



Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources

OPENING REMARKS

**Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato
Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim
Dato Paduka Haji Bakar,
The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources,
Brunei Darussalam**

On the Occasion of

PRYNESA 15

**Indera Samudra Grand Hall
The Empire Hotel and Country Club
Jerudong
Brunei Darussalam**

Monday, 22nd April 2013

Bismillah Hirahmaneer Raheem
Assalamualaikum Warrahmatullahi Ta'ala
Wabarakatuh

Yang Mulia

Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin
Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr)
Awang Haji Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, Permanent Secretary
at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, as
Acting Chair of the Organising Committee;

Your Excellency High Commissioners; Ambassadors;
Permanent Secretaries; Deputy Permanent Secretaries;
Distinguished Guests; Teachers; Students; Ladies and
Gentlemen

1. On behalf of the PRYNSA Steering Committee and the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, I am proud to welcome you all to the Awarding Ceremony of the 15th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award.

2. It has been fifteen years, since the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources implemented PRYNSA as an important vehicle for inculcating the love of nature and natural environment amongst our younger generations. Since then, with the continued and full support of our Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah as well as with the enthusiasm and interest of our young student scientists and other stakeholders, this programme has gained, not only, national prestige but also notable recognition from our neighbours in the Island of Borneo.

3. PRYNSA's completed researches and studies on forests and environment have not only capitalised on the pristine nature and diversity of our forest ecosystems but also indicated the multifunctional role of forests in all aspects of our everyday life. Apart from adding new knowledge to the field of tropical forest and environment, PRYNSA has become an important platform for our young students to understand the importance of research and experience scientific methodology that will be useful in their future careers.

4. Brunei Darussalam is blessed that 78% of its total land area is still forested and considered as one of the most conserved and pristine in the region. The richness in natural resources and biodiversity of our forests, I believe can become a new source of economic wealth for the nation's continued prosperity.

5. To realise this aspiration, I believe that the first task is for us to strengthen and enhance our research capabilities and capacities so that we can identify and exploit those sources of new wealth. Hence, opening our pristine forests and natural environment for collaborative studies with internationally renowned and respected scientists and experts, will assist us in identifying as well as capitalising on those assets for a new wave of economic growth.

6. In my view, with proper guidance and support, PRYNOSA can play their role in realising the nation's efforts and aspirations to sustainably develop our forest assets and resources into one of the economic pillars for Brunei Darussalam.

7. In that regard, I would urge PRYNOSA's research projects to include areas that would support the development of biodiversity based industries in the country. In the future, PRYNOSA must consider

undertaking more advanced biodiversity based research studies such as in the area of pharmaceutical bioprospecting; ethnobotanical bioprospecting; botanical medicine industry; biomimetics; bioremediation; ecological restoration and other biodiversity based industries and products. Such aspiration, in my view will lift up PRYNSA into a new and exciting era of scientific investigation while inspiring local youths not only to become our future generation of scientists but also entrepreneurs.

8. For this year's PRYNSA awards, PRYNSA Steering Committee have added an additional incentive to PRYNSA's top three (3) winners, that is an educational tour in the oil and gas industry where they will learn how science, technology and environment play an important role in Brunei's society.

9. To this year's five (5) finalists, allow me to congratulate you on your accomplishments. I hope that the processes you undertook in PRYNOSA have contributed to the development of your scientific knowledge and skills particularly in the fields of forestry, biodiversity and environment. To our incoming PRYNOSA participants, I encourage you to give your very best efforts to carry out your scientific research and expand your horizons by learning more from our natural laboratories, that is our forests.

10. To conclude my remarks, let me express my utmost appreciation to our generous advocates, the Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn Bhd for their continuous and generous fundings. Our special thanks also go to our supporter, HSBC and our friends from the international community that continue to show their noble support. We look forward to your continuing commitment to PRYNOSA in the future.

11. To our PRYNOSA participants, let your PRYNOSA experiences bring you to success and personal achievements. Be proud of being one among the finest young scientists of this country. I look forward to seeing all of you as future leaders in pursuing forest as well as environmental conservation and management.

12. To the parents and teachers, we thank you for supporting and guiding the students during the project. And to all the people who has being working hard behind the scene, our panel of judges, our organizing and working committees, and to all people who performed their respective roles and responsibilities to realize the successful implementation of PRYNOSA 15, thank you very much.

Thank you all for attending the 15th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award, Wabillahi Taufik walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.