

**SPEECH  
OF  
YANG BERHORMAT  
PEHIN ORANG KAYA SERI DEWA MAJOR GENERAL (Ret.) DATO SERI  
PAHLAWAN AWANG HAJI MOHAMMAD BIN HAJI DAUD  
MINISTER OF ENERGY  
AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**IN OCCASSION OF  
Forum on “The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia:  
What is at Stake?”**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 9.00am  
Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

First and foremost, I would like to extend my warmest appreciation to the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), the British High Commission to Brunei Darussalam and the Asian Development Bank for giving me the opportunity to be at today's forum entitled "The Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia: What is at Stake?".

It is my honour to take a moment to recognise and laud this important effort as we go a long way in our endeavour to tackle global issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you for making it here today to listen, share and exchange views on what I believe is to be the world's greatest environmental challenge, the issues of climate change.

I am confident that this forum will be another important step in our efforts to enhance our collaboration in achieving our common objectives to overcome the challenges brought upon all of us by climate change.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As globalisation is fast growing, the world today has been presented with many challenges. From financial crisis to economic downturn, from natural disasters to severe climate change, the world must pull back from the brink and take urgent action to resolve these challenges.

Today, we have seen countries severely affected by changing weather patterns. The harmful impacts of global warming are already manifesting themselves around the globe in the form of extreme weather events such as more violent storms, tornadoes, heat waves, floods and droughts, all of which have been mounting in frequency and intensity.

Moreover, we have seen the impacts of climate change seriously hindering our progress towards achieving economic development goals. As the effects of climate

change start to become our major threat, a holistic approach to sustainable development must be adopted and implemented urgently, effectively and efficiently.

We therefore see an urgent call for action to combat global warming and mitigate its catastrophic adverse effects.

**Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,**

In addressing the importance of global environment, it is prudent that we understand the long-term nature of climate change challenges. There is a lot of inertia in the system, in both the economy and the climate, and overcoming it is going to take time.

What we need is to find ways that allows for and promotes opportunities in sustainable growth and opportunities in moving to a low carbon economy.

And what we also need is a concerted effort by all stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to overcome the adverse impacts of the climate change and to build consensus on the need for incorporating adaptation and mitigation measures into our development planning process.

All this is very crucial in our effort to tackle the challenges of climate change.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Brunei Darussalam is not an exception in facing the impacts of climate change.

We have recently seen the changes in our climatic condition. Floods and landslides have become our greatest threat and are likely to have profound consequences for our socio-economic sectors. This includes our health, food production, energy consumption and security as well as our natural resource management.

The damage that violent weather has brought to our crops, agricultural products and livestock deaths due to climate change will only bring economic loss to the country.

So today, it is very important that we all gather to discuss these challenges and work on how we can turn these challenges into opportunities. We all know that tackling climate change will take leadership, dynamism and commitment - qualities that I know are abundantly represented in this room. There is a need for innovative solutions, technology development and public participation, and a need for awareness and cooperation across multiple interests of the whole society.

It is the aspiration of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to lead a dynamic and a more sustainable development. And for this very reason the Government of His Majesty has always been supportive in every effort made to contribute to a global solution to climate change that will bring significant benefits. What is important is we must engage and interact with each other and that is why a forum such as this is of great importance to all of us.

As a country that shares the impact from the global phenomenon, we must be prepared to make a serious contribution to protecting the global climate change through effective implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. This would suggest that:

We need to step up our efforts to raise public awareness of climate change and its impact.

We need to undertake more research and develop more pro-active and systematic measures that offer long-term solutions.

We need to enhance our adaptive capacity and our policy in addressing the consequences of climate change at all scales, levels and sectors.

And we need to stimulate innovation and encourage investment in cleaner technology in order to move onto a sustainable path.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Climate change may well be the largest global environmental threat to all of us but it will not be resolved unless it becomes an economic and social issue and unless all of us can play our parts in tackling the problem. We know the effects of climate change are immediate and therefore, we need to act urgently and make a concerted effort in all different levels to step up in the same way.

While we are here to listen to some interesting views on climate change, I once again would like to thank you for taking the time to be at today's forum.

I hope that our participation and discussion today will provide a platform for better understanding and greater insight into the importance of climate change especially in our effort to achieve a more sustainable development.

Thank you.