



Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources

**SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE PEHIN ORANG KAYA SERI UTAMA DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI YAHYA BIN BEGAWAN MUDIM DATO PADUKA HAJI BAKAR, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam at THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS 2014 and THE LAUNCHING OF “GREENING THE CITY, SAVING THE PLANET: MAKING A DIFFERENCE, ONE TREE AT A TIME” PROGRAMME**

Berakas Forest Recreation Parks,  
Saturday, 22hb. March 2014 / 20 Jamadilawal 1435H

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**BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM**

Segala puji dan syukur ke hadrat Allah Subhanahu wa Taala yang maha pengasih lagi maha penyayang kerana diatas limpah kurnia dan izinNya jua, kita semua beroleh kelapangan dan kekuatan untuk dapat sama-sama hadir di majlis yang penoh berkebajikan ini.

Selawat serta salam keatas junjungan besar kita Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam, kaum keluarga, para sahabat dan pengikut-pengikut Baginda yang taat lagi setia hingga ke akhir zaman.

Yang Mulia Awang Haji Saidin bin Salleh, Director of Forestry and Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the International Day of Forest Celebration 2014;

Your Excellencies, High Commissioners and Ambassadors;

Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH AND A VERY GOOD MORNING.**

1. First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and utmost appreciation to the Forestry Department for inviting me as the Guest of Honour to launch the International Day of Forests 2014 as well as to officiate the launching of **“Greening the City, Saving the Planet: Making a Difference, One Tree at a Time”** programme.

2. I also would like to welcome you all this morning. Indeed your presence is very meaningful to us and a clear demonstration of our responsibility and commitment to preserve and protect our precious heritage, our forests resources so that it continues to contribute its outmost benefits to the livelihood and well-being of our people.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

3. Today, the issues of forestry and the environment become the main focus of the media and in regional and international fora. Issues such as climate change, forests fires, and air and water pollution are often associated with forests. This clearly shows that forestry undoubtedly plays an important economic role, as well as serves an important backbone in the social and environmental wellbeing. Therefore, in my opinion, the conservation and management of forests should be more focused and directed to address those issues.

4. For Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the Forestry Department has taken several proactive measures to further protect and manage the forest resources in the country by focusing on the need to balance between social-economic development and environmental stability. This measure has long been practised and is in line with the principles of the Sustainable Forests Management.

5. In the context of sustainable economic development, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources strongly believes that the economic development of the forestry sector should not only rely on the conventional products from the natural forests. As such, It also emphasize the need to explore new opportunities in generating economic returns from the use of forest resources through a more environmental friendly economic activity or what we called the **“biodiversity-based economic activity”**. This kind of economic activity can be based on production of medicinal plants and herbs; downstream activities and enterprise; value-added forest products; as well as ethical tourism based on nature and forest appreciation. To ensure the efficiency and success of this biodiversity-based economic activity, it is necessary to involve the

participation of the private sector. In this regard, the Ministry welcomes the private sector to be equally active in the creation of this economic activity. This initiative is in line with the objective of His Majesty's Government to strengthen the private sector as the engine of the country's economic growth.

6. In addition, as a measure to ensure that the forest resources are conserved, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources will take a strategic action to stop timber harvesting in the production forests reserve and instead, to transfer timber harvesting to the 'non-forest reserve' or stateland forests in the Inter Riverine Zone (shortened as IRZ) between the Belait and the Tutong Rivers. With this approach, logging operations and harvesting will be combined with replanting and reforestation activities to be known as Tree Farmland Concept. To this end, the Ministry through the Forestry Department will conduct a comprehensive study to find the best and appropriate procedures to ensure the effective implementation of this Tree Farmland Programme.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

7. Now back to today's celebration, the International Day of Forests (shortened as IDF) is in effect the successor to the World Forestry Day celebration that we used to celebrated since 1983. Just like the World Forestry Day, IDF is also an awareness programme, spearheaded by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the Forestry Department. As such, IDF intends to instill and enhance awareness amongst the general public on the importance of forests and forest resources to life.

8. What is important, now and then, is to treat awareness programme such as this with new and novel approaches. It is also equally important to invite the active participation of the public in all forest conservation and development activities. As such, I believe and hope that the launching of our new programme ***"Greening the City, Saving the Planet: Making a Difference, One Tree at a Time"***, later this morning, will be an avenue for an active involvement of everyone. The deeds that we are offering under this programme include tree planting, caring, maintenance and adoption. The continuing involvement of everyone in this programme certainly gives more value to our environment and to our forests, as our priceless national treasure at the same time serves as an avenue to fulfill our individual, corporate, social and moral responsibility.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

9. Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Forestry Department for successfully implementing a celebration to commemorate and appreciate the contributions of our natural treasures to the life of the present and future generations that we celebrate together with the communities around the world today. I sincerely hope that the Forestry Department will be more focused, committed, and efficient in meeting the duties and responsibilities to protect, conserve and manage our forest resources.

10. With the kalimah 'Bismillahir Rahman Rahim' and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad Sallallahualaihi Wassalam, peace be upon him, I am pleased to officially launch the 'International Day of Forests 2014' and launch the ***"Greening the City, Saving the Planet: Making a Difference, One Tree at a Time"*** programme.

**Wabillahit Taufiq Wal-Hidayah Wassalamu 'Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**

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