



كمنتريِن سومبرِ اوتام دان فلنچوئن

KEMENTERIAN SUMBER-SUMBER UTAMA DAN PELANCONGAN
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM

OPENING SPEECH BY YB DATO ALI FOR THE OPENING OF THE FRANCOPHONIE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL, Saturday, 12th March 2016, 7.45 pm, AT THE SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH SILVER JUBILEE PARK

A very good evening,

Her Excellency Loan Forgeron,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France;

Pg Dato Paduka Hj Idris Ibnu Al-Marhum Pg Temenggong Pg Hj
Mohammad,
President of AF Brunei Committee;

Her Excellency Marina B.Laker,
High Commissioner of Canada;

His Excellency Amphay Kindavong,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Laos;

His Excellency Thomas Kupfer,
Ambassador of Switzerland Embassy (based in Singapore);

His Excellency Nguyen Truong Giang, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Vietnam;

Ms Fabienne Sylla-Pousse,
Director of Alliance Francaise De Brunei;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here this evening with all of you to celebrate this special event organized by Alliance Francaise with the support of the French Embassy, Canadian High Commission, the Laotian Embassy, Vietnam Embassy, the Switzerland Consulate and The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Such unique events like the Francophonie Week provides a great avenue for our local businesses and talented individuals to showcase their creativity in an art and cultural themed event to the public as well as promote the country as a unique tourist destination to the world. The venues that has been chosen to host these events are considered our primary tourism products that has been identified as the places of interest in Bandar Seri Begawan amongst other places such as the Royal Regalia and Kampong Ayer to name a few.

Alliance Francaise have chosen popular venues to showcase their events during the week starting with todays event and various activities held here at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Silver Jubilee Park during this weekend as well as the open air pop-up french dinner on the 18th of March at the Royal Wharf Waterfront next to the art gallery at the Old Customs and Excise Department building and finally the music symphony performances at the Jerudong Park Playground Colonade that is also a popular venue among families, children and tourists.

With that, I would like to wish Alliance Francaise and the Embassy of France great success to the Francophonie Week and officially declare the event open.