



**BIMP-EAGA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE
HEART OF BORNEO AND CORAL REEFS**

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

1. The Ministers responsible for BIMP-EAGA, tropical rainforests and coral reefs of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, met in Temburong, Brunei Darussalam on the 9th March 2011 for the BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Conference on the Heart of Borneo and Coral Reefs.
2. The Ministers exchanged views on the development of the Heart of Borneo initiative as well as measures to preserve the coral reefs in the sub-region. They underscored the importance of the two diverse ecological areas in the Heart of Borneo and the coral reefs and their significant roles in mitigating climate change.
3. The Ministers acknowledged and commended the progress achieved under the Heart of Borneo initiative as well as the respective national initiatives of the Member Countries on Coral Reefs to address challenges in biodiversity conservation in the sub-region. The Ministers welcomed discussions in promoting environmental sustainability to ensure the local community stands to benefit from the vast economic potential.
4. The Ministers also recognized that the two ecosystems of forests and coral reefs are interconnected and noted that good strategies and plans are currently being implemented including maintaining the ecological corridors joining the terrestrial and marine biodiversity. The Ministers agreed that their respective national action plans would form the basis for the development and conservation of the two ecosystems and recognised the importance of collaboration efforts among Member countries in the areas of common interest such as in eco-tourism and research and development. This effort would complement each other and create synergy that would significantly contribute to the BIMP-EAGA rich biodiversity. In this regard, the Ministers recognised the BIMP-EAGA region as the most megadiverse sub-region in the world+.
5. The Ministers appreciate and welcome the role of the regional organizations / dialogue partners / development partners as well as the private sector to work together on the two initiatives in mitigating climate change including respective national efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The Ministers believe this will require the much needed knowledge, technology and capacity building for the region.
6. The Ministers maintain to cooperate and to implement the strategy in conservation, sustainable forest and marine resource management, protection of endangered species and mitigation as well as adaptation of climate change. This will ensure mutually beneficial outcomes and economic well-being for the people of the sub-region in safeguarding these ecosystems.

List of Ministers

1. **Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. **Pehin Dato Yahya**, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam
3. **Zulkifli Hasan** , Minister of Forestry, Indonesia
4. **Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Bin Yakcop**, Minister, Prime Ministers Department, Malaysia
5. **Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas**, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia
6. **Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili**, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
7. **Luwalhati Antonino**, Chair, Mindanao Development Authority, The Philippines

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