

41st Conference of the SEACEN Governors and
25th Meeting of the SEACEN Board of Governors

Bandar Seri Begawan Brunei Darussalam
3 – 6 March 2006

**WELCOME SPEECH BY
YANG MULIA
DATO PADUKA HAJI ALI BIN APONG
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF FINANCE II**

At The Official Opening Ceremony Of
41st Conference Of The SEACEN Governors And
25th Meeting Of The SEACEN Board Of Governors
On Saturday, 4th March 2006 @ 9.00 am
At the Indera Kayangan Ballroom
Empire Hotel and Country Club
Jerudong

**BISMILLAHIRRAHMAANIRRAHIIM
ALHAMDULILLAHI RABBIL 'ALAMEEN
WASSALATU WASSALAMU 'ALA
ASYRAFIL AMBIYA E'WALMURSALEEN
SAYYIDINA MUHAMMADIN WA'ALA ALIHI
WASAHBIHI AJMAIN
WA BA'ADU**

Our very distinguished Guest of Honour

Yang Berhormat

Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia

Dato Paduka Awg Haji Abd Rahman

bin Haji Ibrahim

Second Minister of Finance

Brunei Darussalam

Yang Mulia

Dato Paduka Haji Metassan bin Momin

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Finance

Brunei Darussalam

Yang Mulia

Tuan Haji Mohd Rozan

Bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yunos

Deputy Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Finance

Brunei Darussalam

Honourable SEACEN Governors

And Observer Governors

Dr Subarjo Joyosumarto

SEACEN Executive Director

Executive Directors

of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Deputy General Manager

of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Senior Government officials

Distinguished Guests

Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu 'Alaikum Warah Matullahi Wabarakatuh

Salam Sejahtera

A Very Good Morning.

1. First of all, on behalf of the organising committee, I would like to extend our warm welcome and convey our deepest appreciation to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Paduka Awg Haji Abd Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Second Minister of Finance of Brunei Darussalam, for kindly accepting our invitation to be the Guest of Honour, at the Official Opening of the 41st Conference of the SEACEN Governors and 25th Meeting of the SEACEN Board of Governors.

2. I am also both honoured and privileged to welcome fellow governors and distinguished delegates who have come from as far as the Pacific - SELAMAT DATANG and WELCOME to Brunei Darussalam.

3. The SEACEN Conference of Governors which began with the informal gathering of the central banks in South East Asia Group of the IMF has now become an important annual event. The Ministry of Finance Brunei Darussalam is indeed honoured and pleased to be its host for the first time. Therefore we wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to SEACEN for the honour and opportunity.

4. Since its official establishment in 1982, membership in SEACEN has expanded from 8 to 14 members. SEACEN continues to play its role in stimulating and facilitating cooperation amongst

its members in close collaboration with a number of international institutions including the IMF, World Bank and BIS.

5. We believe SEACEN has undoubtedly contributed much in the enhancement of the training and research capacity of jurisdictions around this region. This is in line with the ongoing capacity building efforts of our human resources undertaken by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. I am pleased to acknowledge that officials from our ministry have also benefited tremendously from its various training programmes and conferences. We will continue to send more officials to attend such programmes, and will be honoured to play host to some of these programmes.

6. Our conference, with its theme –

“Internationalisation of Financial Services - Implications and Challenges for Central Bank”, is timely and relevant considering the liberalisation agenda. I am sure that the presentation on the regional and global economic outlook by the IMF to the conference will further enrich our deliberations and stimulate further discussions on the theme. We also hope to learn from the experiences of each other, in the face of the intensified challenges that lie ahead of us.

7. At the same time the Board of SEACEN Governors who will convene their 25th meeting tomorrow, will continue to play its significant role in guiding SEACEN in maintaining its relevance as a premier training centre, both regionally and internationally.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. On a lighter note, I am pleased to inform your excellencies and delegates that our organising committee and secretariat have arranged a number of social activities, including some golf tournament and spouse programme. To those of you, who were there during the last governors' meeting in the beautiful resort, Nadi Fiji, you may recall that we shared with you some slides of the beautiful sceneries and places of interest in Brunei Darussalam. So to our visitors from abroad, while you are here, please join the tour and visits that we have arranged, to see the reality of those slides and enjoy our diverse culture! We hope your excellencies and delegates will have an enjoyable stay in Brunei Darussalam. While we do our very best to make your stay a comfortable and memorable one, we apologise for any unduly shortcomings. Should you need

any assistance, please do not hesitate to approach the secretariat, who will more than happy to serve you!!

9. In closing, once again we would like thank our very distinguished guest of honour, YB Pehin for taking the time off from his busy schedule to join us here this morning and graciously officiating this morning's event. I would also like to thank SEACEN for their assistance and guidance, the Organising Committee and the secretariat for their commitment and efforts, government and private agencies for their support, in making this important event a successful and fruitful one.

WABLILLAHIT TAUFIQ WALHIDAYAH
WASSALAMU 'ALAIKUM WARAH
MATULLAHIWABARAKATUH

Thank you.