



**OPENING REMARKS FROM  
YANG BERTAMBAH  
DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI ALI BIN APONG  
MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM**

**OPENING OF FRANCOPHONIE WEEK**

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

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Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim  
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

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

Mr. Yann Carpentier,  
Director of Alliance Francaise De Brunei;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good evening,

1. I am pleased to be here this evening to celebrate another year of Francophonie Week. I am also looking forward to the exciting line up of activities that celebrates the French language which Alliance Française has organized with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of France; the Embassy of Switzerland; as well as the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism; and all the sponsors who have made this all possible.
2. Activities such as this outdoor film festival, a Franco-themed open air night market by Collective Art Events; a movie screening by Abdul Zainidi; and a special cultural performance by a world acclaimed artist Axelle Red to close the event on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
3. This evening is very special, as we will be awarding the winners for the short film competition, titled '*Brunei, Je t'aime*' (Brunei, I Love You) featuring a 3-minute film on the attractions of Brunei Darussalam, blending with French language. Alliance Française has received 12 videos from local talents and I believe that this is a great platform for our budding local talents to nurture their creativity. I would like to thank Alliance Française and the Embassy of the Republic of France for giving our local young talents the opportunity to explore their creativity and at the same time promoting Brunei Darussalam.
4. Another unique event that I am looking forward to, is the "Good France". In celebration of the excellence of French cuisine and French style dining throughout the world marked by the Embassy of the Republic of France in Brunei Darussalam. This year's Good France event will feature a collaboration between the French and Bruneian Gastronomy. The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism has launched the first "Brunei

Gastronomy Week” in conjunction with the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam’s celebrations in February recently and it has received many wonderful feedbacks. We, Bruneians, love to eat and some even love to cook; and gastronomy is important to the Bruneian identity and culture and I am sure it is the same with the French culture.

5. With events such as the Francophonie Week, it is a great platform to showcase the beauty of our culture, heritage and attractions in Brunei Darussalam. I would like to encourage for more private sectors to continuously be engaged in organizing international events such as this, which will help contribute to the growing tourism product offerings, generate employment and spin offs to the economy of Brunei Darussalam.
6. With that, I would like to wish Alliance Française and the Embassy of the Republic of France a great success to the Francophonie Week. *Merci Beaucoup* and enjoy the rest of the evening.