

OPENING ADDRESS

**BY
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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND PRIMARY
RESOURCES
(PRIMARY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT)**

Delivered at

**HEART OF BORNEO CORRIDOR
INITIATIVE (HOBICI)
WORKSHOP**

**Monday
29 Zulkaedah 1433H /**

**25 August 2014,
the centrepont hotel
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
Darussalam**

Bismillah Hirrahmannir Rahim

Yang Mulia,
Awang Mahmud Haji Mohd Yusof
The Chairman of organizing committee

Distinguished participants from the Heart of
Borneo member states and local agencies

Representatives from WWF International
Heads of Departments and Senior
Government Officials;
Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen;

**Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakaatuh**, very Good morning and
salam sejahtera.

Praises be to Allah Subahanahu Wataala,
salawat and salam to our prophet, Nabi
Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam.
Alhamdulillah, with the gracious blessings of
Allah Subahanahu Wataala, we are able to
gather here at this meaningful event this
morning.

Let me begin by thanking the organiser for inviting me to be the Guest of Honour and to officiate the opening of the 3-day Workshop on HoB Corridor Initiative. I also like to take this opportunity to welcome the workshop participants especially those from Indonesia and Malaysia and since this is still the month of Shawal, I like to wish 'Selamat Hari Raya' to our Muslim colleagues.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alhamdulillah, we have hosted the Ministerial HoB Meeting back-to-back with 7th HoB trilateral Meeting last year. Since then, it has given us the right momentum to move our HoB Agenda forward in line with Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Statement of the Special Ministerial Meeting on the Heart of Borneo Initiative, 7 September 2013.

Pursuant to this, I like to quote the highlights of the statement, where there is need to focus, especially at the technical level:

(a) The development of practical programmes, policy and financing solutions to meet the goals of conservation and demands of sustainable economic

development based on 5 pillars: trans-boundary cooperation, protected areas, sustainable natural resource management, ecotourism development and capacity building; and

(b) To create enabling conditions in the Heart of Borneo needed to realize an inclusive and balanced development.

In response to this HoB Ministerial mandate, Brunei Darussalam has expressed its willingness to host this HoB Corridor Workshop, which has been proposed in the HoB Ministerial Meeting, as part of our deliverables in the HoB strategic plan of actions and a reflection of our commitment to materialize the HoB's 'One Conservation' vision. Thus, it is envisaged that the success of this workshop will produce another significant milestone for the HoB Initiative.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On related development, since the HoB Initiative was launched in 2007, Brunei Darussalam proposed it is timely that the 7-

year old HoB Initiative be reviewed. The proposal to conduct the review by independent consultant was endorsed at the Special Ministerial Meeting aimed to further re-affirm our commitment to develop practical programmes across the five pillars of the strategic plan and to create the enabling conditions required to realize inclusive and balanced development within the designated HoB area. Along this line, we are committed to enhance further collaboration and work hand-in-hand with potential partners to expedite the achievement of our common goals. The review will be done by WWF International and facilitated by ASEAN Development Bank (ADB) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and as part of the study requirement, they will soon going to each member state to collect relevant information for analysis and recommendations.

The study will include on the following areas:-

a. A review of progress against the trilateral Heart of Borneo Strategic Plan of Action and its five work programmes at the national / sub-national level and the trilateral level;

b. A review of the governance frameworks operating within the Heart of Borneo at the national / sub-national level and the trilateral level;

c. A review of partner organisations and stakeholders also contributing to HoB goals

d. A study on the key lessons learned from the first five years of the Heart of Borneo Initiative

In the end of the study, we hope to have a set of recommendations to realise our respective commitments made in the Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Statement.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through trilateral meetings we are all aware on the progress and all three countries have made progress in developing national roadmap for their respective HoB areas. However, there are more efforts need to be done at a trilateral level and therefore, this has to be discussed technically throughout the course of 3-day workshop that will provide a fast track to produce a detailed

map of the recommended priority corridor areas as the HoB's 'spinal cord' for developing and reviewing HoB master plans and the recommendations on conservation efforts and sustainable development in the HoB, establishing a mechanism for information-sharing, undertaking collective and/or joint research and studies, and undertaking joint spatial planning of the HoB area.

I was made to understand that the main task of this workshop, among others is to produce at least indicative area that might be potentially practical for this purpose, to explore its detail land management classification, incorporate the present practices, identify community stakeholders and document ecological status. The tasks will link to the existing GIS Working Group as this proposal will also require land use and spatial planning data.

I was informed that to ensure the success of the workshop, participants have been chosen based on their own respective expertise and experience on this area so they can make great contributions in the deliberations of the workshop.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I like to take this opportunity to express our special thanks and appreciation to our Indonesian, Malaysian and WWF colleagues for your attendance and support. Enjoy your stay in Brunei Darussalam.

Finally, once again I would like to thank the organising Committee for inviting me to be the Guest of honour and to officiate the workshop this morning.

With kalimah ..."Bismillahirrahmanir Rahim" I declare **the Heart of Borneo Corridor Initiative Workshop** open.

**Wabillah Taufiq Wal Hidayah
Wassalamualaikum Warahmahtullahi
Taala Wabarakatuh.**

Thank you and I wish you all a successful and fruitful workshop.