



**SPEECH BY
THE HONORARY DATO SERI SETIA IR.
HAJI SUHAIMI BIN HAJI GAFAR
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**DELIVERED BY
HONORABLE DATO SERI PADUKA AR. AWANG HAJI
MARZUKE BIN HAJI MOHSIN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**OPENING REMARKS
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ASEAN-CHINA YEAR OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

**FRIDAY, 28th MAY 2021
ONLINE VIDEO RECORDING
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين
واصلاة والسلام على اشرف الانبياء والمرسلينو
سيدنا محمد وعلى اله وصحبه اجمعين

- Excellencies, Distinguished Speakers and Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

اسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Warm Greetings and a very Good Morning

1. It is my greatest pleasure to convey from The Honorary Dato Seri Setia Ir. Haji Suhaimi Bin Haji Gafar, Minister Of Development, Brunei Darussalam his warm greetings and sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China for the opportunity to deliver today's opening remarks for the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation. Brunei Darussalam would also like to express our congratulations to the People's Republic of China for successfully organizing today's opening ceremony while countries are managing the dual challenges of COVID-19 pandemic of public health and economy.

2. Indeed, it is timely for us to reinforce efforts in exploring ways to achieve sustainable development through deeper understanding and collaboration, especially across bilateral, regional and international cooperation. Impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a toll on ASEAN - it has sickened millions, closed borders and severely impacted the region's economies, where the most vulnerable among us continue bear the brunt of the pandemic. It further brought about multitude of challenges towards our progress towards achieving sustainable development, nationally, regionally and globally.

3. Brunei Darussalam too stands committed in pursuing sustainable growth. As highlighted few years back in 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. Despite the global effects of the pandemic, we are still able to continue our efforts in achieving

sustainable development goals. Brunei Darussalam launched the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 in 2020, and the national Economic Blueprint in January 2021, which aims to diversify the country's economy away from oil and gas. On top of that Brunei Darussalam also launched the National Climate Change Policy in July 2020 which sets out the national agenda for tackling climate change issues.

Ladies and Gentleman

4. For Brunei Darussalam, under the National Climate Change Policy, have laid out 10 key strategies to pave a low carbon and climate-resilient pathways for the country. This includes:- reducing industrial emissions through zero routine flaring; increasing carbon sinks through planting new 500,000 trees; increasing the total share of electric vehicles to 60% of the total annual vehicles sales; increase total share of renewable energy to at least 30% from the general mix; better energy supply and demand management; impose price on carbon emissions; reduce municipal waste to landfills to 1kg per person per day; increase capacity to adapt to the changing climate in achieving resilience; mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas inventory; and awareness and education. Sustainable infrastructure will be a key enabler to shape and realise the shift needed within all these strategies.

5. Back in 2016, ASEAN Leaders adopted The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 which aims to achieve a *seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a*

greater sense of Community. The MPAC 2025 comprises 15 initiatives in the five strategic areas of: (a) Sustainable Infrastructure; (b) Digital Innovation; (c) Seamless Logistics; (d) Regulatory Excellence; and (e) People Mobility. Through this platform, Brunei Darussalam has been actively contributing towards development of infrastructures that largely contributes to sustainability.

6. On the effort for the protection of Biodiversity for sustainability, Brunei Darussalam in integration with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 is currently developing its National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP). Under this NBSAP, several technical and professional action plans have been developed and implemented which involves government ministries, NGOs, higher learning institutions as well as the private sector towards sustainable biodiversity protection. Several instances of such efforts include establishment of ex situ and in situ conservation areas, delineation of genetic resources areas, as well as germplasm collection.

7. In the spirit of ASEAN's theme this year "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper", Brunei Darussalam as Chair is very keen in adopting and promoting a sustainable and circular economy that prioritises low-carbon development by which could make future ASEAN economies and societies more sustainable and resilient, and ensure the achievement of infrastructure and adaptation targets, enhance regional security and improve accessibility, particularly among developing member states.

8. To this end, understanding this event as the starting point of activities to be implemented under the 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation, Brunei Darussalam believed that all AMS should utilize today's platform as the benchmark for future programmes and activities and to look at the broader fora where different dialogues and cooperation that considers sustainable development may exist. Before I end this address, I wish your Excellencies and Delegates as well as representatives a pleasant experience looking forward for successful implementation of activities planned under the 2021 ASEAN-China Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation.

Thank You

Wabillahi Taufik WalHidayah
Wassalamu'alaiukm Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh