

BRUNEI MARKS WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

By Lyna Mohamad

As a member of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Service of the Department of Civil Aviation celebrated the World Meteorological Day yesterday.

Carrying the theme "Powering Our Future with Weather, Climate and Water" - chosen to highlight the benefits provided by weather, climate and water information to different socioeconomic sectors - the event was held at the Maitigai Hall of The Airport Mall.

Present to launch the ceremony was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Hj Bakar. Also present were the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Hj Awg Alaihuddin bin POKDSL Dato Seri Utama Hj Awg Mohd Taha; and the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the ministry, Awg Abd Mutalib bin POKSS Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Yusof; as well as directors, heads of department, officers and invited guests.

The ceremony began with a welcoming note by the Acting Director of Civil Aviation, Pg Hj Mohd Zain bin Pg Hj Abd Razak who said that, in line with the relevant international standard, the Meteorological Service will continuously make efforts to upgrade the capabilities and effectiveness in implementing their roles and responsibilities.

Among the efforts that are actively implemented are the infrastructure development through the development projects under the special budget for Financial Year 2011/2012 and the 9th National Development Plan 2007-2012.

Two projects have been allocated under this budget namely the Meteorological Message Switching System-WMO Global Telecommunications System (MMSS-GTS) that has been completed and the Climate Data Base System (CDS) Replacement, which is scheduled to be completed by June this year.

The MMSS-GTS, which uses the Multi Protocol Label



Acting Director of Civil Aviation, Pg Hj Mohd Zain delivering his speech

Switching-Virtual Private Network (MPLS-VPN), which is relevant with the current technology development, was also officially launched yesterday by the minister in commemorating the World Meteorological Day.

For years, weather, climate and water have been powering our socioeconomic development and has increasingly contributed to meeting the challenges of the future, in the context of the new Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), which WMO and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of its 189 members will continue to provide the main thrust in terms of authoritative scientific knowledge.

World Meteorological Day is celebrated to promote general public awareness and understanding on meteorology, build a rapport with end-user groups and inculcate interest among students on meteorological science.

It aims to promote research and training in meteorology and in related fields and international collaboration in research and training as well as increase the scope of meteorology to other areas like disaster management, shipping, water problems, agriculture, energy and other human activities.

