

OPENING STATEMENT

By

**Mrs. Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan
Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Awang Haji**

Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri

Acting Permanent Secretary

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Brunei Darussalam

On the Occasion of

**The 1st Meeting of the Dialogue Mechanism between the
Ministry of Industry of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry
of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the
Implementation of the Brunei Darussalam – Japan
Economic Partnership Agreement**

13th September 2011

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Rahim

Honourable Mr.Yutaka SUMITA, Deputy Director-General for International Affairs, and your delegation from of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

Yang Mulia Puan Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Ibrahim, Director of Fisheries

Yang Mulia Tuan Haji Saidin bin Haji Salleh, Director of Forestry

Yang Mulia Puan Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd Hanifah, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood

Distinguished Delegates, Senior Officials, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

A very Good Morning to all of you.

It is indeed a great honour for me to be invited as the Guest of Honour on this occasion of the 1st Meeting of the Dialogue Mechanism between the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the implementation of the the Brunei Darussalam – Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (BJEPA).

May I also take this opportunity and on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to express my warm welcome to our Japanese delegates to Brunei Darussalam

on the occasion of this bilateral meeting and wish you all a pleasant stay in Brunei Darussalam too.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As you may aware that the Brunei Darussalam – Japan Economic Partnership Agreement has been signed in June 2007, with the objectives to strengthened the economic partnership between both countries :

- (a) liberalise and facilitate trade in goods and services between the Parties;
- (b) increase investment opportunities and strengthen protection for investments and investment activities in the Parties;
- (c) establish a framework for further bilateral cooperation and improvement of business environment; and
- (d) create effective procedures for the implementation and application of this Agreement and for the resolution of disputes.

The agriculture, forestry and fisheries is one of the areas identified in the Cooperation Chapter (or Chapter 9) of the Basic Agreement, and under the Chapter 4 of the Implementation Agreement, it requires the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry of Japan to establish the Dialogue Mechanism forum in order to :

- Reinforce the partnership between the two Ministries;

- Promote and strengthen agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries in both countries;
- Promote and enhance trade in agriculture, forestry and fishery products in both countries;
- Enhance diversification in Brunei Darussalam's economy through capacity building in the field of agriculture, forestry, fishery and food processing.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

We are also delighted and honoured to be given the opportunity to host this 1st Meeting of the Dialogue Mechanism of MIPR and MAFF, here in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam; which is also very timely when we, in Brunei Darussalam, are in the progress of advancing our agricultural activities and productivity in order to achieve our goals of sustainable food production and security.

The agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries in Brunei Darussalam is relatively small compared to those of Japan. Beside that we also acknowledges the importance of regional and international co-operation in advancing our agricultural sector. Thus, in this respect, we look forward for a closer collaboration and cooperation with MAFF, Japan in order to move forward our agricultural, forestry and fisheries agenda, and wish that MAFF Japan could share and extend their experience, expertise and technologies so as to improve our agricultural, forestry and fisheries development.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I was also informed that this Meeting will be followed by a one-day Cooperation Seminar to be presented by Japanese expertise to share and extend their experience and expertise in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This is also part of the activities in the Dialogue Mechanism cooperation, and four topics being suggested for the Seminar :

- 1. Japan's Experience on Rice Production and Consumption;*
- 2. Cooperation on Plant Variety Protection : Japan's Experience;*
- 3. New Technological Approach to Expand the Use of a Low Value Underused Fish, Japanese Anchov; and*
- 4. Cooperation in Mangrove Conservation and Management : Japan's Experience*

It was hoped that the Seminar will provide our participants and officials with a better insight and knowledge on how to move forward with our agriculture, forestry and fisheries development and management. The knowledge gained from the Seminar will pave the way to a well-coordinated agricultural, forestry and fisheries activities and development in Brunei Darussalam; taking into the consideration of its sustainability, environmental sound, food safety and security, and for our future generations.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our delegates from Japan to Brunei Darussalam and also for your kind efforts and time to attend this Meeting. I will assure you that we will continue to strengthen our bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two countries. This is not only to indicate a good relation between Brunei Darussalam and Japan, but rather a process of strengthening the long established friendly relationship between the two countries.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh