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Fighting for our Forests!

Towards Better Rice Production

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Fighting for our Forests!

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar, led Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the Special ASEAN and Special ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meetings on Forestry held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 30 August 2012. The delegation included Yang Mulia Dyg Hjh Hasnah bte Ibrahim, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Primary Resources Development) of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Yang Mulia Awg Hj

Saidin bin Salleh, Director of Forestry, and other senior officials from the Ministry and Forestry Department. Both meetings were officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Don Koo Lee, Minister of Korea Forest Service (KFS) in the presence of the guest of honour, Mr Kim Hwang-Sik, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.

At the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Forestry which was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Ty Phommasack, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR, the ministers:

- Were updated on the outlook of the forestry sector in Southeast Asia and the contribution of the forestry sector to ASEAN community-building as well as achievements under the forestry cooperation;
- Pledged their commitment to support the implementation of initiatives, cooperation and partnership towards sustainable forest management and advancing the ASEAN cooperation on forestry in contribution to the ASEAN Community Building, and task ASEAN Senior Officials on

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Yang Berhormat Pehin (1st from left) in a group photo with the ASEAN Ministers & Designates, representative from the ASEAN Secretariat and H.E. Dr. Don Koo Lee (7th from left) the Minister of Korea Forest Service (KFS).

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Forestry (ASOF) and their relevant subsidiary bodies to implement necessary actions and update progress in the advancement of the ASEAN Cooperation on Forestry;

- From both ASEAN Member States and Republic of Korea were briefed by the Minister of KFS on the vision of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation. The ministers were also briefed by Dr. Silavanh Sawathvong, Director General of the Forestry Department of Lao PDR, co-chair of the Preparatory Meeting of the ASEAN-ROK Senior Officials on Forestry (Prep SOM), on the outcomes of the Prep SOM Meeting which was held prior to the Ministerial Meetings;
- Adopted the Special ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Statement - a pledge of commitment to further enhance ASEAN-ROK forest cooperation; promote capacity building and livelihood of forest-dependent communities in the context of Sustainable Forestry Management; promote low carbon, green growth technology and activities; engage a phased-approach to expanding regional forest cooperation from the scope of ASEAN-ROK to a broader regional cooperation in Asia; pursue a platform for dialogue towards the establishment of an Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO);

and support the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation initiatives.

During the meetings, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya stated that deforestation and forest degradation is currently a global concern, causing problems such as biodiversity loss, climate change and other catastrophic environmental issues. Due to this, The Minister highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts such as the Agreement between ASEAN-ROK in the rehabilitation of degraded forest land, prevention of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as that of the timely establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO).

The Minister added that to date, Brunei Darussalam has successfully rehabilitated and 're-greened' about 400ha of degraded forest land damaged due to forest fire; enriched about 11,000ha of over-logged production forest area; and established about 5,000ha of forest plantation.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya also expressed the full support of Brunei Darussalam in the establishment of AFoCO – noting its potential in enhancing the profile of the forestry sector within the region, and

providing Brunei Darussalam and other ASEAN Member States the opportunity to share experiences and technologies relating to forest preservation, besides addressing emerging forestry and climate change issues.

The Minister also congratulated and commended the Government of the Republic of Korea for initiating the Green Growth Initiative as well as for their commitment in sharing their experiences in the rehabilitation of forests, prevention of desertification and mitigation of climate change.

“ Brunei Darussalam is committed in ensuring that the country’s forest resources are managed in a sustainable manner within the context of Sustainable Forest Management practice. The Government’s National Forest Conservation policy places strong emphasis on the need to conserve and protect the country’s forests so that it can continue to provide benefit to the nation’s economy, society and environment. ”

*Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama
Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya,
Minister of Industry and Primary Resources*

Towards Better Rice Production



A signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood (DAA), MIPR, and Satake Corporation of Japan, took place on 30 August 2012 at the Members Grill & Lounge, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Signing for and on behalf of the DAA was Yang Mulia Dyg Hj Aidah bte Hj Mohd Hanifah, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, while Mr Kayuzuki Kihara, Managing Director of Satake Corporation, signed for and on behalf of Satake Corporation. Present as guest of honour during the ceremony was Yang Mulia Dyg Hj Normah Suria Hayati bte Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri

Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Hj Awg Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, Permanent Secretary of MIPR. Also in attendance was Yang Mulia Awg Mohd Riza bin Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Yunos, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Development of Industry and Entrepreneurship) of MIPR.

The contract covers the acquisition, delivery and installation of rice husking and milling machinery with a 3.5 metric tonnes per hour capacity as well as machine operation training (to be conducted by Satake Corporation) for DAA's officers and staffs. The department's staffs are to undergo a two-week basic training course in Thailand and a further six months of

operation training in Brunei Darussalam once mill installation is completed. The project will take 10 months and is expected to be completed and handed over to the DAA at the end of June 2013.

This new mill is required in order to replace the old rice mill as well as to cope with increasing domestic paddy production requirements ever since the introduction of the "Towards achieving self-sufficiency in rice production in Brunei Darussalam" programme in 2009. The new machinery is also expected to speed up and increase the efficiency of the rice dehusking and milling process to cater to the local market demand, as well as improve post-harvest rice quality.

MIPR Holds Tedarus and Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony

BINA Department, together with the Co-operative Development Centre (CDC), held a Tedarus and Khatam Al-Quran ceremony at Dewan Setia Pahlawan, MIPR, Jalan Menteri Besar at 5pm on 16 August 2012. Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj

Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

The event commenced with a mass recital of Surah Al-Fatihah which was led by Ustaz Dahlan bin Jamuddin, a teaching staff from IQRA Association. Later, Ustaz Dahlan led the Tedarus and Khatam Al-Quran recitation,

signaling the completion of the reading of the 30 Juzuk of Al-Quran which began on the 1st day of Ramadhan at MIPR's Surau. This was followed by a Dikir presentation which ended the ceremony. The breaking of the fast, as well as Maghrib, Isyak and Terawih prayers were held at MIPR premises after the ceremony.



MIPR Diary

AUG 16 Qatar Courtesy Call

His Excellency Saleh Mohammed Al-Nesef, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam, made a courtesy call to the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar on 16 August 2012.



AUG 22 MIPR Staff Visit Istana



Around 150 officers and staff from MIPR made a junjung ziarah (visit) to the Istana Nurul Iman, official residence of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, on 22 August 2012, the third day of the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations. The event was organised by the Promotion and Facilitation Services Division, MIPR. The officers and staff were later invited to the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources' Open House at Tarindak D'Seni for lunch.

AUG 28 Surah Yassin, Tahlil and Doa Arwah Ceremony for Allahyarhamah Datin Hjh Dyg Siti Hara bte Allahyarham Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Hj Awg Mohd Taha

A Surah Yassin, Tahlil and Doa Arwah ceremony was held for Allahyarhamah Datin Hajah Dayang Siti Hara binti Allahyarham Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Haji Awang Mohd Taha, late mother of the Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Yang Mulia Dyg Hjh Normah Suria Hayati bte Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Hj Awg Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, on 28 August 2012 at the MIPR Surau.



Present at the ceremony was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar; Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Yang Mulia Dyg Hjh Normah Suria Hayati bte Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Hj Awg Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri and Deputy Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Yang Mulia Awg Mohd Riza bin Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Yunos.