**TALKING POINT**

**SECRETARY GENERAL MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (NRES)**

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF TTHE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON ENVIRONMENT (ASOEN) FOR THE 18TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT (AMME)**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Good Morning Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

* On behalf of the Host Country, it is my great honour and privilege to warmly welcome all of you to this Preparatory Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) for the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME) and related meetings. We are truly delighted to host you, and we deeply appreciate your presence, commitment, and contributions to this important process.
* This preparatory meeting holds a vital role in ensuring the smooth conduct of our forthcoming Ministerial Meeting. It is here that we, as one community, take the time to carefully review our agenda, refine the discussion points, and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place to allow the Ministers to focus on the substance of their deliberations. The thoroughness of our work today will directly contribute to the effectiveness and success of the Ministerial Meeting in the days ahead.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

* Our region continues to face pressing environmental challenges that require collective and coordinated action. Climate change is intensifying, bringing with it more frequent extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and threats to food, water, and energy security. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation continue to undermine the services on which our societies and economies depend. At the same time, transboundary haze pollution and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production remind us of the urgent need for stronger cooperation, enhanced enforcement, and innovative approaches such as the circular economy and green financing.
* ASEAN has long been guided by the principles of unity, consensus, and cooperation. In addressing these complex and interlinked challenges, we must reaffirm our shared commitment to sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. The preparatory work we undertake in this meeting is therefore not just a procedural necessity; it is a crucial step in ensuring that ASEAN continues to deliver tangible solutions and concrete outcomes for our peoples and for future generations.
* As the Host Country, we are deeply honoured to welcome you. It is our sincere hope that you will not only find your stay productive, but also pleasant and memorable. Beyond the formal sessions, we warmly encourage you to take the opportunity to enjoy our hospitality, experience the rich cultural heritage, and witness the natural beauty that Langkawi has to offer. We believe that such exchanges, even outside the meeting room, help to foster stronger friendships and deeper mutual understanding among us all.
* Before we proceed, allow me to record our appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat and all delegations for the hard work and dedication that has gone into the preparations leading up to today. Your commitment reflects the shared determination of our region to address pressing environmental challenges and to work together for a sustainable future.
* With that, Excellencies and distinguished delegates, I wish us all fruitful deliberations. May our discussions today be guided by wisdom, cooperation, and the shared vision of a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable ASEAN.

Thank you.