



OPENING REMARKS

**YANG BERTHORMAT
DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI ALI BIN APONG
MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND
TOURISM
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE 2017 TRAINING COURSE ON
HYBRID RICE YIELD-INCREASING
TECHNOLOGY IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**1 Rabiulawal 1439 / 20 November 2017
(Monday)**

**Dewan Simpung, Horticulture Business Centre,
Rimba, Bandar Seri Begawan**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله رب العالمين، وبه نستعين على أمور الدنيا والدين،
والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين،
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

Her Excellency Yang Jian, the Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's
Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam;

Yang Berhormat Members of Legislative Council;

Madam Zhou Dan, Vice Director of Yuan
Longping High-tech Agriculture Co., Ltd;

Mr Sun Lingxiang, representative from the
Ministry of Commerce, the People's Republic of
China;

Yang Mulia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism;

Yang Mulia Awang Wardi Bin Haji Mohammad Ali, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism;

Yang Mulia Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Ishak, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood;

Distinguished Guests, Senior Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warrahmattullahi Wabarakatuh
Salam sejahtera and a very good morning.

Praises be to Allah Subhanahu Wataala, selawat

and salam to our prophet, Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam.

Alhamdulillah, with the gracious blessings of Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala, we are able to gather here at this meaningful event this morning.

First of all, let me begin by thanking the organizing committee for inviting me to be the Guest of Honour for today's event and to officiate **The 2017 Training Course on Hybrid Rice Yield-Increasing Technology in Brunei Darussalam.**

It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism which has been given the opportunity by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, to have this training course to be conducted here in Brunei Darussalam. As such, I would like to

welcome delegates and expatriate from the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam and to express my gratitude to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam for giving your time and commitment to attend this event and to Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co. Ltd. for your professionalism and hard work in making this training a reality. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China for your generosity in supporting this training.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood is committed to ensure that the agriculture sector becomes one of the significant

contributors to the growth of the country's economy, particularly in the non-oil and gas sector. One of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism's strategic goal is to increase productivity through the use of technology and modern technique in agriculture sector. In Brunei Darussalam, most rice farming activities are done by local farmers on a small scale basis. With low yield rice variety, these farmers are not able to optimize the land use. This also means their productivity is low, and their output is barely able to generate enough revenue to cover their costs.

As an overview, the total rice production in 2016 is 1,500 metric tons only. With the future Department of Agriculture and Agrifood's trajectory, an increase up to 11,500 metric ton in 2020 is expected to be achieved by implementing several initiatives which include increasing the

productivity of rice per hectare in proper irrigated areas, using high yielding rice varieties especially hybrid rice varieties. Therefore, this training will play a significant role to equip our farmers and staff of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in the management of hybrid rice and hybrid rice seed production.

With the collaboration between The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism and The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China represented by Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co. Ltd., it hoped that we can identify at least one hybrid rice variety that can produce at least 12 metric tonnes per hectare which is adaptable to Brunei Darussalam's environmental conditions.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was informed that this training is the follow-up of the three-month training course on Hybrid Rice Comprehensive Technology for Developing Countries which was held in May-August 2017 in Changsha, Hunan Province, the People's Republic of China where staffs of Agriculture and Agrifood Department and selected youth from Belia Berpadi Project attended the training course. Alhamdulillah, with that training, the participants gained an intensive knowledge on seed production of hybrid rice.

With the subsequent training in Brunei Darussalam, more farmers and staff from Agriculture and Agrifood Department have the opportunity to attend the training course. I sincerely hope that the knowledge and skill acquired from this training program will help the farmers and staff of the Department of Agriculture

and Agrifood to increase farm productivity and hence, increase the rice production in the country.

With this hybrid rice technology, I believe it will certainly have a significant impact on the rice production, generate revenue for farmers and will in turn be reflected on the sustainability of rice industry in this country.

Finally, let me take this opportunity once again to extend my warmest welcome to the Chinese delegation and wish you a pleasant and memorable stay in Brunei Darussalam.

With the kalimah,

Bismillahirrahmaanirrahim and Tawakal to Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala, I declare the 2017 Training Course on Hybrid Rice Yield-Increasing Technology officially opened.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah Wassalamu'alaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.