



Opening Remarks by:

Yang Mulia

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THE FINTECH SANDBOX

Date: 27 February 2017M

30 Jamadilawal 1438H

Venue: **Design & Technology Building, Anggerek Desa**

BISMILLAHIRRAHMAANIRRAHIIM

Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alamin

Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Asyrafil Ambiya 'Walmursaleen

Sayyidina Muhammadin Wa'ala alihi Wasahbihi Ajmain

Senior Government Officials,

Distinguished Guests,

FinTech Enthusiasts,

Ladies & Gentlemen

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a Very Good Afternoon

INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to be able to stand in front of you today on an issue that AMBD recognizes has the potential to reshape the landscape of the financial services industry- FinTech.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Financial Services Board (FSB) refers to **“FinTech as technologically enabled financial innovation that could result in new business models, applications, processes or products with an associated material effect on financial markets and institutions and the provision of financial services.”**

It is quite apt then that some FinTech companies have been labelled as 'disruptors', as they have given the established financial institutions a run for their money by exploiting gaps in the value chains of the services that customer are provided with.

On the other end of the spectrum, the FinTech companies may also be labelled as ‘enablers’, who have chosen to work with the financial institutions, providing customers with new and improved products and services.

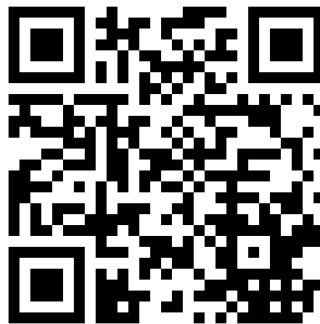
Regardless of which end of the spectrum FinTech companies may take, the role of AMBD remains the same – which is to safeguard the stability of the financial industry, at the same time ensuring the well-being of the customers are protected.

AMBD’S INITIATIVES

Ladies and gentlemen,

AMBD recognizes the various benefits from the marriage of technology and financial services. Thus, AMBD has undertaken several initiatives to ensure that AMBD is prepared to ride the FinTech wave.

First, is the creation of the FinTech Office.



The FinTech Office is a virtual facilitation office, which will serve as the first point of contact for any parties wishing to engage AMBD on any issues concerning FinTech.

It will also serve as a repository of information containing general information regarding the FinTech Office and a gateway for the submission of feedback and queries from interested parties.

Second, I am pleased to announce the issuance of the FinTech Regulatory Sandbox Guidelines.

These guidelines, a result of consultation with relevant government agencies and the industry, will allow companies who fully intend to deploy their solutions to the entire market, to apply for entry into the regulatory sandbox.

Successful companies will be able to test their solutions in the market In the sandbox, under regulatory support from AMBD. Controls, as agreed between AMBD and the applicant, are put in place for the duration of the test. This is to contain the risks that may arise from the test.

When the test has been completed successfully, the companies will exit the sandbox and will need to comply with the relevant laws and regulations to continue their operations.

The guidelines can now be downloaded from AMBD’s website.



CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen,

AMBD has taken the lead in ensuring that Brunei Darussalam’s financial industry is future-proofed through a ‘muzakarah approach’- that is, through the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, the deep-dive study of international best practices, and

the formulation of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms that are holistic and appropriate for our country.

With this in mind, AMBD has pushed forward the development of FinTech in Brunei Darussalam. Being mindful that innovation is not constant nor static, AMBD will continue to engage with and assist relevant stakeholders in ensuring our financial industry remain relevant.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking the time to attend today's event, as well to those parties who provided feedback on the consultation paper.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Darussalam Enterprise for allowing AMBD to use this beautiful venue to have our event.

With that,

Wabilahitaufiqwalhidayah,

Wasalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh