

**SPEECH  
OF  
YANG BERTHORMAT  
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 OCCASION OF  
The Think Big Business Plan Awards Presentation 2009/2010**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 9.00am  
Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club**

## **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen...**

Firstly allow me to extend my sincerest appreciation to the i-Centre and the Brunei Economic Development Board for giving me the opportunity to witness this very auspicious event – **The Think Big Business Plan Awards Presentation 2009/2010**.

I am very delighted to be a part of this event and witness another wave of achievement of our youth in the arena of information and communications technology (ICT).

This achievement significantly marks another milestone in our effort to discover new talents and develop new ideas and nurture them to remain at the fore-front of cutting edge developments.

## **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, we see the development of ICT growing even faster than anything else. Notably, the ICT revolution is already radically affecting the way we live our lives, the way we organise things, the way we share information and the way we interact with each other. Governments, businesses, institutions as well as individuals have jumped on the bandwagon to make ICT part of their day-to-day processes.

ICT, in today's world, has a stake in every developmental process and with all due respect it should be given a top priority.

This is the time we must react positively to this new paradigm. And this is the time we must encourage innovation among our youth, among those who are capable of translating their ideas into opportunities.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The significance of ICT is not in the technologies as such, but in the possibilities they open up for access to knowledge, information as well as communications, and in the creativity and capability of innovative minds.

Today, we are already witnessing our younger generations endowed with vitality, creativity and dynamism that if optimally exploited could contribute significantly to national achievement.

The role of our young people in shaping today's society and business environment is becoming increasingly evident, giving them unprecedented opportunities to take charge of their learning processes and seek to adapt, adopt and leverage different possibilities to harness their own skills.

As their input for shaping the future of the ICT world is essential, it is therefore important that we encourage and involve our young people in our processes.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We know that investing in our youth's talents is investing in our collective future. For this reason, it is very important for us to continue to provide a platform where our young people can share their vision of how to leverage the power of ICT and how to use them to create new economic and social benefits.

At this juncture, I must commend the iCentre for encouraging young entrepreneurs to believe in themselves and to fuel ideas. Indeed, one of the inescapable facts of the new business landscape is that more and more young people are interested in having their ideas transformed into commercially viable products. In turn, we hope that these young enterprises can eventually energize the economy and create more employment opportunities.

I wish to advocate more participation from the private and public sectors to help build a rich business ecosystem in which challenges faced by our entrepreneurs are addressed and to facilitate an ease of doing business in Brunei.

I believe that in order to be successful, potential entrepreneurs must have easy access to information, mentoring support and business tools to help them present their ideas to the best of their capabilities and formulate an exceptional business plan.

I also urge that we continue to strengthen our collaboration and partnership to uncover the many layers and facets that make up the world of ICT so that we may find our place in this fascinating environment.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, I would like to congratulate not only the winners of the Think Big Business Plan Competition 2009/2010, but all of you who have contributed to the development of ICT in this country. I feel extremely proud to see the achievements of our own people in this important journey.

For those who took part in this competition, I applaud your creativity and passion in submitting your business plans. Your courage, dedication and discipline prove you are already on the road to success. There will be a beginning, a struggle and ultimately a victory for you.

I believe this year's 'Think Big' Business Plan Competition finalists are already champions in their own right; confident, consumer savvy and have achieved much in such a short time. Building their business models on strong practices and even stronger principles, it is clear that they have exercised excellent market research and are in tune with the needs of today's modern and sophisticated consumers.

As we bear witness to the enthusiasm and energy of our young people who are eager to succeed, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in your future endeavour. I believe the spirit and the will to win will support you through realizing your dreams.

Thank you.