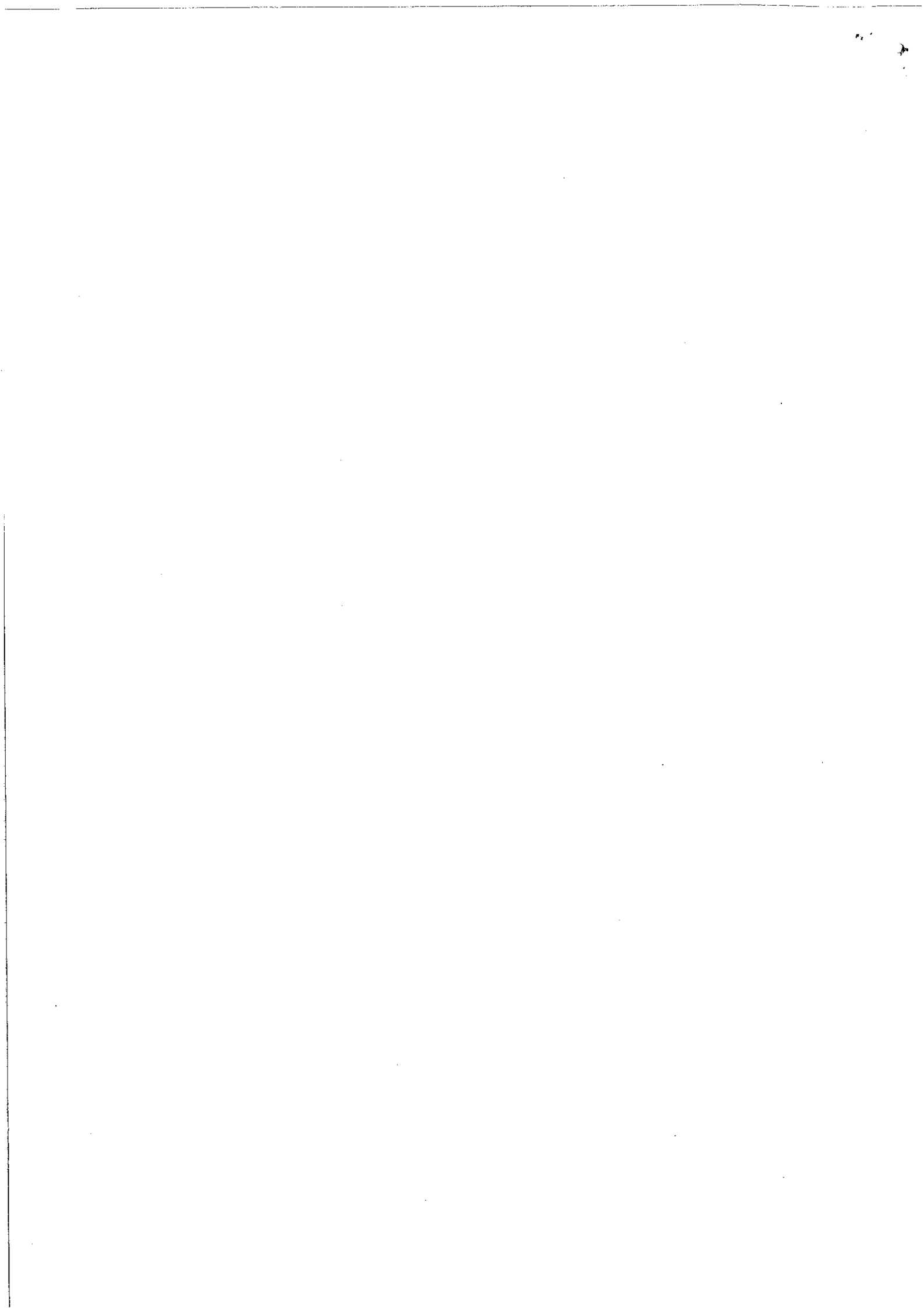


UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
72nd SESSION
BANGKOK, 15-19 MAY 2016

Country Statement by Brunei Darussalam

Presented by
His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
Brunei Darussalam



Bismillahir Rahmaa Nir Rahiim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning/afternoon.

Chairman,

Excellencies,

Madam Executive Secretary of United Nations ESCAP,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude, on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam delegation, to the United Nations ESCAP for the excellent arrangements made for the 72nd Session of the Commission.

I would also like to extend our thanks to the people and the Royal Thai Government for the kind hospitality extended to us.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In the past year, we witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and thus, the main task before us now is to ensure its successful implementation. Brunei Darussalam recognises that much work still lies ahead of us, and we are resolute in our commitment towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



In achieving our goals for a sustainable and inclusive development, a full consideration of issues relating to science, technology and innovation is vital. Adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda realised that the development and implementation of new innovations or technologies, associated know-how, transfer of technology are among the powerful drivers for providing jobs, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

In Brunei Darussalam, our development goals are a reflection of the importance of the sectors of science, technology and innovation because we believe that greater capacity in these areas have the ability to drive significant economic growth in the country. We thus, support this year's theme, ***"Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development"***.

