

WELCOMING REMARKS

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LIVEWIRE BUSINESS AWARDS 2019

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MANGGIS MALL, BANDAR

Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo Bin Sokiaw,
Deputy Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry,

Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries,
Distinguished guests, Entrepreneurs, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon and Salam Sejahtera;

First and foremost, I would like to extend my appreciation to Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo Bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry for his presence here today.

The Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry has been a strong supporter of our programme and I, on behalf of Brunei Shell Petroleum, truly appreciate our long-standing collaboration.

The LiveWIRE Brunei Business Award was first launched 12 years ago. Today, the competition has seen a wide range of Brunei's budding entrepreneurs blossom and grow.

This year we received 56 submissions and 131 participants in the competition. This is a 170% increase in submissions and over 200% increase in participation from last year's Business Award!

What a tremendous improvement!

LiveWIRE Brunei strives to promote entrepreneurship and strengthen the competitiveness, capacity and efficiency of local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

It has been doing so since its introduction in 2001.

These entrepreneurs and SMEs are already contributing to the country by creating more employment opportunities and paving the way to a **dynamic and sustainable economy**, and ultimately **contributing to the country's GDP**.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his Titah at the National Youth Day celebration this year, applauded the rise in interest from youth in agribusiness. His Majesty also called for youth to cultivate and develop this area using new productive methods and innovative thinking.

We share the same vision as His Majesty.

Earlier this year, we funded a group of young rice farmers under the LiveWIRE Business Awards Startup Funding Scheme (BASfs) providing them with mentors and management support to help them as entrepreneurs and thereby **building up local capacity**. Their first harvest was a success at the Wasan Agricultural Development Area last July.

Building on this strategic theme, LiveWIRE AgroBiz Padi Agropreneur (AgroBiz) programme, together with the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) was launched in 2018. government and private sector **working together towards a common goal to train 50 Bruneian Agropreneurs** towards the national goal of improving domestic rice production to 30% by 2025.

AgroBiz is currently preparing to plant their first cycle. It will use innovative technologies ... including a rainwater harvesting system, use of organic fertilisers, natural pesticides and even drones to distribute fertiliser!

Exactly the high tech approaches His Majesty urged youth to drive in his Titah.

We are blessed as BSP to have enjoyed a number of successful collaborations over the years including the Brunei Entrepreneurship Education Scheme (BEES), the LiveWIRE Energy Programme (EP), Higher Institution Entrepreneurship Programme (HI-EP) and LiveWIRE Business Plan Series (BPS).

Through these joint efforts and initiatives, we have seen budding entrepreneurs successfully set up their own business not only in Agriculture but in Food Security, Automation and Robotics, Energy Solutions and Eco-

tourism. We are proud to have played a role in nurturing generations of entrepreneurs.

Turning to the winners of this year's LiveWIRE Brunei Business Award, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations. Coming from diverse business backgrounds, all of you have proven your worth as entrepreneurs.

You have shown creative talent, tremendous courage, and determination to drive your start-ups and achieve personal and business excellence. I urge you to continue to do so: **stay committed, persevere and be resilient.**

You are a source of inspiration for others who aspire to start their own business - they dream of it but you are living it!

I wish you all the best as you go on to explore new opportunities and blaze new trails to success.

AND I would encourage you to go a step further and provide mentoring, coaching and support to other young Bruneians, just as you have benefited from the LiveWIRE Brunei programme.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has been supporting LiveWIRE Brunei over the past 18 years. **We are making a positive difference.**

I am looking forward to finding out the winners today! Thank you