

*Welcoming Remarks*

*Deputy Permanent Secretary (Tourism), Ministry of  
Primary Resources & Tourism,*

*Brunei Darussalam*

*Journalist Training Workshop, 1 Aug 2016*

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**Mr Pablo Pacheco, CIFOR**

**Ms. Selina Cho, Deputy High Commissioner  
Australia in Brunei Darussalam**

**Ms. Zubaidah Nazeer, Facilitator**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

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On behalf the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Journalist Training Workshop. The workshop is part of the Asia Pacific Summit 2016, and plays a significant role given the increasing importance that environment issues plays in public policy as well as in our daily lives. The workshop hopes to empower you, as representatives of your respected media, to reinforce the importance of the environment, raise the necessary issues and debate our role in environmental development and its impact.

I trust CIFOR has arranged a programme which will engage you to find the human story in science, make sense of scientific data, as well as visit a forest community to see upfront the challenges they face. From the journalists point of view, you will gain a better understanding of forestry science research methods, cultivate scientific resources and

sharpen your reporting skills through the sessions and this field visit.

Ladies and Gentleman,

This workshop has been designed to be practical with exercises to provide skills, encourage participation and exchange information. Let me take this opportunity to thank CIFOR for organizing this workshop and using the Brunei forest landscapes as samples to the exercises during the workshop. I am confident that you will take this up with you when you by chance explore the country's pristine forests whilst in Brunei here on.

I was informed that you will be visiting the Sumbiling Eco Village in the Temburong District tomorrow, and doing a stop-over at the Selirong Mangrove Island. You will be visiting one of Brunei's conservation forests, famous for its elevated concrete walkways cutting through the forest, enabling visitors to walk and enjoy the gorgeous nature. It is uninhibited but

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manned by personnel from the Forestry Department. Get ready to be awed by some of the largest mangroves in the Sultanate.

As for Temburong, the district is the highlight for our eco-tourism destination in Brunei. The pristine forests still covers most of the district. The wildlife can still easily be seen in their natural habitat. You will be enjoying an hour long boat ride to the district and at the Sumbiling Eco Village you will be visiting the settlements of one of our indigenous community, the Ibans.

Actually, most people carry straight on in the direction of the Ulu Temburong National Park, the principal attraction for visitors to the district. The highlight there would be the towering canopy walkway, which stands 50 m tall and provides unbeatable views of the forest. Perhaps you might want to explore this in future.

Finally, I sincerely hope that the discussions in the workshop and the information shared can be applied effectively in your role as journalists and reporters. With these few remarks, I declare the training workshop officially opened. May you have a productive and successful workshop.

And “Selamat Datang ke Negara Brunei Darussalam”  
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Thank you

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum  
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.