could happen more frequent with greater intensities, if the global Green House Gas emissions continues at the current rate leading the

global temperature to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius. The world is at a state of “climate emergency.”

(Climate Impacts in Brunei)

7. Although Brunei only contributes to about 0.025 percent of the global Green House Gas emissions, we are vulnerable to the changing climate due to our size and location. Brunei’s mean temperature has already increased by 1.25 degrees Celsius and expected to further increase up to 4 degrees Celsius by year 2100. We recorded our warmest year in 2016 and our new highest daily rainfall in September last year. 2019 also saw the highest forest fire cases reported in the last ten years.
8. So, climate change is happening here at our very home, leaving our livelihoods, environment, infrastructure, wildlife, health and most importantly, food security at stake. We must enhance our ability to better cope with the impacts of climate change. And most importantly, we must mitigate our own Green House Gas emissions to effectively reduce the risks from the source point.

(Brunei GHG Emissions)

9. Most of Brunei’s Green House Gas emissions is from the energy sector accounting to more than 80 percent of the total emissions. Further to that, Brunei has among the highest annual carbon footprint per person in the region at 10 tonnes of CO2 equivalent, needing about 200 trees to offset.

(Brunei Economy into Low Carbon Transition)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Brunei Darussalam have come a long way as an oil and gas country for over 90 years now, and as we progress our development into realising the Wawasan Brunei 2035 aspirations, for our economic growth and local employment, more and more energy-intensive industries are emerging. With the on-going investments, we will see our Green House Gas emissions to surge more than double in the next 15 years.
11. With that, we must advance Brunei Darussalam towards a low carbon transition to further stimulate its development moving forward. It is crucial that we start decarbonisation efforts now, before we are locked into a future with higher climate risks. The very first step to this would be through our first policy instrument on climate change, "The Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy".

(The BNCCP)

12. The BNCCP seeks to support and advance Brunei Darussalam's economic growth in a low-carbon manner while achieving resilience against the changing climate, by paving the necessary pathways through the 10 key strategies with potential areas for Green House Gas emissions reduction, within our national circumstances. These reduction objectives are articulated based on the principles of the Maqasid of the Shari'ah to ensure that our

climate actions, support the preservation and promotion of Faith, Life, Intellect, Progeny and Wealth respectively.

13. The BNCCP intends to reduce Green House Gas emissions through reducing industrial emissions including zero-flaring, forest cover, electric vehicles, renewable energy, power management, carbon pricing and waste management. It's also intend to increase Brunei capacity to adapt to climate impacts and in achieving resilience. As a tool to ensure, that both mitigation and adaptation efforts could be successfully implemented and fully participated, the BNCCP further seeks to make Green House Gas inventory reporting, mandatory and most importantly, to increase awareness and education surrounding both climate mitigation and adaptation.
14. The BNCCP emphasises the vital role of rainforests, peat forests and mangroves that act as our natural carbon sinks absorbing most of our Green House Gas emissions. At the same time, reminding us the richness of biodiversity in Brunei Darussalam.
15. The BNCCP also has the potential to reduce Brunei Green House Gas emissions to more than 50 percent by 2035 compared to the Business-as-Usual scenario. This will open up new opportunities for a "low-carbon" or green industry growth in Brunei Darussalam and subsequently unlock multiple potentials such as local business development, local employment and competencies, digital technologies, R&D and FDIs.
16. Further to that, the lead agency from various Ministries for each of the 10 key strategies are identified as the champion to advance the respective

strategies, reaffirming the multisectoral nature of climate change that calls for nothing less than a “Whole-of-Nation” approach.

(Preparation of the BNCCP)

17. The BNCCP is an amalgamation of efforts and commitments from the four key Ministries through the Council – the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, the Ministry of Transportation and Infocommunications, and last but not least, the Ministry of Development. These four Ministries, whose areas are responsible for Brunei’s Green House Gas emissions, carbon sinks and climate adaptation, came together to establish a comprehensive, integrated and cohesive Policy on tackling issues related to climate change at a national level.
18. 39 members of the Climate Policy Drafting Committee comprising of different government agencies, private sectors, research and higher institutions, professional associations, academia and NGOs formulated the strategies. It was further reviewed by over 50 youth representatives.
19. The deliberative process that was adopted, the level of inclusivity and transparency, and the commitment that transpired from all different levels of stakeholders throughout the preparation of the BNCCP is truly a milestone of a nation-wide partnership in Brunei Darussalam.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

(The BNCCP Next Steps)

20. As a Council, we are committed to ensure that the BNCCP will be effectively implemented, regularly monitored, reviewed and reported. An “Operational Document Task Force” was established to draft the Operational Document to operationalise the BNCCP, outlining the detailed action plans, KPIs, timelines and monitoring mechanism.
21. The BNCCP is a live document and will be regularly revised with new priorities, emerging industries, updated methodologies and best practices. The role of the climate governance will remain crucial in the next steps especially in monitoring and reporting the progress of the Policy.

(Closing)

22. On behalf of the Council, I wish to take this opportunity to seek our high-level representative guests today – from various Government agencies, key oil and gas industries, chambers of commerce, academia, NGOs and youth - for a continuous partnership not just to implement but also to incorporate the BNCCP into your respective strategic plans and operations.
23. It is hoped that with the BNCCP, we would be able to achieve a “low-carbon and climate-resilient” Brunei Darussalam and join hands with the international community to keep the global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius under the Paris Agreement.
24. Before I close, allow me to thank each and every stakeholder who was involved in the BNCCP and also to the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat for leading the coordination.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

25. On that note, on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam National Council on Climate Change, and with the Kalimah,

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Serta bertawakal kepada Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, Selawat dan Salam ke atas junjungan besar kita Nabi Muhammad Sallahu Alaihi Wassalam,

allow me to declare and launch the **Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy document 2020.**

Sekian,

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh