



**ADDRESS  
BY**

**THE HONOURABLE**

**PEHIN ORANG KAYA PEKERMA LAILA DIRAJA  
DATO PADUKA AWANG HAJI HAZAIR BIN HAJI ABDULLAH**

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTHS AND SPORTS**

**ON THE OCCASION  
OF  
THE GUANGXI ARTISTIC TROUPE CULTURAL PERFORMANCE**

**TO COMMEMORATE THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
BETWEEN  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
AND  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011  
8.00PM JERUDONG PARK AMPHITHEATRE**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Alhamdulillah Rabbil'alamin Wassalatu Wassalamu Asyrafil  
Mursalin  
Saidina Muhammadin Wa'ala alihi Wasahbihi Ajma'in

Mengadap Ke Hadapan Majlis Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri  
Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji  
Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-At-  
Large, Kementerian Hal Ehwal Luar Negeri dan Perdagangan

Terlebih dahulu hamba Tuanku dan pihak penganjur sukacita  
menyembahkan setinggi-tinggi menjunjung kasih di atas  
keberangkatan Tuanku dan Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela  
Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin  
Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar ke majlis  
persembahan kebudayaan oleh kumpulan kesenian Guangxi  
sempena Ulang Tahun Ke-20 Penubuhan Hubungan Diplomatik di  
antara Negara Brunei Darussalam dan Republik Rakyat China.

Keberangkatan Tuanku and Yang Amat Mulia jelas membuktikan  
betapa pentingnya hubungan kedua-dua buah negara. Dan pada  
waktu yang sama keberangkatan Tuanku juga merupakan  
pengiktirafan betapa pentingnya kebudayaan di dalam  
menanamkan ikatan dua-hala Brunei Darussalam-China, lebih-  
lebih lagi di dalam mengembang majukan ikatan perdagangan di  
antara kedua-dua negara.

Hamba Tuanku seterusnya menjunjung perkenan bagi hamba  
Tuanku menyembahkan ucapan selanjutnya di dalam Bahasa  
Inggeris.

Her Royal Highness  
Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali  
Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien  
Ambassador-At-Large  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Yang Amat Mulia  
Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji  
Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar

Your Excellency  
Mr Ma Biao  
Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China  
People's Republic of China

The Honourable Cabinet Ministers

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria

Deputy Ministers

Mr. Sun Xiangyang  
Charge de Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of  
China

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners to  
Brunei Darussalam

Permanent Secretaries and Senior Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good  
evening.

On behalf of the organising committee, first and foremost I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Your Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia for being here at the Guangxi Artistic Troupe Cultural Performance to Commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China.

Your gracious presence is a testimony to the strong bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China. It also provides recognition of the importance of culture in further strengthening the already mutually beneficial Brunei Darussalam-China relationship.

1. On this auspicious occasion, I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, to welcome His Excellency Mr Ma Biao, the Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China and the Guangxi Artistic Cultural Troupe to Brunei Darussalam and wish you all a very pleasant and memorable stay.

2. This is indeed a special event and we are deeply honoured by your presence and what will be the spectacular showmanship tonight.

3. Since imperial times the Brunei-China relations have been linked by trade and it still is. Today the Autonomous Region of Guangxi Zhung functions as one of China's gateways for the ASEAN member-states.

Looking back into history, for thousands of years China has played a role as the leading culture in Asia and one of the world's centres of human civilization.

Attributes of culture inspired by China, which have shaped the cultures of nation-states of South-East Asia are too many to recall and yet a large part of their characteristics are easy to spot.

For example, some of the nation-states of South-East Asia especially those that are monarchies have aspects of their social order, in terms of nobility and aristocracy hierarchies, structured along the Imperial Chinese social blueprint. In fact some of the items of the royal regalia owned by the monarchies of South-East Asia trace their origin from Imperial China either in the form of gifts from the Middle Kingdom or as a consequence of direct influence.

In Brunei Darussalam, some of the items of our royal regalia such as the KUCHING EMAS (translated loosely as the Golden Cat) and the TUNGKAT AJAI, which is a form of structure to support the chin, trace their origin from the Chinese Empire.

This serves as the living proof of the long cordial and friendly relations between our two countries, which have existed long before the modern era.

Your Royal Highness  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The 20-year diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China has been an enriching experience.

At the international and regional levels Brunei Darussalam and China have reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in addressing issues that deeply affect the world today such as the promotion of tolerance, acceptance and understanding amongst diverse cultures and religions. Both nation-states also stress their mutual commitment to advance the rule of law and the respect for human rights.

Brunei and China have organized many activities and bilateral relations have expanded to cover areas of mutual interest such as agriculture, defence, education, trade, the economy, and so on.

The mutually agreed pledge to designate 2011 as the Brunei Darussalam-China Friendship Year is very significant in the Brunei Darussalam-China relations. It marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brunei Darussalam-China diplomatic relations, which features cultural exchanges, receptions, and establishing Bandar Seri Begawan and Nanjing as sister cities.

5. We at the Ministry of Culture, Youths and Sports understandably welcome the wide-ranging cooperation particularly in the areas of culture, youth and sports.

Specifically on culture, Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in the Field of Culture in 1999. Amongst others, the MOU called for people-to-people exchange, and hence the cultural performance tonight.

And for the record, since the signing of the Brunei Darussalam-China MOU in 1999, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports had sent three different artistic troupes to the Shanghai World Expo in 2010.

6. My previous visit to Guangzhou on the occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in November last year had also strengthened our resolve to deepen the Brunei Darussalam-China cooperation in areas of sports.

7. And the recent visit to Brunei by the All-China Youth Federation holds the promise of deeper cooperation in areas of entrepreneurship among youths of both nations.

Your Royal Highness  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

8. Our bilateral relations today are set to become closer in the foreseeable future. At the heart of the Brunei Darussalam-China relations is our common support for the principle of equality among states regardless of size of territory and population; and our common support for the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of nation-states.

9. Among the factors that enriches culture is human contact. Culture is put into practice in several forms that range from the everyday way of life to creative expressions through all types of art, writing, music, and showmanship performances.

Because culture is a consequence of human contact and subsequently shared through experiences each time it touches the lives of a community within a nation-state, it is bound to undergo a process of adjustment, fine-tuning, and evolution in order to accommodate the needs of religious obligations and other factors such as local values, customs, norms and practices.

Basically culture defines who we are. And an understanding of the culture of others goes a long way in strengthening social relations among diverse nations and communities.

10. The mutual appreciation of culture among nation-states help to nurture understanding in the long run and this is crucial in the globalised world that we live in today. Cultural diversity is one of the cherished features of human social relations.

11. An appreciation of culture among nations also deepens friendship in the best of times; and it also plays a big part in times of uncertainty whereby such an understanding serves to overcome clouded judgement and prejudices.

12. And so it is with Brunei Darussalam and China in which our historical linkages could still be displayed in the shape of artifacts brought about by trade 1,500 years ago.

In my view the next step for our warm bilateral relations should be built upon by involving the youths of both our countries. They are our hopes and our future. And they hold the key to our sustainable prosperity.

In the era of the knowledge-based economy, the participation of our youths in cultural exchanges could be used as platforms to enhance cooperation in innovation and technology; as well as the development of trade between our two countries.

13. But for tonight, let us enjoy the world-class cultural performance of the Guangxi Artistic Performance.

On that note I once again welcome Your Excellency and the cultural troupe of the Guangxi Artistic Performance. And to everyone present, I wish you pleasant viewing.

Thank you

Beribu ampun

Hamba Tuanku, bagi pihak Kementerian Kebudayaan, Belia dan Sukan dan bagi pihak penganjur sekali lagi sukacita menyembahkan setinggi-tinggi menjunjung kasih di atas keberangkatan Tuanku dan Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz ke majlis persembahan kebudayaan oleh kumpulan kesenian Guangxi sempena Ulang Tahun Ke-20 Penubuhan Hubungan Diplomatik di antara Negara Brunei Darussalam dan Republik Rakyat China.



Hamba Tuanku menjunjung ampun jika berlaku sebarang sorok langkah dan tutur bahasa yang kurang manis dan sebarang kekurangan di dalam acara pada petang ini.

Wabillahit Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamu' Alaikum  
Warahmatullahi Wabarkatuh

Junjung anugeraha