



**SPEECH BY
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**OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE 7TH BRUNEI INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERING AND
TECHNOLOGY, 2018**

**MONDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2018
MULTI PURPOSE HALL
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI BRUNEI**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين

والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

سيدنا محمد وعلى اله وصحبه أجمعين

- Yang Mulia
Dr. Dayang Norimtihan binti Haji Abd Razak
Permanent Secretary (Planning, Land Use and Environment)
Ministry of Development
- Yang Mulia
Ir. Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan
Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria
Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional)
Ministry of Development
- Yang Mulia
Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman
Vice Chancellor, Universiti Teknologi Brunei and
Advisor of Steering Committee of the 7th Brunei International Conference
on Engineering and Technology (BICET)
- Yang Mulia Deputy Permanent Secretaries
- Yang Mulia
Dr. Dayang Hajah Ena Kartina binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Dean, Faculty of Engineering
- Yang Mulia UTB Principal Officers
- Yang Mulia Senior Government Officers, Distinguished Speakers,
Conference Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Salam Sejahtera and a very Good Morning

1. It is a great honour for me to be here at the 7th Brunei International Conference on Engineering and Technology (7th BICET). The theme for the Conference is “**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**”. I was made to understand that there are 4 conference topics in the 7th BICET covering broad areas in Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering as well as Petroleum and Chemical Engineering. I am pleased to be informed that the conference has received overwhelming response and support from delegates as well as sponsors from Brunei Darussalam and countries in the region.

2. The theme “**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**” is appropriate as Brunei Darussalam relies heavily on oil and gas as the backbone of its economy. Brunei seeks sustainable development not only in the energy sector. As highlighted in the recent IMF report on ASEAN progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the IMF, Brunei Darussalam and nine other ASEAN member countries are well on their way to achieving more sustainable development. Sustainable development is holistic and allows integration of economy, society and natural resources as Brunei advances towards Wawasan 2035. Furthermore, sustainable development in engineering and technology allows us to increase our global competitiveness through fusion and deployment of latest technologies to strengthen the oil and gas sector, grow new industries and nurture emerging areas.

3. Accordingly, the 7th BICET is a good platform for delegates from Brunei Darussalam and the region to share and discuss latest technologies, work together to develop and deploy them for sustainable development. It has attracted delegates across the region and hence can act as a catalyst to form bonds and realise advanced technologies for a better world.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we know that sustainable development deals with meeting existing individual needs from naturally accessible reserves, while preserving and enhancing the surrounding environmental quality. The Brunei government recognised sustainable development as central to socio-economic development. Indeed, in the Sixth National Development Plan spanning from 1991 to 1995, environmental aspects are given greater consideration in the development planning process and project implementation. This continues into the current Long-Term Development Plan, under the Infrastructure Development Strategy in which one of policy directions is in providing adequate social infrastructure particularly in public housing, health care and education. As was reported by Deputy Minister of Development during Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Knowledge Platform in Bali on 12 October this year, home ownership in Brunei Darussalam is 63%, provision of clean water is 100% and sanitation system is 93%. I believe engineers will continue to play a decisive role in the success of Sustainable Development Goal. The necessity for environmentally-friendly technologies in the future will require the expertise of engineers. Sustainable development is one of the main issues analysed in the Engineering: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities for Development and is a major mandate of the UNESCO Engineering Initiative.

5. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Relationship between the Ministry of Development and Universiti Teknologi Brunei has been strengthened by addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed on 22 July 2017. These include joint research, capacity building programmes, information sharing, internship, sharing of laboratory/equipment and other joint efforts to promote career and education in the field of engineering and related sectors.

6. I am pleased to learn that all B.Eng and M.Sc (coursework) in Civil Engineering programmes were accredited by the Joint Board of Moderators (United Kingdom) and therefore the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Structural Engineers, the Chartered Institution of Highway and Transportation and the Institute of Highway Engineers. I hope other engineering disciplines in UTB will follow suit.
7. I hope this gathering will also discuss about the resilience of infrastructure in the digital age or how existing infrastructure should be improved upon to accommodate new developments and become more resilient in the face of security and climate change. Hence, I encourage conference speakers, participants and delegates, whether local and international, from industry to academia, to actively engage each other and realise technologies for sustainable development. Interdisciplinary and cross-border collaborations are needed to develop technologies and train local expert manpower to advance sustainable development in Brunei Darussalam and the region.
8. My sincere thanks goes to all distinguished delegates, speakers, conference participants and organisers of the 7th BICET to the forefront of the science and technology community. I have no doubt this conference will bring benefit to everyone involved.
9. Before I end my speech, I wish all participants a pleasant experience at the conference. I hope there will be many discussions that will lead to new collaborations and new friendships. To our international guests, I wish you an enjoyable stay in Brunei Darussalam.

Thank you

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah

Wassalamu'alaikum Waramahtullahi Wabarakaatuh