



كمنترين قندي يقئن  
KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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## **SPEECH**

**YANG BERTHORMAT DATO SERI SETIA  
AWANG HAJI HAMZAH BIN HAJI SULAIMAN  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

At The Inaugural Virtual Event

### **Teacher's Day Conference 2020**

In Conjunction With The 30<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day Celebration

Theme: Empowering Education Excellence Through Innovation

co-organised by

Brunei Darussalam Teachers Academy

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, UBD

Monday

10 Safar 1442 | 28 September 2020

Bismillah hirrahman nirrahim.

Alhamdulillahirabbil 'Alamin, Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Ashrafil Anbiya-I-Wal Mursalin, Sayyidina Muhammaddin Wa'ala Alihi Wasahbihi Ajma'iin.

Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Education, Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh;

Co-Chairs of the Teacher's Day Conference, Dr. Roslena binti Pehin Dato Haji Johari of the Brunei Darussalam Teachers Academy and; Dr. Hajah Rosmawijah binti Haji Jawawi of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education.

Permanent Secretaries, Vice Chancellors and Rectors, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Acting Director General of Education, Heads of Department, school leaders, conference participants, esteemed teachers, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera.

1. Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, we are gathered here, albeit virtually, for the Teachers' Day Conference, in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Day Celebration 2020.
2. It brings me great pleasure today to officiate this inaugural event, Brunei's first Virtual Teachers' Day Conference, co-organised by the Brunei Darussalam Teacher Academy and the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. I would like to express my appreciation and

congratulations to the co-chairs and members of the Teachers' Day Conference committees for organising this virtual conference.

3. This annual conference is taking place at a time when education around the world is facing disruptions brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic. More than 1.57 billion students – or ninety per cent of the world's student population – as reported by UNESCO, have been affected by the temporary closures of schools and universities. This forced educational institutions around the world, almost overnight, to switch to remote learning platforms and other alternative teaching and learning methods.
4. The COVID-19 health crisis has also caused an unprecedented disruption to the teaching and learning in Brunei Darussalam, in which, our Ministry of Education had swiftly responded by deploying measures to facilitate continuity in learning through: online platforms; home-learning television programmes; social media; and also home-pack learning that catered for students who do not have access to internet connectivity or computers at home. This stimulated innovation within our education sector, requiring teachers to be dynamic, resilience, adaptable, innovative and creative, as shown during the time of COVID-19.
5. The impact of COVID-19 is likely to leave a lasting footprint. It has accelerated our ongoing efforts to reinvent our ways of doing business. Hence we must seize this opportunity to strengthen, accelerate and increase our capacity in the areas of innovation and technology by: continuing to develop high quality teaching and learning resources and make it accessible to teachers and students; continuing with the trainings of teachers and students on how to

organise and use remote learning platform and tools; and reinforcing our support to students who do not have access to technology.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. Today's conference theme, "Empowering Education Excellence Through Innovation" is very much aligned with this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Day theme, "Quality Education as the Core of Learners' Excellence, *Pendidikan Berkualitas Teras Kecemerlangan Pelajar*". His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in his *Titah* during the 2019 Teachers' Day Celebration, **stressed the importance of transformation in education, as classrooms in the 21<sup>st</sup> century require significant changes, be it from teachers or students.** Hence this year's conference theme, looking into innovation in education is relevant and timely, in line with His Majesty's vision.
7. Innovation in education has also emerged as an important topic in preparing our students for the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and Society 5.0. Differences in learning, personalisation, interpersonal skills and educational technology are crucial for students to become better innovators, creators and lifelong-learners. However, equally important, is to make visible where and how innovation is happening in the classrooms and whether it is effective or not.
8. Teachers are the key designers of the learning environments in their classroom. Hence, this year's sub-theme 'innovative pedagogies' is timely as it brings to the forefront the importance of teachers' professionalism as they are the designers of the learning environments in their classroom.

9. In general, teaching in Brunei Darussalam focuses on coverage of the curriculum, delivery of factual and procedural knowledge, preparing students for end of year and national examinations. Not surprisingly, classroom instruction is coherent, fit-for-purpose and relies heavily on textbooks, worked examples and strong emphasis on drilling and practice. However, while it has successfully produced students with strong values and good fundamentals in numeracy and literacy, the future is becoming more complex. The central question every teacher in the world is asking – are we preparing our teachers enough for them to prepare the young for the future?
10. Change is a constant in education. The expectations and style of learning of the new generation is very much different today. For example, the new generation of learners produces effective learning outcomes when their learning is blended with technology and open exchange of ideas. We must have a balance between the hard work that we require from students and making learning fun. In other words we need to nurture the joy of learning and similarly making teaching enjoyable to our teachers too.
11. There is a need to shift from teacher-dominated classroom environment and change the perception that ‘teaching is talking and learning is listening’. A 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom focuses more on the students’ level of understanding or mastery rather than whether or not students know the right answer. The key message is that there is a paramount need to deliver applied and inquiry-based learning in the classrooms. This demands our teachers to be more creative and innovative in their teaching and learning delivery to our students.

12. In this regard, the Ministry of Education is committed in supporting our teachers' professional development in developing their competencies to deliver a pedagogy capable of meeting the demands of the Industry 4.0, particularly developing the students' 6Cs that are: critical thinking; collaboration; communication; creativity; citizenship; and connectivity; and the ability to remember, understand, apply, analyse, evaluate and create knowledge within and across subject domains.
  
13. There is no doubt that inculcating creativity and innovation in our education system will be a complex task. However, given the quality of our teaching workforce, school leaders and leadership across all levels of the education system, we can work together in developing the pedagogical authority to our teachers while providing them with clear guidelines and support. Inshaa Allah, we will succeed in our drive towards a stronger culture for creativity and innovation in education in preparing our students for their future as well as developing them holistically into positive, forward-looking and contributing citizens, guided by the values of Malay Islamic Monarchy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. It is my sincerest hope that today's conference will be an excellent platform for teachers, school leaders, researchers and professionals from various fields of education, to foster collaboration and share best practices on innovative approaches in education.

15. Finally, I wish everyone a fruitful conference and let me also express my deepest appreciation to the keynote speaker, Ms. Andria Zafirakou, the plenary forum speakers especially from SEAMEO Regional Language Centre (RELC) Singapore, Dr. Marie Yeo and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH) Philippines, Dr. Sherlyne A. Almonte-Acosta, the paper and e-poster presenters, Imagine Sdn. Bhd, Tech One Global and everyone who had contributed significantly in organising this virtual Teachers' Day conference.

16. With the Kalimah:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

I hereby officiate the Teachers' Day Conference in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Teachers' Day Celebration for the Year 2020.

17. Thank you.

Wabillahhit Taufeq Walhidayah Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi  
Wabarakatuh.