In realising the goals of sustainable development, we believe that the Agenda 2030 is in line with Brunei Darussalam's national development goals under the Brunei Vision 2035 and these are implemented through the five-yearly National Development Plans (NDP) whereby, Brunei Darussalam is currently in its final stage of the 10th NDP (2012-2017). There are 6 development thrusts of the NDP, and it has been identified that Research and Development (R&D) and Science and Technology (S&T) plays a big



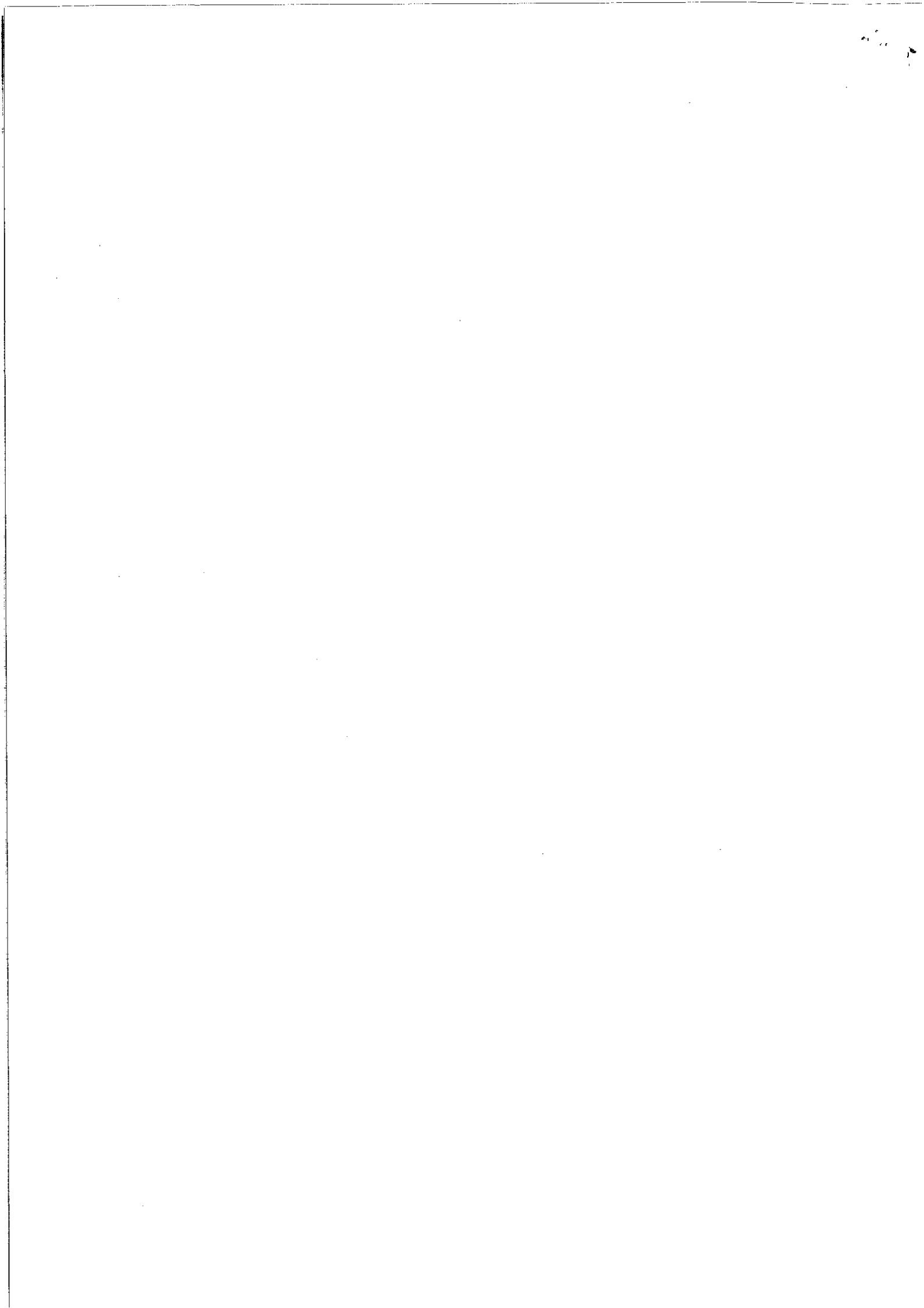
role in "The Productive and Progressive Economy Based on Knowledge and Innovation" development thrusts.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As part of strengthening Brunei Darussalam's foundation for these development thrusts, several priority Research and Development (R&D) clusters were identified through the Brunei Research Council (BRC), namely; Science, Technology and Engineering; Social Science; and Arts and Culture where Brunei Darussalam has noted competitive strengths.

Under this 10th NDP, Brunei Darussalam has allocated BND 172 million for the BRC to mobilize and enhance these clusters. This is through research grants to research institutions and the Brunei Research Incentive Scheme programme that provides cost-sharing grant between the government and foreign companies to conduct research and development activities in Brunei Darussalam.

These initiatives, among others, are proof of Brunei Darussalam's aspirations to build a larger capability in these priorities clusters as a catalyst for a diversified economy and national competitiveness in line with our national vision.



Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our pursuit for economic diversification and growth, Brunei Darussalam does not lose sight of the other elements of achieving sustainable development. We hold great importance in pursuing a balanced growth through our green initiatives which, among others include Energy Efficiency Conservation (EEC) measures and the Green Building Initiatives (GBI) which was officially launched in February 2012. This move was aimed to drive the transition of the country's building industry towards sustainability by promoting green concepts into the design, construction and operation of buildings.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, we believe that ESCAP is a valuable and constructive platform in deepening cooperation with Member States within this region to address the challenges of achieving a truly sustainable development. We believe that through knowledge sharing, we can support initiatives of a low carbon society that employs appropriate technologies and green innovations. We commend the Commission's ongoing efforts in promoting sustainable development in this region and we are greatly supportive of their work.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, realising our national vision, Brunei Vision 2035 is essential for Brunei Darussalam to effectively progress in tandem with the 2030 Agenda with the commitment to science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

Thank you for your kind attention.

*Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh.*

