



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

OPENING REMARKS
BY
H.E. DATUK SERI DR. SHAMSUL ANUAR BIN HAJI NASARAH
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES MALAYSIA
AT THE
ASEAN CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY 2021

5 JULY 2021

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning to all.

His Excellency Kung Phoak
Deputy Secretary-General
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN Secretariat

Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim
Executive Director
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

Excellencies Head of Delegation of ASEAN Member States and Distinguished Representatives

Esteemed speakers

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen

1. First and foremost, it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the ASEAN Conference for Biodiversity or ACB2021. We are fortunate to be able to hold this event through digital platform despite the limitation a virtual event can offer.
2. While the COVID-19 pandemic may cause uncertainties in our daily life, I believe that all of us are doing our level best to respond and adapt to this unprecedented times. We are in the midst of a global health crisis as the need to boost our biodiversity conservation in preventing pandemics becomes clear.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. ASEAN region is blessed with rich biodiversity that provide life-support system to us. We are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our health, water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, to name a few. Hence, the richness of our biodiversity must be effectively conserved, sustainably managed and wisely utilised for our future generations.
4. ACB2021 is intended to provide a substantial regional input to strengthen ASEAN Member States position towards the upcoming 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held end this year in Kunming, China.
5. ACB2021 shall provide a platform in exchanging perspective on addressing biodiversity issues and initiatives in the region to chart a transformative action in contributing the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Malaysia continues to make advances towards fulfilling its shared global commitments on protecting biodiversity. Malaysia has been taking comprehensive measures to ensure that the country's economic development did not come at undue sacrifice of its biodiversity. While focusing on economic growth and development, Malaysia has worked hard to ensure that economic development and biodiversity conservation go hand in hand.
7. The National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025 provides the direction and framework for Malaysia to conserve its biodiversity and use it sustainably in the face of increasingly complex challenges now and in the future.
8. Malaysia continuous effort in sustainable management of biodiversity is also supported through various financial incentives which include the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) and REDD Plus Finance Framework (RFF) to promote strategic partnership in various sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. In conclusion, I call upon the collective spirit and strength of all of you to conserve our precious biodiversity. I strongly believe that we are able to achieve the ultimate goal of all nations living in harmony with nature by 2050. Let us ensure that our future generations will enjoy biodiversity and its benefit as much as we are now.
10. Once again, thank you for setting aside your valuable time for this conference. With these remarks, I now have the pleasure of declaring the ASEAN Conference for Biodiversity 2021 officially open.

Thank you and have a productive session.