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BUSINESS PARTNERS HSE FORUM

"We must aspire to be safe", said Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications, the guest of honour at the BSJV Business Partner Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Forum at the Seria Community Hall on 22 May 2012. This is his message in terms of sustaining and inculcating safety culture in an organisation.

The Minister acknowledges that in the Brunei Shell Joint Venture companies, safety is not what ought to be done, but it is a culture. He reiterated that safety is not by accident and it requires concerted and continuous efforts.

The annual safety forum was held by the Brunei Shell joint venture Safety Leadership Team (SLT) which comprises various leaders from BSP, BLNG, BSM, BGC and contractors. The SLT, formed last year, is a network to discuss on safety related issues across BSJV and the contractors based on voluntary membership from young graduates to management level in various fields ranging from technical to non-technical.

"No job so urgent that you can't do safely," said Yang Berhormat Pehin Abdullah, who donned the safety vest, sharing his personal safety moment. It was one of the many safety statements that resonated with him which he saw in one of the BSP posters. He also appreciated and acknowledged the safety intervention made by his then supervisor many years ago whilst he was attending to a technical situation in one of Brunei's key projects.

In the keynote address Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdullah, also talked about the measures undertaken by the Ministry to further upped road safety in Brunei Darussalam. "In addition to the on-going road safety initiatives such as our partnership with BSP on "Tell-A-Friend" to inculcate safer driving, we have introduced the Demerit Point System. This system is to make people more aware of the rules and regulation on the roads to prevent causes of accidents."

The Minister went on to share further initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to improve road safety in Brunei Darussalam. "The syllabus for driving schools has also been improved to insert elements of defensive driving to ensure more skilled drivers for the future."

He also disclosed the outsourcing of Vehicle Inspection Centre to have more assured inspection in vehicles. YB Pehin Abdullah highlighted, "As with fleet operations, there has bound to be tendencies of operators cutting cost and therefore adherence to the safety of the vehicles may be affected. With more assured inspection, these safety measures will be necessary for approvals."

The Minister emphasised the principles that support the road safety initiatives and programmes: addressing the most emergence major cause of road accident in the country by clamping down the speeding behaviour, introduction of and imposing the vehicle safety standards and modifications guidelines, addressing the driver impairment through Assertive Education and public awareness campaigns and safeguarding the vulnerable road users.

The event gathered about 400 people from BSJVs and contractors where they openly discussed safety challenges and opportunities, besides fostering and building relationship with one another. It was also a time to pause and reflect on what had happened in the past 12 months and how to create a safe future.

The Forum started with welcoming remarks from Ken Marnoch, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP). He thanked the attendees for their contributions towards safety. "Without your commitment and clear intention to keep people safe, we would not accomplish the results we have been seeing. And of course, our results are just a record of what has been happening – they do not tell us anything about tomorrow. We must remain vigilant day-by-day and make the smart choices that ensure we keep ourselves and our people safe."

Mr Marnoch underlined, "Personal safety matters to each of us as individuals but also to our people and to our loved ones and it is a challenge to always remain awake to the dangers around us. Process safety matters, given the enormity of the incidents we can have when something goes wrong with equipment or plant. Road safety is a big challenge to all of us in our personal lives as well as the relevance to our people as they travel by road, on our behalves. And indeed, road safety is a big challenge here in Brunei as in many countries."

The programme also included learning from previous safety incidents as well as a syndicate session to nurture safety leadership and behaviours amongst the network members.

In addition, there were also exhibition booths by the Construction Safety Network who showcased their best practices. These included asbestos handling by Sahid Sdn Bhd, scaffolding safety by SKS Sdn Bhd, Lifting and Hoisting and ATDC/HSBC Youth Employment Programme by ATDC Sdn Bhd, radiation safety by PTAS Sdn Bhd and quick flange, e-Pakat and decklite by SKSWood Sdn Bhd.

ENDS.

Notes to Editors: Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP) should be referred as BSP or Brunei Shell Petroleum for abbreviation or headline purposes. Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd's activity is primarily for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas from onshore and offshore fields. The Government of Brunei Darussalam and a company in the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies each owns a 50% stake in BSP.