

Ceri Powell: 90th Anniversary Speech

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Good morning – Salam Sejahtera. What a historic moment we are here to celebrate today!

BSP is proud throughout 2019 to celebrate the discovery of oil and gas 90 years ago – with events, milestones and free gifts happening through the year. But TODAY we mark one special milestone, the exact day when the Seria field yielded its very first drop of oil.

Today we are proud of 90 years of delivering to Brunei, today we are proud of 90 years of developing Bruneians and today we are proud of 90 years of powering innovation.

Just think about it. Delivering to the economy, delivering schools, hospitals, roads and producing oil and gas since 1929. It is a historic day, and today is a fitting moment to look back at these years of delivery ... **Honouring the Past, Making The Future.**

Oil exploration was never easy. Pioneers drilled Brunei's first exploration well in 1899, at Ayer Bekunci near Kampung Kasat, just across the Brunei River from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. But it was a dry well. Hopes were dashed and disappointed messages were sent by boat back to Europe. Many companies tried, drilling 30 wells, all dry and with fortunes lost by 1923 all companies had abandoned exploration in Brunei except Shell. Through sheer tenacity and determination, building wooden bridges and fighting off crocodiles in their camps, they tried a new geophysical technique called gravity surveying to identify an anticline near the Belait River, they drilled some core holes and FINALLY in 1929 after drilling for 8 long months, They struck oil right here in Seria.

And what a find it was! Asia's longest-producing field yielded an abundance of oil and gas, producing strongly still in 1991, with a new monument – Billion Barrel – at the original drill site.

SO .. a journey of wooden drilling rigs, to our first offshore platform, South West Ampa in 1963, to Champion and Fairley, to deep Darat gas onshore, and today the first Bruneian Deepwater production planned by BSP by 2023. Huge technological advances.

When I arrived in for the first time in Brunei 25 years ago – towing my sailing boat on a trailer across two ferries and the dirt road from Miri to compete! – I was a seismic interpreter interpreting paper 2D seismic, we had no email, and one international telephone call per week per person. Look around us now ... that is only 25 years ago in our industry here in Borneo.

AND ... It has been a journey from drilling in sandals and shorts to state-of-the art PPE, double chamber self-righting life-jackets and fire-resistant tudungs. From a “just give it a go” work attitude to full-fledged professional work management procedures. Today we can be proud of how we have led all industries in Brunei to become safer and safer over the last 90 years.

But some things have always endured through this journey: and that is the spirit and importance of the nation and its people. More than 20,000 Bruneians have worked for BSP since 1929, families of three, and now four, generations. A journey of hard work in the hot sun. A journey of weeks spent away from family and friends. A journey of taking risks on international assignments in the snow of Siberia or the desert of Oman. A journey of innovation. We stand here today and owe such a debt to those who have gone before us ... those who have made it possible to reach this 90th anniversary milestone and to celebrate together. WOW.

People are our greatest asset. You are our greatest asset. You are, truly, BSP’s greatest asset, one we must cherish and nurture as we the Past and Make the Future.

As we look forward, it’s hard to imagine even the next 10 years, let alone the next 90 years. The pace of innovation is so fast now. But we can still dream. We can dream of digitalization supporting every piece of our business, we can dream of interactive helmets; we can dream of drones delivering tools offshore; we can dream of 3D printing the replacements parts we need offshore right there in the offshore workshop; we can dream of cleaner energy, no flares and electric vehicles in Brunei, and we can dream of truly YOU and I Go HOME SAFELY every day.

And our dream for today ... as your Directors ... that we stand proud as BSP and celebrate our 90th anniversary. We invite you to celebrate together, to enjoy the events, try your hardest in the “Tug of Peace” and to come and sign the Wall of Pledges for the 90 Acts of Kindness. We have seen more than 70 Acts of Kindness in the last 2 months alone by volunteers who did everything from painting, cutting grass at schools to harvesting rice to collecting clothes & toys for needy families. Today we aim to have 90 Acts of Kindness by BSP staff in one day! Giving back to our beloved community is part of celebrating the whole year long.

So ... let’s celebrate ... but before we do I want you to join me in the biggest thank you shout ever to the organizers and all the volunteers for preparing today’s grand event. You are amazing. Thank you!

Let’s enjoy!