



Welcoming Remarks

Yang Mulia Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu

Managing Director, Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB)

as Chairperson of Brunei Institute of Leadership & Islamic Finance (BILIF)

Brunei Islamic Economy Conference (BIE-CON) 2026

“Catalysing a High-Performance Islamic Economy”

Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Mulia Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim
Alhamdulillah Rabbil `Aalameen,
Wassalaatu Wassalaamu `Alaa Asyrafil Ambiya E'walmursaleen,
Sayyidina Muhammadin Wa'ala Aalihee Wasahbihee Ajma'een

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin
Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies and
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
as Chairman of the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) Board of
Directors

Yang Mulia
Haji Awang Afero Eswandy bin Haji Awang Mohamad
Acting Chief Executive Officer, BILIF

Yang Mulia
Distinguished Members of the Board of Directors of BDCB and BILIF,
Senior Government Officials and Senior Executives of the Financial
Institutions,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, and a
very good morning.

1. Alhamdulillah, it is my great pleasure to warmly welcome all of you to the Brunei Islamic Economy Conference (BIE-CON) 2026, held in conjunction with the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE). This marks our sixth consecutive year of participation in this important national platform, which brings together local and international experts for networking and knowledge-sharing.
2. First and foremost, we are deeply honoured to welcome our Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, as Chairman of the BDCB Board of Directors. Your presence underscores the national importance of advancing Brunei Darussalam's Islamic economy agenda and fostering meaningful cross-industry collaboration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. BIE-CON 2026 aims to position the Islamic economy as a strategic driver of sustainable, inclusive and values-based national development. The conference highlights the wider role of halal industries, social finance, innovation and entrepreneurship in supporting economic diversification and creating new opportunities for growth.

4. This year's theme, "Catalysing a High-Performance Islamic Economy," brings together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, Syariah scholars and academics to exchange insights, strengthen collaboration, and explore practical solutions to accelerate Islamic economic development and to support our country's aspirations under Wawasan 2035.

5. Over the next two days, our discussions will cover global Islamic economy trends, the role of zakat and waqf in socio-economic development, as well as the growing impact of technological innovation in strengthening the broader ecosystem. The conference also features a strong lineup of speakers and practitioners from across the region to share best practices from leading Islamic economy models and deepen partnerships among stakeholders in building a future-ready Islamic economic ecosystems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. At a time when countries are navigating multiple shocks and structural transitions amidst geopolitical uncertainties, economic fragmentation and market volatility, the role of Islamic finance has become even more relevant. Grounded in the principles of social justice, fairness, transparency and risk-sharing, Islamic finance offers an approach that prioritises long-term value creation over short-term speculation, encouraging greater alignment between financial activities and the real

economy. From the perspective of the financial sector, Islamic finance therefore serves not only as a key enabler of the wider Islamic economy, but as a source of resilience in an increasingly interconnected and complex environment. As the Central Bank, BDCB remains committed to fostering a sound, trusted and well-regulated Islamic finance ecosystem that promotes confidence and stability to contribute to Brunei Darussalam's national development aspirations.

7. While sound institutions and enabling frameworks are essential, the success of the Islamic economy ultimately depends on the quality of its people. To translate today's ideas into lasting impact, talent development must remain at the heart of Brunei Darussalam's Islamic economy agenda. On this note, I am pleased to share BILIF's ongoing efforts in strengthening the capabilities of Islamic finance professionals such as through its flagship Fiqh Mu'amalat Professional Programme (FMPP) and Leadership in Islamic Finance and Economics (LIFE) programme, which have successfully produced close to 50 graduates, equipping participants with the expertise needed to support Brunei Darussalam's Islamic economy agenda. Building upon these successes, BDCB has also strengthened our strategic partnerships with local higher education institutions in further promoting Islamic research and expertise. Moving forward, through greater collaboration with regional and international partners, Brunei Darussalam can further strengthen our position as a centre for Islamic dialogue, knowledge exchange and innovation within the global Islamic economy.

8. In closing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation once again to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and as Chairman of the BDCB Board of Directors, as our Guest of Honour, speakers, participants, sponsors, strategic partners, and organising committee for their valuable support and contributions in making this conference possible.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and insightful conference.

Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah,

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.