

## **BISMILLAH HIRRAHMANNIRRAHIM**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Yang Mulia, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd Hanifah, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood Department.

Yang Mulia, Dr Lum Keng Yeang, Chief Scientist from CAB International South East Asia.

Distinguished Heads of Departments, Senior Officials, Participants of the Training Course on Pest Risk Analysis.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaraktuh and a very Good Afternoon to all**

Praises be to Allah Subhanahu Wataala, selawat and salam to our prophet, Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam. Alhamdulillah, with the blessings of Allah Subhanahu Wataala, we are able to gather here at this beneficial function.

Let me begin by thanking the organiser for inviting me to be the Guest of Honour for today's event and to officiate the Opening Ceremony "Training Courses on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and Import Risk Analysis (IRA)". I am indeed honoured to grace the occasion.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Our requirements for agriculture-based products have gone up steadily every year. Certain percentage of these requirements are met through the local produce while the rests are still imported. Last year alone, total import of these products was valued at approximately B\$ 89 million. While ensuring sufficient supply of food in the country, we, at the Ministry of Industry And Primary Resources are also very concern with the emergence of trans boundary diseases and pests which may cause adverse effects to the local industry. Such diseases and pests may be introduced into a country through improper imports procedures. It is therefore important that strong quarantine measures exist in a country like Brunei Darussalam.

I was made to understand that one of the objectives of these training courses is to enhance our capacity to undertake science-based risk analysis. Simultaneously, to share experiences from CAB International consultants in the development of Brunei Darussalam's quarantine policy. In this regards, I would like to congratulate the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood as well as other agencies, for taking this initiative. It is certainly very beneficial to the agriculture industry in the country and the national economy.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Pest Risk Analysis is a process whereby threats to plant or even animal life can be identified, assessed and managed by providing insights into the risks posed by organisms. Such organisms, may it be plants or animals, have the potential to carry potential harmful pests and diseases with them and move across national borders.

Training course on Pest Risk Analysis is considered as the most important component in developing quarantine staff. Brunei Darussalam, as a major importing country, requires risk analysis to assess the likelihood of introducing harmful exotic pests and diseases moving with the commodities in trade. Pest Risk Analysis plays an important role globally. This is especially when nations seek to meet their obligations under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. Brunei Darussalam, being a member of WTO-SPS, is trying its best to be able to meet such obligations.

Pest Risk Analysis is considered as the most crucial component of any quarantine and inspection service. Such analytical tool will be able to assist us in identifying, assessing and managing potential risks in a way that protects Brunei Darussalam's industry and environment, while complying important principles contained in the SPS Agreement.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is our aspiration and hope that through this training course, Brunei Darussalam, in particular to our Agriculture industry, is not affected by the introduction of exotic pests and diseases which can be harmful and hazardous both to the industry and consumers.

Therefore, I urge the participants to be more proactive and build up their confidence and learn from each other's experiences and expertise.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Organising Committee for initiating the Training Course. To the participants, I wish you all a fruitful outcome towards attaining the objectives of this training course.

**With the kalimah Bismillahir Rahman Nir Rahim and Tawakal to Allah SWT, it is with great pleasure that I officially open the Training Course on Pest Risk Analysis**

Wabillahitaufik      Walhidayah      Wassalamualaikum      Warahmatullah  
Hiwabarakatuh.

Thank you and I wish you all a successful course!