



Welcoming Remarks

YANG MULIA HJ MOHD KHAIRUL ZAKI BIN HJ MOHIDIN
Head of FinTech
Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

Launch of
Mekar FinTech Innovation Centre

Thursday, 14 November 2024, corresponding to 12 Jamadilawal 1446

Mekar FinTech Innovation Centre
iCentre, Brunei Darussalam

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Yang Mulia

Puan Hajah Rokiah binti Haji Badar

Managing Director of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB)

Executive Management of BDCB

Senior Executives from the Public and Private Sectors

Assalamua'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh and a very good afternoon.

1. It is both an honour and privilege to welcome you to Mekar FinTech Innovation Centre as we celebrate a significant milestone for BDCB and embark on an exciting new chapter in fostering innovation within the financial sector.
2. Our FinTech journey began eight years ago, when we set up a dedicated virtual FinTech Office in 2016. Since then, we have undertaken several initiatives to develop and strengthen the FinTech ecosystem in Brunei Darussalam, including:
 - a. The introduction of the BDCB FinTech Regulatory Sandbox in 2017, allowing FinTech companies to test their innovative solutions under a relaxed regulatory environment over a specified period;
 - b. The issuance of the White Paper on State of FinTech in Brunei Darussalam in 2020, designed to raise awareness and highlight opportunities within Brunei Darussalam's FinTech ecosystem to stakeholders locally and internationally;
 - c. BDCB's official membership to the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN) in 2023, which marks a key stepping stone in connecting Brunei Darussalam with the global community of FinTech regulators, enhancing our position on the international stage; and
 - d. The ongoing initiative to establish a private-sector-led FinTech association, which aims to unite and coordinate relevant FinTech stakeholders, fostering a unified voice for FinTech development in Brunei Darussalam.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The establishment of a FinTech Innovation Centre is a key recommendation outlined in our White Paper on the State of FinTech in Brunei Darussalam. This Centre is designed to promote collaboration and unlock synergies among FinTech stakeholders, providing a co-working space that serves as a platform for community engagement, innovation, and regulatory dialogue. It aims to bridge the gap between innovators and the regulator, creating an environment for ideas to thrive and the future of FinTech in the country to further be shaped.
4. Strategically located at the iCentre Building, the Mekar FinTech Innovation Centre offers convenience to prospective FinTech companies and investors, due to its close proximity to relevant business partners such as Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), Brunei Innovation Lab (BIL), Bank Usahawan, and Authority for Info-communications Technology (AITI), among others. There are various facilities for FinTech stakeholders to utilise from, ranging from individual workspaces, private discussion pods, a meeting room, and a convertible lounge area that can be used for events and networking.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to bringing this vision to life and I am confident that, through this collaborative space, we will achieve even greater things together and take FinTech in Brunei Darussalam to new heights.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal-Hidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh