



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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FOR

**OCEAN CELEBRATION 2025**

**“WONDER: SUSTAINING WHAT SUSTAINS US”**

**17 JUNE 2025 (TUESDAY) | 2:30 PM**

**AZMAN HASHIM UMS GALLERY AND AUDITORIUM, BORNEO  
MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE UMS**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very Good Afternoon.

Thank you to the master of ceremonies. Salam Sejahtera,  
Salam Malaysia MADANI.

**SALUTATIONS (TBD)**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), I would like to extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Borneo Marine Research Institute for organising Ocean Celebration 2025.
2. Like in previous years, Ocean Celebration commemorates three events that occur in the month of June: World Oceans Day, Coral Triangle Day, and World Sea Turtle Day.
3. The theme "WONDER: Sustaining What Sustains Us" for World Oceans Day 2025 is a reminder of the critical role these vast bodies of water play in shaping our world.
4. This year's Ocean Celebration is co-organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) and the Coral Triangle Initiative Malaysia.
5. This significant event is conducted in a hybrid format for the second consecutive year, enabling a wider audience to participate through

online sessions while also engaging local participants in- person in a diverse range of activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

### **Significant Changes in the Oceans**

6. We must acknowledge that significant changes have already occurred and are still occurring in the oceans that surround our planet. Our oceans are crucial to the health of our Earth; they generate oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, regulate climate and weather patterns, and provide habitats for countless species.
7. Our oceans provide food and resources and support the livelihoods of millions of people. However, today our oceans face unprecedented threats and challenges such as climate change, pollution, overfishing, and habitat degradation.
8. Climate change, in particular, is causing ocean temperatures to rise, leading to coral bleaching and the loss of biodiversity. The increasing frequency and severity of storms and extreme weather conditions is also directly linked to climate change, impacting coastal communities and marine life.
9. Furthermore, the melting of polar ice caps and glaciers is contributing to rising sea levels, threatening to submerge low-lying areas and displace millions of people globally. We are starting to witness unpredictable weather and temperature changes. These threats endanger the marine ecosystem balance and the well-being of numerous species on Earth, including our own. This is the time to

catalyse action to save and protect our ocean, marine resources and climate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

### **Malaysia's Stand on Marine Litter and The Impact**

10. Malaysia recognizes marine litter as a global transboundary issue with multidisciplinary challenges, which requires both integrated national and regional cooperation. Malaysia participates actively in the Regional Sea Cooperation Programme as well as the Global Plastic Pollution treaty in order to address challenges in the marine/ocean environment.
  
11. Recognising the interlinkages between climate change and ocean health, Malaysia is advancing a whole-of-government approach to climate resilience. Currently the National Climate Change Bill will be tabled to the Parliament in August this year. This legislation will enhance our capacity to meet our obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, including through climate adaptation and mitigation measures directly affecting marine and coastal ecosystems.
  
12. In addition, Malaysia has developed key policies to guide our efforts in the fight against marine plastic pollution. The National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan (NMLPAP) 2021 - 2030 lays the foundation for reducing plastic pollution in Malaysia through strategic actions along the value chain of the plastic life cycle. Additionally, the Plastic Sustainability Roadmap 2021-2030 and the

Roadmap towards Zero Single-Use Plastics 2018-2030, are crucial frameworks in addressing the root causes of plastic waste. These policies align with Strategy A2, Chapter 8 of the 12th Malaysia Plan, which focuses on the implementation of a circular economy as a catalyst for resource sustainability.

13. However, policies alone are not enough. While they provide a strong framework, real change requires innovative, on-the-ground action. Although we may not be the largest producer of plastics, the proportion of plastic waste that reaches the ocean from Malaysia is disproportionately high compared to other countries. Malaysia's long-term focus must also remain on strengthening waste management practices, raising public awareness, and fostering a culture of sustainability that prevents plastic pollution from being created in the first place.
14. We must take a stand to protect and restore our oceans. It starts with each of us embracing sustainable practices in our daily lives wherever possible.
15. Even the smallest actions, when multiplied by the power of many, can create transformative change. We also need communities, organisations, and governments to unite and make a difference. Malaysia MADANI's focus on sustainability, which emphasizes well-being, can significantly benefit ocean health by promoting responsible consumption, reducing pollution, and fostering a circular economy. This approach can lead to cleaner oceans through

reduced plastic waste, sustainable fishing practices, and stronger environmental regulations.

16. Investing in research, developing innovative solutions, establishing effective marine protected zones, and advocating for stronger conservation policies are vital steps.
17. Through this Ocean Celebration event, the Borneo Marine Research Institute has activated a platform for our community to come together to learn, celebrate and advocate for our oceans.
18. These efforts are aligned with the objectives of SDG Goal 13: Climate actions, and Goal 14: Life Below Water and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, both aimed at promoting the health and sustainability of our oceans.
19. Throughout this year's celebration from 9th June until 19th June 2025, there were several activities implemented and a few more to look forward to.
20. This morning on 17th, I was told there was a beach clean-up or Kutipan Sampah Sambil Riadah (KUDAH) at Likas Bay, collaboration between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), Borneo Marine Research Institute, Mariner's Club and France Embassy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

## **Conclusion**

21. Collectively, we possess the ability to initiate a tide of transformation. Let us dedicate ourselves to safeguarding and rejuvenating the vitality of our oceans, securing a more promising future for the generations that come after us.
  
22. By defending our oceans, we safeguard our planet and our well-being. It is now my great pleasure and honour to officially commence the Ocean Celebration 2025.

Thank you.