

WELCOME REMARKS

by

THE GUEST OF HONOUR
YM Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin
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Brunei Darussalam

The 2nd Meeting of the Heart of Borneo (HoB) Technical Committee on
Joint Projects and Activities
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
1st to 3rd August 2017

Bismillahir Rahmannir Raheem
Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Aalameen, Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Alaa Asyrafil Mursaleen,
Sayyidina Muhammadin, Wa 'Alaa Aalihie Wasahbihie Ajma'een

Mr. Haji Muhammad Safwan Abdullah Bibi
Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Brunei Darussalam Heart of Borneo Centre
as Head of Delegation for Brunei Darussalam;

Dr Pabrianto Mukti Wibowo, Assistant Deputy for Forest Governance, Coordinating Ministry
for Economic Affairs of Indonesia as Head of Delegation for Indonesia;

Mr Jack Liam, Deputy Director, Forest Department of Sarawak, as Head of Delegation for
Malaysia;

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning to all

1. First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the organizing committee for inviting me as the Guest of Honour and to deliver a welcoming remarks at this 2nd Meeting of the Heart of Borneo (HoB) Technical Committee on Joint Projects and Activities.

2. In this regard, I like to take this opportunity to welcome Heads of Delegation and members of delegations from both Indonesia and Malaysia to this Meeting in particular, and to Brunei Darussalam, in general. I hope that besides attending this Meeting, you would also spare some time to explore and discover the beauty, local cuisines, culture and places of interests of Brunei Darussalam.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

3. The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, in particular through the Brunei Darussalam Heart of Borneo Centre, is indeed very honoured to host this Heart of Borneo (HoB) Technical Committee Meeting, in short, “HoBTC Meeting”.

4. Brunei Darussalam had successfully hosted the 10th Heart of Borneo (HoB) Trilateral Meeting in September 2016, last year, and we will try our best to repeat the same success for this 2nd HoBTC. I am confident that, with the support, commitment and cooperation from delegates of the HoB member countries present at this meeting, this endeavor could be achieved.

5. I was made to understand that the task and duties of this Technical Committee is that it is responsible to evaluate, advise and assist the Trilateral meeting in considering any proposed joint programmes/ projects/ activities to be under the HoB Initiative from Member Countries and other Stakeholders.

6. I think that the roles and responsibilities of this Technical Meeting is very crucial and important, as it will help to ensure not only that a smooth and productive discussion at the HoB Trilateral meeting, but also to ensure that proposed joint programmes/ projects/ activities could be implemented on the ground and give significant impact in meeting the conservation visions and objectives of the Heart of Borneo Initiative.

7. As far as Brunei Darussalam is concerned, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, will continuously give its full commitment and support towards the implementation of this Heart of Borneo Initiative in ensuring the effective management of forest resources and conservation of a network of protected areas, productive forests and other sustainable land-uses within the Heart of Borneo area.

8. We will continue our effort in ensuring that our forest resources and biodiversity are conserved, protected and managed within the principle of sustainable forest management, so that they could continue to play its role in providing not only socio-economic benefits but also environment benefit to both human well-being and the wild flora and fauna, which depends on a healthy ecosystem and environment for survival.

9. I am not going to dwell any further in my welcome remarks and take much of your time this morning, as I know you have a bigger task ahead of you at this Meeting.

10. Thus, to conclude my brief welcome remarks this morning, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fruitful and productive meeting over the next two days. I believe that with the support of everyone in this room, the objective of this Technical Committee meeting could be achieved.

11. Once again, I would like to welcome all delegates to this Meeting and thank you for your support and commitment to attend this meeting despite your busy schedule and work commitment back home.

12. Not forgetting our host country for the 1st HoBTC Meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Malaysia for successfully conducted the 1st HoBTC Meeting, which was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia last year, from 19-20 July 2016.

13. Finally, I would also like to congratulate the organizing committee for their dedication, hard work and commitment in ensuring the successful implementation of this meeting.

**Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah, Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.
Thank you for your attention.**